

# THE OBSERVER

*The Independent Newspaper Serving Notre Dame and Saint Mary's*

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NDSMCOBSERVER.COM

## Blogs changing the face of traditional media

By ANNA BOARINI  
News Writer

For 2009 Notre Dame graduate Bob Kessler, blogging about the oddities of Notre Dame students started on the Internet, but eventually made its way into print.

Kessler, a former Observer Viewpoint columnist, was able to take his blog "Things Notre Dame Students Like" and snag a book deal.

"I sort of thought it might be possible to turn this into a book, so I did an Amazon search of books about Notre Dame and started to contact authors," he said. "That's how I found my publisher."

Blogging is taking the media world by storm, American Studies professor Robert Schmulh said, and Notre Dame is not an exception.

Kessler started his blog during his senior year at Notre

Dame after reading the book "Stuff White People Like," which also started as a blog, with friends after a night out.

"We were just reading the book and we started to think about all the unique things there are about Notre Dame students," Kessler said.

Kessler used The Observer to help launch his blog, using two of his first 10 posts as one of his Friday Viewpoint columns. He directed the readers of his column to read more at his blog if they liked what they read.

"I knew to have a successful blog, I had to have a continuous stream of posts," he said. "When I launched the blog, I had already written the first 15 entries."

Schmulh said blogging is one of the many ways the media world is changing. Instead of just newspapers and news outlets delivering news, blogs are also a way for people to receive

information.

"Most newspapers and network news programs have declining audiences," he said. "Blogs attract some of these people."

However, traditional media sources are not dead yet, and blogs are helping them cater to a changing audience, Schmulh said.

"Increasingly, traditional newspapers, magazines and broadcast networks offer staff members opportunities to blog, and you see a combination of delivery systems — the old and the new," he said.

Schmulh said what makes blogs unique is the way they cater to a person's interests, but this also creates the danger of receiving limited information.

Junior Eileen Lynch writes and edits for the blog "Lefty's Last Cry," a political blog that refers to itself as the Notre

Dame progressive headquarters.

"We write about a broad array of subjects — campaigns, debates, social issues," Lynch said. "We aren't all serious, we sometimes post funny videos or cartoons, or write about campaign gaffes."

She said the purpose of the blog was to start dialogue between conservatives and liberals and to inform and become informed as writers.

Henry Vasques, a 2010 graduate, began "Lefty's Last Cry" as a personal blog in 2008 and it has expanded since then. Lynch became a writer and editor after its inception and said "Lefty's Last Cry" is a very dynamic political community.

The blog eventually morphed into a highly professional blog, with over 40 contributors and 100,000 hits, she said.

Senior Caitlin Kinser also runs a blog.

Unlike "Lefty's Last Cry," Kinser's blog "The Fifth Quarter" is written about whatever inspires her, which is usually sports.

"I decided to start putting what I was writing on a blog because it doesn't necessarily have a common theme," she said. "The things I've written about are more sports related, but that's mostly because it inspires me with ideas to write about."

Kinser said her blog is still fairly new and does not have the following of a more established blog. However, after a link for one of her posts was put on the website for her local newspaper, she said her blog saw more hits.

"I am hoping to get feedback from my blog and it was really cool to see that [the sports writer] thought highly enough

see BLOGGING/page 3

## Professor charged with felony

Observer Staff Report

A Notre Dame criminal law professor faces a felony charge for domestic battery and will appear in court Jan. 3 for trial.

Stephen Smith, 43, pled not guilty to the charge in June. A judge set the date for his trial during a hearing Tuesday in St. Joseph County Superior Court.

University Spokesman Dennis Brown said Notre Dame would not comment on personal matters.

Smith is still employed by the University, Brown said, and he is teaching classes this semester.

Police responded to a report of domestic violence at Smith's south side home June 25, according to court documents.

Smith allegedly became upset with his wife after an evening out with friends. His wife told police he yelled at her, knocked her to the ground and kicked her.

Court documents state that the couple's 23-year-old son heard the argument and confronted Smith. The two struggled before the son took his mother and brother to a neighbor's house.

see SMITH/page 5

## Undergraduate print quota raised

By MARISA IATI  
News Writer

Students received more for their money this school year when the Office of Information Technology (OIT) increased the print quota.

The undergraduate quota rose from 1,000 sheets per year to 1,500 sheets per year, said Brian Burchett, manager of technology enhanced learning spaces for OIT. For several years, the cost of printing one black and white sheet was 10 cents, Burchett said.

"We dropped the price to five cents a sheet [for black and white], so students' print quota went up by 50 percent,"

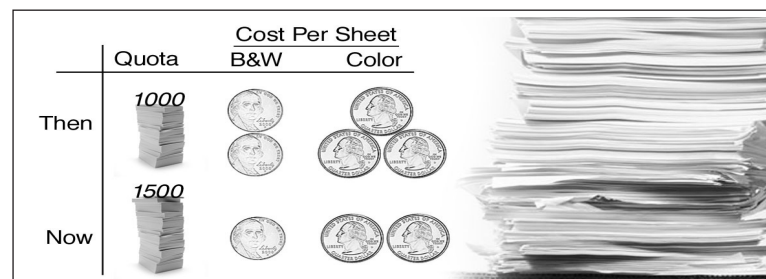
he said. "And if they run out of print quota and they have to purchase more, now the price for students is half what it used to be."

The cost of printing one color sheet also decreased from 75 cents to 50 cents.

However, Students have an initial quota of \$75 per school year instead of the \$100 given in past years, according to OIT's website.

Faculty members can no longer request increases in their students' print quotas, Burchett said.

"We basically made it unnecessary for them to have to do that," Burchett said. "Last year and in previous years, we ended up doing hundreds



ELISA DECASTRO/The Observer

of requests for thousands of students. It just seemed to us and the faculty with whom we consulted that it was easier to give all students the additional quota to start with, rather than wait."

OIT staff gathered feedback on the print system from the faculty members that request-

ed increased quotas, Burchett said. The changes made this school year resulted from those conversations.

"The overwhelming response we got from faculty was they would love it if they no longer had to make these requests,"

see QUOTA/page 5

## Graduate school application process begins

By NICOLE MICHELS  
News Writer

It's that time of year again — application time. As the fall semester gets into full swing, Notre Dame seniors begin the process of applying to graduate schools across the country.

The University provides a wide variety of resources for students to gain entry into their preferred graduate program of study, Anita Rees, associate director of

the Notre Dame Career Center, said.

"The process hinges on what the person believes is best for them and for their long-term ambitions," Rees said. "It is extremely important that students feel directed in their career paths. First they should decide where they want to go, and then think about what's required to get there."

For many seniors, this decision was an easy one.

Jeff O'Brien, a senior me-

chanical engineering major, worked for GE's Department of Research and Development last summer. Working for GE, O'Brien said he noticed everyone around him had a doctorate in the field.

"I realized that I need to pursue a Ph.D. to do what I want to do," O'Brien said.

For students pursuing science or engineering degrees, a graduate degree is often the next step after completing undergraduate studies at Notre Dame, according to Rees.

"Talk to your professors," Rees said. "The faculty members in a student's chosen field of study are the people best positioned to help that student determine which graduate schools are best suited for his individual interests, and how he can make himself the most attractive candidate for those schools."

Daniel Graff, director of undergraduate studies in history, said the mentoring pro-

see GRADUATE/page 5



THE  
OBSERVER

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P.O. Box 779, Notre Dame, IN 46556  
024 South Dining Hall, Notre Dame, IN 46556

Editor-in-Chief

Douglas Farmer

Managing Editor

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Asst. Managing Editor: Adriana Pratt  
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Advertising Manager: Katherine Lukas  
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Systems Administrator: William Heineman

Office Manager & General Info

(574) 631-7471

Fax

(574) 631-6927

Advertising

(574) 631-6900 observad@nd.edu

Editor-in-Chief

(574) 631-4542 dfarmer1@nd.edu

Managing Editor

(574) 631-4542 smervosh@nd.edu

Assistant Managing Editors

(574) 631-4541 apratt@nd.edu, cmasoud@nd.edu

Business Office

(574) 631-5313

News Desk

(574) 631-5323 obsnews.nd@gmail.com

Viewpoint Desk

(574) 631-5303 obsviewpoint@gmail.com

Sports Desk

(574) 631-4543 observersports@gmail.com

Scene Desk

(574) 631-4540 mgustin@nd.edu

Saint Mary's Desk

chousl01@saintmarys.edu

Photo Desk

(574) 631-8767 obsphoto@gmail.com

Systems & Web Administrators

(574) 631-8839

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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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TODAY'S STAFF

News

Emily Schrank  
Anna Boarini  
Tori Roeck  
Graphics  
Elisa DeCastro  
Photo  
Mackenzie Sain

Sports

Andrew Owens  
Katie Heit  
Vicky Jacobsen  
Scene  
Alexandra  
Kilpatrick  
Viewpoint  
Amber Galik

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 (574) 631-4541 so we can correct our error.

QUESTION OF THE DAY: WHAT IS YOUR PERSONAL INSPIRATIONAL PHRASE?



Natalie Burkhardt

senior  
Opus

"All we have to do is decide what to do with the time that is given to us."



Anna Ulliman

first year  
Holy Cross Hall

"You only live once."



Caroline Riccolo

first year  
McCandless

"If you ain't first, you're last."



Tori Scheid

senior  
off campus

"Let's RAGE! Oh na na na..."



Lindsay Ellis

junior  
McCandless

"The happiest people don't have the best of everything; they make the best of everything."



Kat Sullivan

sophomore  
Regina

"Just keep swimming."

Have an idea for Question of the Day? Email [obsphoto@gmail.com](mailto:obsphoto@gmail.com)



COURTNEY ECKERLE/The Observer

Saint Mary's senior Caitlin Wonski shows EMX gear to senior Aly Payne Wednesday afternoon. Sweatshirts, tote bags and yoga pants benefitting Dance Marathon will be for sale this week at meal times in the Saint Mary's Student Center.

OFFBEAT

Law-breaking Gumby turns himself in

SAN DIEGO — San Diego police say the man accused of trying to rob a convenience store last week dressed as the famous claymation character turned himself in Tuesday, with an alleged accomplice.

Detective Gary Hassen tells the San Diego Union-Tribune that Jacob Kiss and Jason Giramma voluntarily went to police headquarters. He says Kiss brought the Gumby suit and turned it in as well.

Police say a man dressed in a Gumby costume and an accomplice went into a 7-Eleven in Rancho Penasquitos on Labor Day and told

the clerk it was a robbery.

The clerk thought it was a prank and dismissed him. Both then left the store.

Surveillance video shows the clumsy would-be robber struggling to keep the green suit on as he walked out the door.

New York man sues White Castle

COLUMBUS, Ohio — A New York man is suing White Castle, claiming the booths in one of its hamburger restaurants are too small.

Martin Kessman says in the federal lawsuit filed last week that he was embarrassed in 2009 when he tried squeezing his 6-foot, 290-pound frame into the

seating at a White Castle in Nanuet, N.Y. He says he slammed his knee into a metal post under the table and was in pain.

The lawsuit claims the restaurant could not accommodate a customer of Kessman's stature, in violation of the Americans With Disabilities Act. The suit seeks an unspecified financial judgment.

Spokesman Jamie Richardson at White Castle headquarters in Columbus, Ohio, says the restaurant is being replaced and that the new one will have roomier seating.

Information compiled from the Associated Press.

IN BRIEF

There will be a talk in honor of Constitution Day today at 3:30 p.m. in 155 DeBartolo Hall. The lecture, titled "What Should We Commemorate," featuring political science professor Sotirios Barber will discuss whether the founding act should be distinguished from its product, the Constitution.

The Sheedy Award will be presented to history professor Thomas F.X. Noble today at 4 p.m. in the McKenna Hall Auditorium. The Sheedy award was founded in 1970 in honor of Fr. Charles E. Sheedy, who served as dean of the College from 1951-69, and acknowledges a faculty member who has sustained excellence in research and instruction over a wide range of courses.

Jane Doering, author of "Simone Weil and the Specter of Self-Perpetuating Force" will give a lecture titled "Cosmopolitanism in Feminine Writing" today at 5:15 p.m. in 117 DeBartolo Hall.

The Classics Club is sponsoring a free screening of the movie "300" today at 5:30 p.m. in 155 DeBartolo Hall. The movie will be followed by a lecture from classics professor Christopher Baron.

The music group Le Vent du Nord will perform tonight at 7 p.m. in DeBartolo Performing Arts Center. Tickets are \$8 for students.

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

LOCAL WEATHER

TODAY



HIGH 62  
LOW 49

TONIGHT



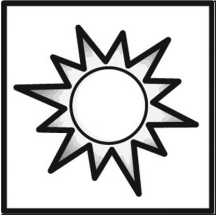
HIGH 51  
LOW 40

FRIDAY



HIGH 64  
LOW 43

GAMEDAY



HIGH 70  
LOW 48

SUNDAY



HIGH 77  
LOW 59

MONDAY



HIGH 76  
LOW 62



STUDENT SENATE

# Senate works to improve communication, safety

By MEL FLANAGAN  
News Writer

Student Senate worked on improving both student safety and its own communication at its meeting Wednesday evening.

Senate passed a resolution proposing to install a Blue Light Phone at the intersection of Twyckenham Drive and Courtney Lane.

Off-campus senator Helen Costa first recommended this idea at the Sept. 7 Senate meeting. Costa said she often felt uncomfortable walking between campus and her housing complex.

"I definitely think we need more patrolling around the areas by the soccer fields and tennis courts," Costa said. "It'd be nice to have a camera or a phone, I'm always afraid someone will run out and jump you."

Community relations chair Erika Hansen said although there are Blue Light Phones right before and right after the corner,

the corner remains problematic.

"It's an uncomfortable corner, there's not much light and there are tall bushes," she said. "It's definitely an area of concern considering how many people go back and forth from there all day and all week long."

Hansen said the electric and phone wires are already in place at the corner and so it will not be difficult for this resolution to become a reality.

Welsh Family representative Marcy Kreimier also introduced the senators to student government's Google site.

The site, accessible through the senators' and committee chairs' Gmail accounts, enables the Senate to stay updated on each other's projects even in the days between meetings.

The main feature of the sight is a student government calendar, which contains all the upcoming events of the senators and committees, Kreimier said.

The site also contains links to



TOM YOUNG/The Observer

Student body President Pat McCormick and Vice-President Brett Rocheleau lead the student senate in a conversation about on-campus safety and Senate communication.

each committee page.

"Every committee has its own page where the chairs can list their pet projects, as well as upcoming events or any announcements," Kreimier said. "On each project page you can make suggestions or comments directly on

it and it will go right to whoever is working on that project."

Campus Technology chair Yiting Zheng said the senators are also able to subscribe to different projects and pages.

"If you subscribe to a page you'll get a notification every

time something changes on the page or when someone comments on it," she said. "It'll be really helpful if you're the one working on the project."

Contact Mel Flanagan at [mflanag3@nd.edu](mailto:mflanag3@nd.edu)

## Blogging

continued from page 1

of my writing to direct his readers there," Kinser said.

Kinser hopes to use her blog as a way to show her versatility in journalism and help launch her career after graduation.


"I've worked in print media, done a television internship and with this I'm hoping that it shows that I can use the Internet," she said. "Whatever it turns out to be, I'm definitely open. I'm just being really realistic about this."

While Internet users tend to be younger, Schmuhl said many bloggers are older and have worked in traditional media outlets.

Regardless of age, blogging provides opportunities the traditional news source usually does not.

"Blogging provides immediacy and the possibility of amplification," Schmuhl said.

Contact Anna Boarini at [aboarini@nd.edu](mailto:aboarini@nd.edu)




**JEB BUSH**  
FLORIDA'S 43<sup>rd</sup> GOVERNOR

**NATIONWIDE, BARELY HALF OF ALL LATINO SCHOOL CHILDREN GRADUATE FROM HIGH SCHOOL.**


Under Jeb Bush's leadership, Latino children in Florida now outperform all children in approximately 30 other states.

**WE NEED TO TALK ABOUT THIS.**


Information:  
**FORUM.ND.EDU**



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school  
TO NURTURE THE SOUL OF A NATION



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THE NOTRE DAME FORUM:  
A YEARLONG DISCUSSION



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# THE NOTRE DAME FORUM: reimagining school

## THE NOTRE DAME FORUM

is proud to launch our yearlong conversation on K-12 education with two events on the challenge and opportunity facing the U.S. school system.

“Educating is the art of helping young people to completeness.”

REV. BASIL MOREAU, C.S.C.



THE NOTRE DAME FORUM:  
A YEARLONG DISCUSSION

## SEPTEMBER EVENTS FREE WITH ADVANCE TICKETS.

Tickets will be distributed to University of Notre Dame, Saint Mary's College, and Holy Cross College students, faculty, and staff for a limited time beginning Sept. 19 (Monday). On Sept. 22 (Thursday), tickets will also be available to the general public.

Visit **FORUM.ND.EDU**  
for complete details.

## THE ARCHITECT: RADICAL EDUCATION REFORM FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

**SEPTEMBER 26TH**

**7:00PM** Leighton Concert Hall,  
DeBartolo Performing Arts Center

**Keynote by** Former Florida Governor Jeb Bush

## THE CONVERSATION: DEVELOPING THE SCHOOLS OUR CHILDREN DESERVE

**SEPTEMBER 28TH**

**3:30PM** Leighton Concert Hall,  
DeBartolo Performing Arts Center

**Moderators:** Professor David Campbell,  
and Rev. Timothy R. Scully, C.S.C.

- Wendy Kopp, Founder and CEO of Teach for America
- Bishop Gerald Kicanas, Chair of Catholic Relief Services
- Randi Weingarten, President of the American Federation of Teachers
- Juan Rangel, CEO of Chicago's United Neighborhood Organization

Sponsored by the Office of the President.





# College hosts intercultural retreat

By BRIDGET FEENEY  
News Writer

Saint Mary's students, faculty and other members of the community will participate in the Catalyst retreat, an opportunity to learn more about the history of slavery and abolitionism in the United States, over the College's fall break. The retreat, sponsored by the Center for Women's Intercultural Leadership Office (CWIL), will be held Oct. 14 to 19 for students and from Oct. 14 to 16 for non-students. The retreat will depart from Saint Mary's and travel to Cincinnati.

"This retreat is a chance for Saint Mary's students to be exposed to different settings," said Anabel Castañeda, a senior attending Catalyst. "It will be a great learning experience." Catalyst participants will visit the homes of Harriet Beecher Stowe, author of Uncle Tom's Cabin, John Rankin, an abolitionist and one of the first "conductors" on the Underground Railroad and John Parker, a slave, inventor and Underground Railroad supporter. The trip will conclude with a tour of the Underground Railroad before returning to South Bend.

"This will be very interesting because we know the back story and history of all of these people and events, but now we will get to hear the detailed stories about everyone and have our questions answered," Castañeda said. She said the retreat will feature a variety of activities, including team building exercises, lectures, educational films and meetings with representatives from each of the museums. Each part of the retreat is designed to provide participants with an enriching and intercultural experience to take back to Saint Mary's. "The CWIL office does the Catalyst retreat so that students who can't go abroad, for whatever reason, still have an opportunity to have a life changing experience during their college years," Castañeda said. Although this will be Castañeda's first Catalyst retreat, she said she has heard positive things about the five-day

experience from participants who attended in previous years. "I have friends who went and they told me that the stories you hear while on Catalyst will make you cry and change your perspective," Castañeda said. "I'm most looking forward to bonding with the other Saint Mary's girls and continuing to learn from our experiences after the retreat is over." Castañeda said there are still some spots on the retreat available if other students, faculty or community members are interested in attending. An application and itinerary of events can be found online at [www.saintmarys.edu/cwil](http://www.saintmarys.edu/cwil). The cost for students is \$50 and for non-students is \$250. The cost includes travel, lodging and meals. For more information, contact the CWIL office.

Contact Bridget Feeney at [bfeene01@saintmarys.edu](mailto:bfeene01@saintmarys.edu)



JAMES DOAN/The Observer  
**Junior Jane Park uses the print station in the LaFortune Student Center. OIT increased student print quotas this year.**

## Quota

continued from page 1

Burchett said. "It was busy work, and since we could give students more quota automatically at the start of the year, that made a lot of sense to the faculty to do it that way." Printing services are allocated in the OIT budget, Burchett said. OIT had to decrease other expenses in order to account for the increased printing costs. "I don't know for sure where we made up the difference," he said. "I don't think that the increase in printing costs came from one specific area. I think it probably came from a number of different areas. We didn't cut any of our services back." Burchett said if students print double-sided, their print quotas are effectively stretched. "If a student prints a single sheet of paper and they have one impression, it will cost them five cents of print quota," Burchett said. "If they print on it double-sided, that sheet of paper will still cost them five cents of print quota. So, in theory, if a student did all their printing double-sided, the student could print as many as 3,000 pages." OIT has received very little feedback on the changes so far, but the feedback received was positive, Burchett said. "The faculty appreciate that they no longer have to generate

a list and send it to us," he said. "Some of the students had questions about the monetary value of the print quota, but it seems like the webpage, the posters and the email that was sent out answered a lot of those questions." Burchett said he thought it was important for students to consider the printing service a public good. "If all students help conserve on the printing, it's good for the University," Burchett said. "We'd like to remind students if you don't need to print something, please consider not printing." Sophomore Marissa Bulso said she was pleased with the increased quota because her classes require a lot of printing. "All the same, my quota seems to be disappearing at an alarming rate," Bulso said. "I'm already down to \$65. I suppose it seems low because last year we started at \$100. I still wish printing assigned reading didn't impact my quota so much." Sophomore Vincent Burns said he's not sure how the increased quota will affect him. "I didn't come close to running out of paper last year, but that was probably because one of my professors got the class's quota increased," Burns said "Honestly, it will not make much of a difference for me, since I generally leave stuff online."

Contact Marisa Iati at [miati@nd.edu](mailto:miati@nd.edu)

## Smith

continued from page 1

bor's house. The son told police his 10-year-old brother was pres-

ent when Smith struck his wife. Police arrested Smith at the scene, and he posted \$1,000 bond June 30. Court documents state the judge ordered Smith to have no contact with his wife as a condition of his bond. Domestic battery is a Class

D felony. Indiana state law requires a felony charge for domestic battery if the act is committed in the presence of a child less than 16 years old. If convicted, Smith could serve up to three years in prison. His next hearing is set for Dec. 15.

## NOTRE DAME STUDENTS

**Transportation Services will be offering two Driver Training Sessions in September for Notre Dame students only.**

**If you have not attended a Driver Training session conducted by Transportation Services, and you plan on driving a University owned, leased, or rented vehicle, you must attend a Driver Training session BEFORE you operate a vehicle.**

**Sessions will be held on Sunday, September 11th and Sunday, September 18th, at 7:00pm in Geddes Hall (CSC Building) in B001 Andrews Auditorium.**

**The sessions will last approximately 45 minutes.**

**Please bring your driver's license and a pen.**

**Transportation Services rents vehicles to students, faculty, and staff who are in need of transportation while on official University business.**

**See our website at: [transportation.nd.edu](http://transportation.nd.edu)**

**If you have any questions on the Driver Training sessions or the Motor Pool you may contact Transportation Services at 631-6467**

## Graduate

continued from page 1

cess for graduate school candidates is a process that starts with individual, informal conversations. "The history department focuses on individual mentoring to help students to discern if particular programs are right for what they are each interested in, and if the are passionate enough about these interests to devote further years of study to the subjects," he said. Graff said his department focuses on mentoring students who have either shown pronounced interest in further academic study or have specifically expressed aspirations to postgraduate study. The Mendoza College of Business takes a similar approach, by focusing on connecting with the individual student and supporting his or her pursuit of postgraduate ambitions, Assistant Dean Samuel Gaglio said. "We start this reflection early. After the initial sopho-

more orientation, we regularly meet with students to help them plan and have some direction to their studies at school," he said. "If we have one objective in this College, it's to ensure that a student never says 'I wish I had known about that.'" Senior Ashley Ulrich said the College of Business focuses on being in constant communication with its students. Ulrich, an accounting major, will attend Notre Dame next year to attain her masters in accounting. "Once you declare your major, you're kept up to date about different presentations via email," Ulrich said. For many students, the application process for graduate studies programs bears a strong resemblance to the process of applying to college, Ulrich said. "The process reminded me of applying to college as a high school senior. I was used to doing it before," she said. "It was stressful, but if you start early the process is manageable."

Contact Nicole Michels at [nmichels@nd.edu](mailto:nmichels@nd.edu)



# Anthony’s parents revisit loss on Dr. Phil



Casey Anthony smiles before the start of her sentencing hearing in Orlando, Fla., in July.

Associated Press

ORLANDO, Fla. — Casey Anthony’s parents offered differing views in a television interview with “Dr. Phil” host Phil McGraw about how they think their 2-year-old granddaughter died in 2008.

Cindy Anthony said she believes that Caylee Anthony drowned, while her husband George Anthony was adamant that the toddler died by other means and that his daughter Casey Anthony had more intricate knowledge about how it happened.

Anthony’s parents shared their opinions during the second part of an interview with McGraw that aired Wednesday. They spoke with McGraw for a lengthy, taped interview

over a two-day period recently. A portion of the interview devoted to Casey Anthony’s murder trial will also be shown later this month.

A message left by The Associated Press with one of Casey Anthony’s attorneys, Jose Baez, was not immediately returned.

George Anthony said he thinks Casey may have accidentally drugged his granddaughter and she tried to cover it up. Cindy Anthony said she does think Casey did know where her toddler was buried and may have had help placing her body there.

“If Casey is watching this someday — Yes, I think she’s responsible for Caylee not being here,” George Anthony said.

# AFL-CIO president visits ND

By ABI HOVERMAN  
News Writer

Organized labor is far from irrelevant, especially for the young generation today, AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka said Wednesday night in a lecture on jobs and organized labor.

“In the past the labor unions had left you down,” Trumka said. “We need to show young people that the labor unions can help.”

A former unionized coal miner, Richard Trumka has been president of the AFL-CIO since 2009. The AFL-CIO is a federation of 56 national and international labor unions.

Trumka came to Notre Dame for the 32nd Annual McBride Lecture sponsored by the Higgins Labor Studies Program, part of the Center for Social Concerns.

He emphasized the importance labor unions had at the beginning of the 20th century in developing the American middle class.

“America reaped the rewards of working harder and working smarter,” Trumka said. “It happened because one-third of the workforce was unionized.”

He said with the current economic situation, more Americans than ever before are in poverty, and the need for jobs has never been higher.

“Today more than 25 million Americans are looking for work and can’t find it. More than 9.2 percent of the workforce is unemployed,” he said.

Trumka supports President Obama’s job plan and said the country could greatly benefit

from jobs that would come from rebuilding of infrastructure like highways, schools and airports.

“We are truly in danger of a double dip recession,” he said.

In this strained economy, unions have been attacked since the 2010 election, he said, specifically mentioning the automobile industry in the Midwest.

Trumka said he believes Obama saved the industry with his government bailout, and not only saved jobs, but also is currently creating new employment opportunities.

He also detailed efforts at the state level, especially in Wisconsin, to outlaw collective bargaining for public employees.

“Governors have been seeking to strip public workers of their right to bargain, trying to take away their ladder to the middle class,” he said.

Despite these setbacks, organized labor led by the AFL-CIO is not giving up, Trumka said.

“The American labor union is reorganizing and revitalizing itself,” he said. “We’re helping workers across the economy.”

The AFL-CIO has recently focused on worker protection for new immigrants, domestic workers, like nannies, housekeepers and taxi drivers, he said.

He also emphasized the importance of giving working families a voice in politics with the newly formed Working Families Political Action Committee, a non-partisan organization operating on both the national and state levels.

“We refuse to accept that social justice is unattainable,” he said.

Trumka directly addressed concerns relevant to the Notre Dame community, including his opposition to HEI Hotels.

“I endorse efforts to convince the University to divest from HEI Hotels,” he said.

He mentioned opposition to the company’s flipping of hotels by subcontracting jobs and cutting wages, and mentioned a recent incident in a California HEI Hotel where management made Latina housekeepers present Social Security numbers after they complained about a heavy workload.

Trumka said younger generations, especially college graduates, need labor rights and help attaining livable wages more than ever.

“Only 31 percent of young workers say they make enough to pay the bills,” he said, citing an AFL-CIO survey.

Rather than entering long-term jobs out of college, recent graduates enter what Trumka calls the “gig economy” of a series of short-term jobs.

“Low wage, part time, no benefit, temporary work is the new norm,” he said.

Trumka had some advice for students interested in supporting labor on their campuses.

“Get involved. Become an activist ... Learn about [labor] issues, read about the issues, talk to people about the issues,” he said. “Get involved in the labor movement because we are the biggest instruments of social change.”

Contact Abi Hoverman  
at [ahoverma@nd.edu](mailto:ahoverma@nd.edu)

# Maine court hears 2004 Nader appeal

Associated Press

PORTLAND, Maine — Seven years after Ralph Nader’s failed presidential campaign, his legal team went before Maine’s highest court Wednesday in what could be his final bid to sue Democrats and others he claims conspired to try to keep him off the 2004 ballot in Maine and more than a dozen other states.

An attorney for the consumer advocate asked the Maine Supreme Judicial Court to reinstate his lawsuit accusing Democratic leaders of scheming to use the courts to sabotage him and his 2004 running mate, the late Peter Camejo.

Attorney Oliver Hall told the supreme court that the judge who threw out the lawsuit in November shouldn’t have allowed defendants to invoke a Maine statute that targets meritless lawsuits aimed at silencing activists. Hall said the First Amendment doesn’t protect Democrats from filing “false petitions.”

Attorney Stephen Langsdorf, representing the Democratic Party, said the so-called Anti-SLAPP law was properly applied and his clients did nothing wrong.

Ultimately, Nader and Camejo appeared on the ballot as

independents in 34 states and collected only three-tenths of a percent of the nation’s popular vote. Republican George W. Bush won the election, and many Democrats blamed Nader for siphoning away votes from Democrat John Kerry. Nader made another unsuccessful bid for the White House in 2008.

Nader, who didn’t attend the hearing, said he just wants to present his evidence to a jury.

“This is a case that is easily blocked on procedure, which of course allows the judges in Washington, D.C., and in Pennsylvania to exercise their political discretion. They never had to discuss the merits, which is where we think we have a strong case,” Nader said from his office in Washington, D.C.

The lawsuit ended up in Maine after the three-year statute of limitations expired on Nader’s 2007 lawsuit in the Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia. Nader then brought his case to Washington County Superior Court in Maine, which has a more generous statute of limitations.

Maine presents a different challenge for Nader because the anti-Strategic Lawsuit Against Public Participation statute was intended to prevent lawsuits from stifling activists from speaking out.

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# Perry discusses faith, military

Associated Press

LYNCHBURG, Va. — Texas Gov. Rick Perry avoided contentious social issues in a speech Wednesday at the nation's largest evangelical university, offering the youth a testimonial about his own path to Christian faith and praising the men and women of the military.

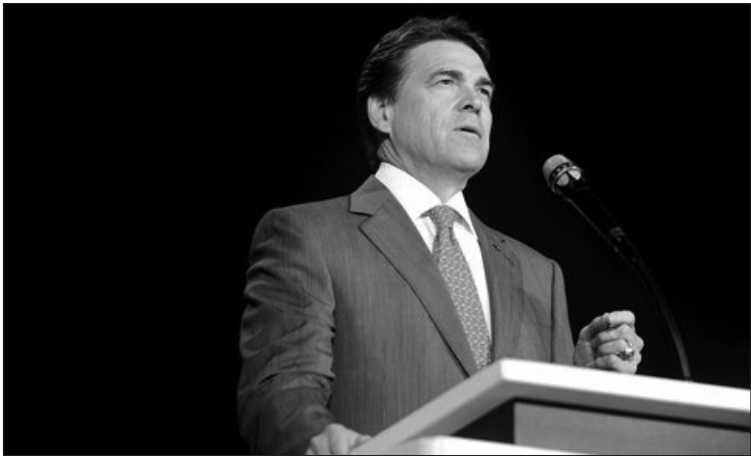
The Republican presidential contender urged students at Liberty University to remember the legacies of service members killed in Iraq and Afghanistan. Without explicitly invoking his own presidential bid, he cast life's choices as tributes to the military's sacrifice in the years since the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

"A great many of those who perished were approximately your age. Young men and women whose entire future was in front of them. They sacrificed their dreams to preserve yours," a somber Perry said on the campus founded by the Rev. Jerry Falwell.

"Because of what they gave, I simply ask you to make the most of the freedom that they sacrificed."

In a brief detour into politics, he urged the students to speak up for the kind of country and future they want. "Don't leave it to a bunch of Washington politicians to tell you how to live your life," he said.

Perry's 20-minute speech to a packed arena was warmly received. But it was unlikely to quiet building criticism from his GOP rivals over two cultural issues: his failed effort to require girls to be vaccinated against a sexually transmitted disease and a Texas law allowing illegal immigrants to pay in-state tuition. Neither issue sits well with social conservatives, who hold great



Texas governor and Republican presidential candidate Rick Perry speaks at Liberty University in Lynchburg, Va. Wednesday.

sway in the GOP nomination race.

The GOP race has been dominated by economic concerns and criticism of President Barack Obama's stewardship, pushing such cultural questions to the back burner. But in recent days, during a debate Monday and on the campaign trail, Perry's rivals have started trying to exploit Perry's perceived weaknesses on such issues to deflate his front-runner status in national polls.

"It is time that Gov. Perry is known for what he really is: not a long-time conservative governor, but a big-government moderate who has made a career of supporting harmful policies during his tenure as governor," former Sen. Rick Santorum of Pennsylvania said Tuesday.

Specifically, Santorum, Rep. Michele Bachmann and other opponents for the Republican presidential nomination are singling Perry out for signing an executive order in 2007 requiring Texas girls to be vaccinated against the virus that can cause cervical cancer, an effort the Legislature rejected.

On immigration, Perry has had to defend in-state tuition for illegal immigrants as well as his opposition to a wall along the U.S.-Mexico border. Both positions conflict with conservative GOP orthodoxy.

Perry ignored those divisive issues in his remarks on this campus in central Virginia. Instead, he introduced himself as a small-town native who went to college hoping to become a veterinarian but struggled with his studies.

"Four semesters of organic chemistry made a pilot out of me," the Air Force veteran joked.

Perry also described his spiritual path as a young man, saying that at age 27 he was "lost, spiritually and emotionally," drifting with no sense of purpose.

"My faith journey is not as someone who turned to God because I wanted to," Perry said. "It was because I had nowhere else to turn."

He also brought a spiritual element to his recollections of the Sept. 11 attacks, noting that many of the students were just children on that day.

# Senate rules could lead to partial FAA shutdown

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A single Republican senator's objections plus a procedural snarl could force another partial shutdown of the Federal Aviation Administration at the end of this week, potentially putting thousands of workers out of jobs and depriving the government of \$30 million a day in uncollected airline ticket taxes.

Senate rules don't allow lawmakers to shift from the bill they're currently working on, a disaster aid bill, to a stop-gap funding measure for the FAA and highway programs without the consent of all lawmakers, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid said Wednesday.

Sen. Tom Coburn, R-Okla., is refusing to give his consent. Coburn wants to change the highway portion of the stop-gap transportation bill that the House passed on Tuesday by eliminating a requirement that states spend 10 percent of their highway program dollars on "transportation enhancements" like bike and walking paths and projects aimed at drawing tourists.

Without directly naming Coburn, Reid effectively accused the GOP senator of acting like a "dictator" by insisting the rest of the Senate accept his amendment.

"It's a pretty good way to legislate around here, be a dictator and say either take this or leave it," Reid said. "I'm convinced his issue would lose overwhelmingly. But he's holding this legislation up, and we are in a position now legislatively that I can't get ... to this bill prior to Friday, when the FAA expires."

Republicans say the Senate could have passed the transportation bill in time if Reid hadn't brought up the disaster aid bill first. Because Coburn and several other GOP senators also opposed bringing up that measure, Reid on Tuesday set in motion parliamentary procedures that would allow the Senate to pass the disaster aid bill by Saturday.

Democrats have been negotiating with Coburn, with Senate Minority leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., acting as a go-between. But Coburn said in speech on the Senate floor late Wednesday that he won't back down with regard to transportation spending. He said he wouldn't object if Reid split off the FAA portion of the bill and passed that separately before Friday. Since that would change the bill, the House would have to pass the bill as well before the deadline.

A spokesman for Reid didn't

immediately reply to a request for comment on Coburn's offer.

Pointing to the nation's 146,000 bridges that are structurally deficient, Coburn said it's wrong to require states to spend money on projects that don't enhance safety when they could spend the money on repairing or replacing bridges. He released a list of 40 enhancement projects that he described as low priorities, including \$111,804 for a sanctuary for white (albino) squirrels in Kenton, Tenn. Gibson County, where Kenton is located, calls itself "The Home of the White Squirrel" because families of white squirrels live throughout the town.

Among other projects on his list were \$150,000 to build a critter crossing in Monkton, Vt., for migrating salamanders and other amphibians whose numbers are dwindling in part due to roadway traffic, \$250,000 build a twin dragons arch over the entrance to Los Angeles' Chinatown neighborhood, and \$500,000 to restore windows, doors, bricks and shutters in a Toledo, Ohio, lighthouse.

However, most enhancement dollars go to more parochial projects like bike paths and walking trails, according to the Transportation Department. States, not the federal government, chose which enhancement projects they want to fund.

"I would think we would rather repair these 146,000 bridges rather than redecorating a (road) side," Coburn said.

A partisan standoff between House Republicans and Senate Democrats forced the FAA to partially shut down for two weeks this summer. Nearly 4,000 FAA workers were furloughed and more than 200 airport construction and safety projects halted, affecting tens of thousands of other workers. The government lost nearly \$400 million in airline ticket taxes because airlines no longer had authority to collect the fees.

Without congressional action, the FAA would face another partial shutdown on Friday, when its current operating authority expires. Authority for highway, transit and rail programs, as well as the federal gasoline and diesel taxes that provide the largest share of funding for the programs, are due to expire on Sept. 30.

Long-term funding for the FAA expired in 2007 and highway programs in 2009. Both programs have been continued through a series of short-term extensions. The latest bill would be FAA's 21st extension and the highway program's eighth.

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# Republicans claim Weiner seat in NY

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Savoring the unlikelyst of victories, Republicans called their triumph in a New York City congressional race a repudiation of President Barack Obama's policies on the economy and Israel on Wednesday as public and private polls showed his approval ratings plummeting in a district he carried handily in 2008.

"We're not going to sugarcoat it, it was a tough loss," conceded the House Democratic Campaign Committee. Yet party officials and the White House insisted the race was not a referendum on the president as he seeks re-election with the economy stagnant and unemployment stuck at 9.1 percent.

In New York, Rep.-elect Bob Turner, outpolled state Assemblyman David Weprin in a light-turnout election. He will replace former Democratic Rep. Anthony Weiner, who resigned in disgrace earlier this year in a sexting scandal. Represented by Democrats since the 1920s, the district includes portions of Brooklyn and Queens, is home to three times as many registered Democrats as Republicans and is nearly 40 percent Jewish.

Those district demographics customarily spell victory for a Democrat, but in a smattering of interviews on the day after the election, former Obama supporters gave voice to their changed feelings.

"Unfortunately the Democrats have let us down lately," said Anne Lenihan, 65, of Queens, who said she supported the president in 2008. "I'm disappointed in the Democrats and we need change."

Mark Russell, 37, a Democrat, said he didn't vote because he could not get excited about supporting Weprin, despite numerous calls from the Democratic get-out-the-vote operation.

"In 2008 I voted for Obama, and I made a big mistake then," said Kelly Redmond, 47, who cited the economy and the president's policy toward Israel as reasons for supporting Turner.

Concerns that surfaced in the race included an administration policy in the Mideast that some Jews find not sufficiently supportive of Israel. Obama's urging of Israel to halt housing settlements in the West Bank has been a point of controversy in the district. Also, Weprin drew criticism for his vote in the New York Assembly in favor of a measure legalizing gay marriage, legislation generally unpopular with Orthodox Jews.

Among political leaders in both parties, reaction to the results fell along lines that are well-established for a special election in which a House seat changes hands from one party to the other. The winning side almost always claims a broad national significance, while the losers point instead to local concerns.

Speaker John Boehner issued a statement saying "New Yorkers have delivered a strong warning to the Democrats who control the levers of power in our federal government. It's time to scrap the failed 'stimulus' agenda and the misguided policies on Israel and focus on getting America back to creating jobs again."

"An unpopular President

Obama is now a liability for Democrats nationwide in a 2012 election that is a referendum on his economic policies," contended Texas Rep. Pete Sessions, head of the National Republican National Congressional Committee.

Democrats dissented.

"We do not view it that way," said White House press secretary Jay Carney, who told a reporter he risked looking foolish if he tried to predict the outcome of the 2012 elections based on the New York race.

Noting GOP claims about the effect of the economy on the outcome, the Democrats' House campaign committee said in a memo that the Republicans had not run the campaign based on Obama's economic policies. "For example, Tea Party Republican Bob Turner played on New Yorkers' fear and anxiety around the 10th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks," the memo said. "Turner's TV ads and mailers included images of the Twin Towers burning and the so-called Ground Zero mosque."

Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz of Florida, the Democratic National Committee chairwoman, likewise said the race had been run under "unusual circumstances," and she asserted the public mood will change "when we begin to focus on jobs rather than spending cuts."

Sen. Chuck Schumer, who represented the district when he was in the House, said he had "never heard (the seat) referred to as a bellwether." He added that the 55 percent of the vote Obama captured there in 2008 was his worst showing in any part of New York City. Obama won 53 percent of the vote nationwide.

Public and private polling during the New York campaign suggested Obama's standing in the district has deteriorated among voters who chose him in 2008. In a survey released less than a week ago, Sienna put his approval rating at 43 percent among likely voters and 29 percent among independents.

# New NASA rocket costs billions

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — To soar far away from Earth and even on to Mars, NASA has dreamed up the world's most powerful rocket, a behemoth that borrows from the workhorse liquid-fuel rockets that sent Apollo missions into space four decades ago.

But with a price tag that some estimate at \$35 billion, it may not fly with Congress.

NASA Administrator Charles Bolden and several members of Congress on Wednesday unveiled the Obama administration's much-delayed general plans for its rocket design, called the Space Launch System. The multibillion-dollar program would carry astronauts in a capsule on top, and the first mission would be 10 years off if all goes as planned. Unmanned test launches are expected from Cape Canaveral, Fla., in six years.

Calling it the "largest, most powerful rocket built," NASA's exploration and operations chief, William Gerstenmaier, said the rocket will be tough to construct. But when NASA does it, "we'll have a capability to go beyond low-Earth orbit like no other nation does here on Earth," he said in a telephone briefing Wednesday.

The rocket resembles those NASA relied on before the space shuttle, but even its smallest early prototype will have 10 percent more thrust than the Saturn V that propelled Apollo astronauts to the moon. When it is built to its fuller size, it will be 20 percent more powerful, Gerstenmaier said. That bigger version will have the horsepower of 208,000 Corvette engines.

NASA is trying to remain flexible on where it wants to go and when. The space agency is aiming for a nearby asteroid around 2025 and then on to Mars in the 2030s. There could even be a short hop to the moon, but not as a main goal. All those targets require lots of brute force to escape Earth's orbit, something astronauts have not done since 1972.

The far-from-finalized price tag may be too steep given federal budget constraints.

"Will it be tough times going forward? Of course it is," Sen. Bill Nelson, D-Fla., said in a separate



AP

A Delta II rocket lifts off from the Cape Canaveral Air Force Station in Cape Canaveral, Fla., bound for the moon.

news conference. "We are in an era in which we have to do more with less — all across the board — and the competition for the available dollars will be fierce. But what we have here now are the realistic costs" verified by independent experts.

Although five senators of both parties who are leaders in science issues praised the plan in a joint press release, outside experts are skeptical that Congress will agree to such a big spending project.

"In the current political environment, new spending is probably the most taboo thing in politics," said Stan Collender, a former Democratic congressional budget analyst. He put the odds of this getting congressional approval at "no better than 50-50 this year. There are going to be a lot of questions asking what kind of commitment we're going to be making here. You can find yourself with a rocket that no one wants to fire."

Nelson puts the cost of the program at about \$18 billion over the next five years. But that estimate is mostly for development and design through the first test flight in 2017, and doesn't include production of later rockets, Gerstenmaier said. Gerstenmaier wouldn't give a total estimate, but it is almost double that, according to senior administration officials, who spoke on the condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to make the announcement.

University of Texas engineering professor Hans Mark, a former NASA deputy chief and frequent

critic of recent space agency plans, said money and where the rocket is going are likely to be bigger problems than technical engineering issues. He said that in some ways, it sounds like NASA is melding the best of space shuttle and Apollo technologies.

The rocket is similar to Apollo not only in size and shape, but in its reliance on liquid fuel. The winged, reusable and recently retired space shuttles sat on top of a giant liquid fuel tank, but relied heavily on twin solid rocket boosters to get off the ground.

NASA figures it will be building and launching about one rocket a year for about 15 years or more in the 2020s and 2030s, according to the senior officials. The idea is to launch its first unmanned test flight in 2017 and send up the first crew in 2021, followed by the asteroid and Mars missions.

At first, the 320-foot-tall rockets will be able to carry 77 to 110 tons, which would include the six-person Orion Multi-Purpose Crew Vehicle capsule and more. The crew capsule, which is now being built, has at least twice as much space as the old Apollo capsules, which could only fit three astronauts, said NASA spokesman Michael Braukus.

Eventually the rocket will grow to 400 feet tall, weigh 3,250 tons and be able to carry another 143 tons into space, maybe even 165 tons, the officials who spoke on condition of anonymity said. By comparison, the long-dormant Saturn V booster that sent men to the moon was able to lift 130 tons.

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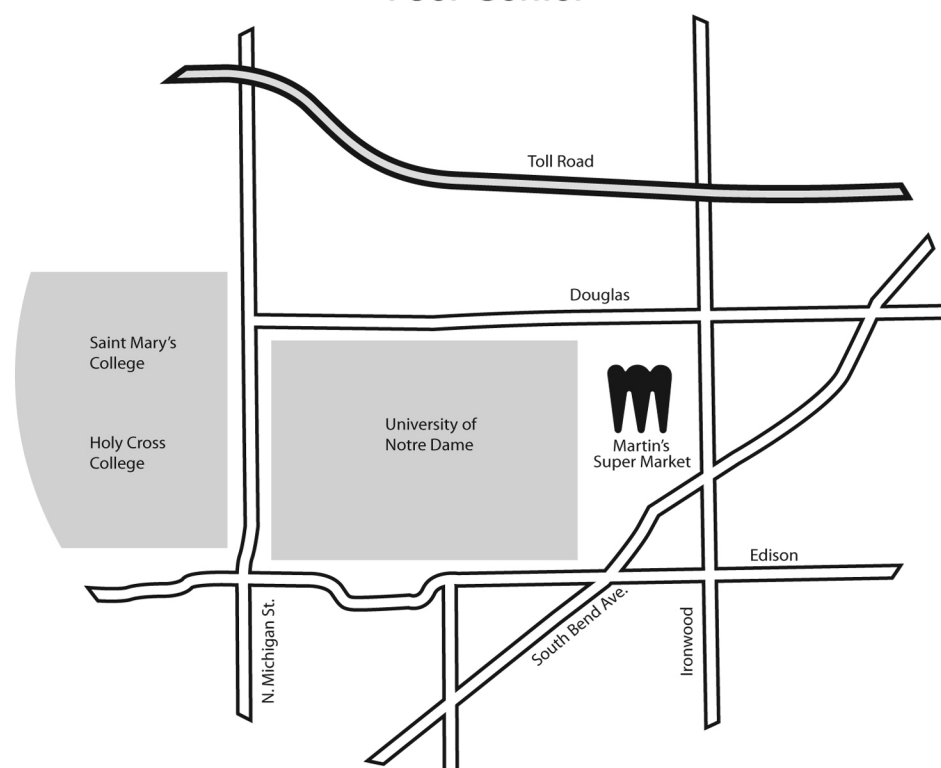
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## INSIDE COLUMN

### Italian girl problems

Every once and a while, you have to do something that you absolutely dread. For me, that day came last week. My grandparents were in South Bend visiting my great aunt and my Nonie (grandma in Italian) wanted to cook me dinner. Being the Italian girl that I am, I was envisioning her homemade sauce and meatballs, gnocchi and a warm, fresh, crusty loaf of Italian bread. Instead, I got the only food I really hate — polenta.

Polenta is disgusting. It's the Italian version of cornmeal mush — so basically, it's water and cornmeal boiled together. My Nonie and the rest of the women in my family serve polenta with stewed chicken and sausage in a red sauce. My family is northern Italian and this is a staple food of the region. However, I don't care. It is the most horrible food ever.

When I hear it's on the menu at home, I find somewhere I have to be for the better part of the evening. Most foods taste better when you add melted cheese — polenta does not. The worst part of this whole food fiasco known as polenta is my Nonie thinks it is one of my favorite foods. She is under the impression that I love polenta when really I would rather never see that yellow mush on my plate ever again.

So last week when I got to my aunt's house, I was dreading walking in. I actually had to give myself a pep talk to get through dinner. "You can do this, Anna. You've eaten fish with the heads on, you've eaten elk, you even ate a cricket at camp when you were 11. You can eat polenta for dinner." I know it's crazy to think I was talking to myself about how I could eat dinner, but it's true, I actually did.

Anyway, I got to my aunt's and the dreaded polenta was on the stove. My Nonie had me help her finish dinner and all I was thinking was "I hope this stuff burns." Then came the dreaded moment when dinner was served. My plate was filled with polenta; I got the largest serving at the table. And my Nonie was so proud that she was able to feed me this food that I loathe. I sat down, stared at my plate, took a deep breath and started to eat.

Oh, I still hate polenta. It's not like I took my first bite and then realized I had been misjudging this food my whole life and it had become some amazing new food adventure. False. It's still really gross. But I ate it anyway.

Why, you ask? Why did I continue to eat every last bite of the most disgusting, slimy, tasteless food Italy has ever produced? There's a really simple answer. I ate my least favorite food because I love my Nonie.

Italian women take pride in their food and they really do cook with love. I ate the polenta because if I didn't, it would hurt my Nonie. She and my mom taught me how to cook. She is always there for me when I need her. So basically, even though polenta is horrible, I'll still put up with it — just because my Nonie made it.

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

Contact Anna Boarini at [aboarini@nd.edu](mailto:aboarini@nd.edu)

**Anna Boarini**

*News Writer*

## It doesn't seem fair, but it is perfect justice

Raise your hand if on either of the last two Saturdays you thought to yourself, "Oh, how nice for Skip Holtz to come back to his alma mater and take home a win!" or, "Good for Michigan! What a great feeling to stage such a big comeback!"

Before you turn the page in disgust, I can assure you that I most certainly did not think either of those things, or anything even remotely close to them. I doubt that Coach Kelly encourages his players to ponder too deeply the feelings of their opponents across the line of scrimmage as they prepare to plow into them.

Outside the field of competition, where we all share more in common than anything that divides us, our attitudes ought to be more generous.

Across the planet, the truth runs consistently and firmly through the midst of creeds, cultures and religions otherwise widely diverse, that we ought to rejoice with sincere generosity in the good fortunes of others. And we probably do — to an extent. I imagine we all like to think of ourselves as people who live generously: we share with others, just like our moms taught us; we offer our time and our talents as volunteers; we donate to causes and organizations whose values we hold dear.

But how kind-hearted are we when generosity collides with justice ... which it inevitably will?

Consider the gospel story for this Sunday, which should have you squirm-

ing in your seats at Mass this weekend. We all know this parable and it bothers us each time we hear it, because we feel a fundamental resistance to its message. Jesus tells the story of a landowner who hires laborers to work in his vineyard. In fact, he goes out at dawn and then four more times that day, offering work to those who cannot seem to get hired anywhere else.

You remember the ending: at the close of the day, the landowner pays a full day's wage to the workers who only put in an hour, giving high hopes to those who had been at it since dawn that they would take home more money than they had seen in quite a while. When it becomes clear that the landowner intended to pay everyone one full day's wage, the grumbling begins. "Did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage?" responds the landowner. "Are you envious because I am generous?"

Can't you just picture the disciples listening to Jesus tell this parable, then politely stumbling and stammering to agree that yes, indeed the last shall be first and the first shall be last, while each silently protesting, "Is he nuts?"

Generosity just crashed into justice in that gospel, and justice lost yardage — or at least that's true for our human understanding of what's just. "It's not fair!" we cry. But as we will pray together to God in our opening prayer on Sunday, "the perfection of justice is found in your love." And if we believe that God is God and we're not, we will spend less time trying to argue our way around the logic of this most lavish landowner and more time shoring up the foundations of true generosity in our own lives. We cer-

tainly have many opportunities to practice! Think of all the times in a day or a week when we are invited to share in another's good fortune: the guy who sits next to you in calculus gets an A on his test; your roommate gets the summer internship she's been hoping for; that person down the hall who always used to look sort of dumpy clearly did P90X for the entire summer and now looks just as awesome as those aggravating ads claim. Are we really, truly pleased for them? Can we call upon the generosity of spirit to rejoice sincerely with them or does a tiny voice of resentment whisper to us, "OK, how did he know exactly what to study when I spent all those hours on the material and got a B?"

God challenges us to turn our lives and our assumptions upside down in so many ways. We probably shouldn't be surprised that his demand for our lavish generosity of heart stretches every fiber of our sometimes-selfish beings.

And what of Michigan State this weekend? I suppose we recognize these truths on the football field, or any arena of competition, as good sportsmanship. Just as we hope and even expect our team to stretch themselves to the limits of their abilities in the game, may our lives and attitudes reflect our ongoing attempts to stretch ourselves toward God's extravagant examples of generosity and compassion.

*Kate Barrett is the director of the Emmaus Program in Campus Ministry. She can be reached at [kbarrett@nd.edu](mailto:kbarrett@nd.edu)*

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

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

### Implications of high poverty rates

Your recent coverage of increasing poverty rates in the U.S. ("Poverty rate increases in 2010") focused narrowly on whether the economic resources of American families and individuals should be measured by their annual income or by their consumption expenditures. I fear that your readers will lose the forest for the trees in this debate.

Rather than argue which concept best measures the material deprivation of those at the bottom of the income distribution, your coverage should highlight the broader implications of falling incomes for millions of Americans, specifically the loss of health insurance care, forced residential moves, abandoned educational plans for lack of tuition, and the psychological harm, loss of work motivation, skill and self-confidence that frequently accompanies unemployment.

America cannot afford to wait for the engines of economic growth to lift the poor. We need to act swiftly to expand access to medical programs that will ensure that every pregnant woman receives prenatal care thereby lowering the chances that their children will suffer the lifelong consequences of physical and cognitive developmental delays.

We need to invest now in programs that provide every poor child with a high-quality early childhood education to preempt the achievement gap. We need to make sure that all children receive the medical care they need so that they can attend school every day ready to learn.

We need expanded income supports so that no teenager should ever have to choose between staying in school and supplementing family income. We need to enact legislation that protects low-income families from predatory lending

and enables more families to negotiate favorable mortgage extensions and stay in their homes.

If we do not insist upon such actions, Americans can expect to read headlines about increased rates of infant mortality, higher numbers of low-birth weight babies, epidemics of asthma and diabetes, rising numbers foreclosures and of families living in homeless shelters, a widening of the achievement gap and higher dropout rates, exacerbation of racial tensions, rising crime rates and even greater rates of incarceration. These are the realities of a higher poverty rate that readers should contemplate and that your article should have revealed.

**Jennifer Warlick**

Director, Poverty Studies Minor  
Associate Professor of Economics  
Sept. 14

## QUOTE OF THE DAY

*"To play it safe is not to play."*

**Robert Altman**  
U.S. movie director,  
producer and screenwriter

## Submit a Letter to the Editor

Email [obsviewpoint@gmail.com](mailto:obsviewpoint@gmail.com)

## WEEKLY POLL

How often do you go onto The Observer's website?

Every day  
Once a week  
Once a month  
Never

Vote by 5 p.m. Thursday at [ndsmcobserver.com](http://ndsmcobserver.com)



## Three, two, one: your college days are done

A universal axiom contends that students leave college with an equal amount of wisdom in proportion to the efforts they exerted while on campus. Consequently, it would follow that a collegiate weekend beer binge-drinker will at best become a managerial dirty martini guzzler while the geeky, library-loving homework nerd at worst will cure cancer.

Gary Caruso

Capitol  
Comments

Fortunately, such fallacy is as obvious each year as another lost wide-eyed freshman aimlessly wandering about the quads on the first day of classes. Yet, one maxim does ring true: Each of us, to better appreciate and relish our campus experiences, can consciously slow time during our academic years.

Ask any of last spring's newly minted alumni, and nearly all of them will admit their senior year and graduation day pounced upon them with unbelievable speed. Many chide themselves for their dalliances that prevented them from most appreciating their surroundings. Regardless of how often you log Facebook entries or blog updates to document your fun, your college years zoom forgetfully along unless you purposefully pause to drink in every moment.

Savoring a semester can ultimately seem like the seven-year college stint Ryan Reynolds portrayed in the movie, National Lampoon's Van Wilder. In fact, during my second semester of se-

nior year, I slowed time through such a technique. Even now, at class reunions held light years from our waning days at Notre Dame, I still vividly remember moments from those final four months of college that my dormitory classmates cannot recall.

The best advice anyone can offer students during their first two weeks of an autumn semester is to prolong that short-lived, exaggerated openness they briefly offer to others. Typically, after the beginning two weeks of a new semester, many limit their offers of BFF-dom in favor of a comfort zone that hunkers down with a few friends. Ultimately, such consolation gives birth to stagnant semester routines. Rather, constantly purvey new friendships throughout the corners of campus.

The annals of Notre Dame history are cluttered with many a depressed graduate who left our Catholic Disneyland cocoon unprepared for the transition into the real world. Avoid such perverse future trauma by refusing to limit your eagerness to initiate new friendships beyond the start of each school year. While grasping personal moments of fun — as well as anguish — continually make new friendships throughout the entire semester to best realize your unique moment in time.

In many ways, Notre Dame mimics the boarding school setting of the epic film "Dead Poets Society" in which Robin Williams encourages his students, "Carpe diem. Seize the day, boys. Make your lives extraordinary." Traditionally,

our campus community atmosphere fosters a grace of civility and standard of tolerance. Administrators seek to highlight the importance of building real, open relationships while passionately seeking the truth.

In Horace's Latin poem, the phrase used in the movie originates from part of the longer passage: "Carpe diem, quam minimum credula postero — Seize the day, putting as little trust as possible in the future." At Notre Dame, however, your "carpe diem" should strive to make each living second hauntingly and extraordinarily memorable to better your future. Focus on your intimate laughter and torment while hearing the whispers from the phantoms of ages long gone who lived similar campus experiences.

Throughout scores of Notre Dame semesters, similar young faces have repeated like-minded rituals. Teenagers just like you helped settle the University's frontier site with Fr. Sorin. A generation later, others your same age avoided the Civil War ravages while studying alongside Union Army General William Tecumseh Sherman's children. Students — who paradoxically could have just as easily been you but for the random birth of their generations — rode with the Four Horsemen during Rockne's days, dropped out of school to die defending our nation in World War II and barely graduated before conscribed to ultimately die in Vietnam during a war nobody thought was worth a damn. Their blood is in the bricks around you.

These precious first few days of each

fall semester are full of so much promise and optimism. Students can make new lifetime friendships, live independently and cheer the football team onward to victory while learning limitless classroom facts along with the limitations on drinking beer at the bars. This year's freshmen will learn — like all of us before them and all of those who will follow — that each living day on earth offers the same opportunities available to them during their first day on campus.

If life mimicked fiction, we could relive our last eight minutes to correct our mistakes like the premise behind the recent movie, "Source Code." Unfortunately, we are not trapped within our own source codes doomed to repeat our last eight minutes, nor are we forever attending college like the fictional Van Wilder. The opening of each school year is a snapshot of life that only occurs four times during an undergraduate career. Grab it. Breathe it. Scrutinize it and burn it into your minds as the countdown continues to the end of your college days. But do not blink. The clock is already ticking.

Gary Caruso, Notre Dame '73, serves in the Department of Homeland Security and was a legislative and public affairs director in President Clinton's administration. He can be contacted at GaryJCaruso@alumni.nd.edu

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

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Arts and Letters students: don't be discouraged

Stress. High pressure. Competition.

The Observer editorial used these words last Friday to describe the atmosphere on campus as students work to land an internship or job. But those three words also describe the world confronting job seekers at every school — and job seekers of almost any age, experience level or profession.

The good news — the don't-be-discouraged news — is that within the first year after graduation, a full 98 percent of Notre Dame's newest alumni class will be gainfully employed, according to Career Center statistics.

Even in the current economic climate, 97 percent of members of the College of Arts and Letters Class of 2010 are gainfully employed in full-time work (36%), in graduate or professional school (35%), in a service program (21%) or in the military/pursuing "other plans" (5%).

Only 3 percent, when surveyed one year out, reported that they were still seeking employment compared to 2 percent reported by the Mendoza College of Business undergraduate Class of 2010 and similar figures reported by new alumni of Notre Dame's other colleges. What these numbers tell is that a Notre Dame liberal arts education develops the personal, analytic and communication skills that prepare you to succeed right away in today's economy, let alone in the long term.

Does this mean students need to work to discern the right post-graduation path and decide what the best first step might be on that path? Of course. In fact, it takes the same passion, drive and follow-through that it took to get to Notre Dame, that it takes to graduate from Notre Dame and that it will take to be successful after college.

Should the University do more? Again, of course. We are continually striving to find new ways to assist students. But the paper's editorial last week did not mention many excellent programs that help students prepare for life after Notre Dame.

Among them are the Arts and Letters Summer Internship program, the Arts and Letters Boot Camp (held in Chicago during spring break each year), and the annual "What's Next? Week" (set for Sept. 26-29 this year) — all designed just for Arts and Letters students.

In addition to a career fair on Sept. 29, the latter includes events to help Arts and Letters students with everything from interviewing and networking skills to preparing for graduate school, applying to service programs and finding employment in the business world.

Don't stay home.

JoAnn DellaNeva  
Associate Dean, Undergraduate Studies  
College of Arts and Letters  
Sept. 14

Lee Svete  
Director, Career Center  
University of Notre Dame  
Sept. 14

## Let them eat bread

Tonight, as I took a bite of my grilled cheese at South Dining Hall, I witnessed a dining hall monitor reprimanding a young woman for attempting to wrap up several pieces of bread to take with her after finishing her meal. After the young woman apologized to the monitor and promised she wouldn't take the food with her, the monitor continued to watch her for the rest of her dinner. Then, instead of taking the bread with her, the woman was forced to throw it away.

For a university so focused on sustainability, this seems like the wrong approach to take. Clearly the woman was going to eat the food eventually, and since it was only about 5:30 p.m. when this took place, it seems likely it would be consumed later on as a snack. Call me crazy, but wouldn't it be better for someone to eat the food than for it to be thrown away? I understand that the dining halls have a "eat all you want while here, but only take one item with you" policy, but maybe this should be re-examined. After all, we are paying a large amount of money for 14 meals a week, regardless of how many meals we actually use. Most people I know use only 11 or 12 of those meals.

Students should not be made to feel like criminals for desiring a late night snack. As students, we are often up late studying and get hungry. I would like to see a more relaxed attitude toward bringing food out of the dining halls. As it stands now, I fear backpack checks and strip searches are right around the corner.

Samantha Grissom  
senior  
Pangborn Hall  
Sept. 14

## Have too many opinions? We don't mind.

Write for Viewpoint  
Email [obsviewpoint@gmail.com](mailto:obsviewpoint@gmail.com)



By **MARISSA FROBES**  
Assistant Scene Editor

Notre Dame alumnus Emerson Spartz created the No. 1 Harry Potter fansite, MuggleNet, at the age of 12. He later went on to graduate from Notre Dame in 2009 with a degree in management from Mendoza, and is now the CEO of Chicago-based Spartz Media.

But the success of his first website inspired him to create other online communities.

Spartz Media is a hosting a tailgate before the Michigan State game this Saturday in celebration of reaching over 100 million monthly page views on their 13 websites and over half a million subscribers on their YouTube channel. Join Spartz Media in the Joyce Handicap Lot before the game to learn more about the company.

The Observer spoke with Spartz about the evolution of his online media corporation, and why its optimistic, forward-thinking model is one that will last.

Marissa Frobes: You began MuggleNet at age 12, and it has since evolved into the No. 1 Harry Potter fansite. From there, how did you begin to expand the brand and ultimately create Spartz Media?

Emerson Spartz: MuggleNet at its peak was tracking about 47 million monthly page views, and website traffic has been strong for years. My fiancé at the time, Gaby Montero, and I, graduated in 2009, and not a whole lot of people had jobs who graduated in that year. FML had just exploded in popularity a few months before, and Gaby was hell-bent on creating an FML-type website. We came up with the idea for GivesMeHope (GMH) — the basic concept being that while FML is a celebration of the funny but cynical way of looking at the world, for every story about something bad happening there's got to be an amazing story about something good happening as well.

We decided to create the website and it exploded virally when we launched it. We were the No. 1 story on Digg.com over a 24-hour period, we were written up in Esquire, The Wall Street Journal and USA Today. With all that media attention we received hundreds of thousands of visitors. We never looked back.

GMH was so successful, we realized the platform we'd been building would be applicable to other website ideas as well. We noticed, for example, that the love stories on GMH were by far the most popular on the website. So we thought there would be probably be a lot of people who

would enjoy a website devoted to short love stories. Love Gives Me Hope eventually received more traffic than GMH. Based on that success, we kept coming up with new ideas for websites that would work for that model.

Now, we have 13 websites and last month we hit 112 million page views. It really puts us in an elite category of online media. There are not very many companies who reach over 100 million page views.

MF: How often are you going to be creating new brands?

ES: One website per month.

MF: What is your favorite Spartz Media brand?

ES: GMH. GMH really does give me hope. When we were talking about the idea, I really was not sure of myself. There's never been a high-traffic website that focused on accentuating the positive things in life. Gives Me Hope proved that people really are interested in celebrating the beauty of the natural world around us, and human achievement. Sometimes things just have to be packaged right. There are a lot of websites trying to do what GMH does, and they've failed.

With GMH, we've received thousands of letters from people saying that the stories on the website kept them from dropping out of school, saved their marriage or even brought them back from the verge of suicide. I get chills when I read some of the stories because they're so touching and so powerfully emotional.

MF: Spartz Media has published a GMH book, as well as two MuggleNet books. Are you looking to keep extending the brand in other ways that go beyond the internet?

ES: Eventually we will start publishing more books, but right now there's a greater benefit to us focusing on online media. We're just playing to our strengths. We have five million followers on Facebook, Twitter and YouTube.

MF: How has social media enhanced Spartz in a tangible way?

ES: The reason why I'm such a big believer in social media is because [it] has an unparalleled ability to reach large numbers of people. In other forms of media, you spend a lot of money, you get an advertisement in a newspaper or in front of a TV show and people really don't have a choice whether or not to respond to your ad. But with social media, you are graded based on how good your ad is. You can't do that in the off-line world.

MF: How has Notre Dame played a role in your career and life in total up to this point?

ES: The majority of the com-

pany's employees are Domers, and that's not a coincidence. ND breeds the best and brightest, so for us it would be unthinkable to recruit talent from elsewhere. When I was at ND, I was making a list of people I would want to work with again down the road who'd given me opportunities.

That's been a source of talent for us, just utilizing our networks at ND. It's something we intend to continue to do as much as possible as we grow. Our model has afforded us the kind of hiring flexibility other companies don't have — other companies hire for experience, and we hire for talent.

I compare it to "The Chicago Tribune," which has about 1,000 employees and about 100 million page views. Their model makes it difficult for them to compete with us. They spend \$2,500 on average to produce a single article for a paper, and we pay equivalently a couple pennies.

The experience that people would gain at the "Tribune," much of that would not be useful to us. We'd rather have fresh-thinking, young, energetic, talented minds who aren't encumbered with old ideas about how media works.

We create the tools that enable millions of people who were formerly passive consumers of content into active producers of content. I get really excited about the potential we have to change the world.

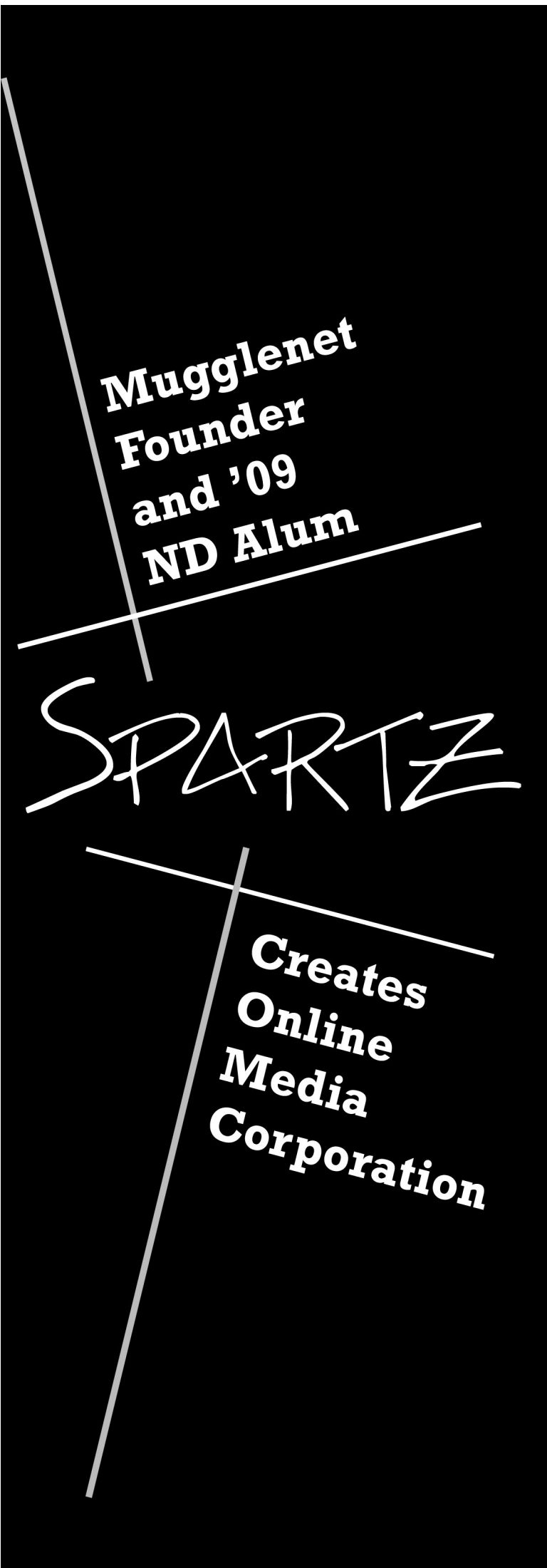
Look at the amount of time Americans spend watching TV every year — 200 billion hours versus the total time it took to create Wikipedia of 100 million hours. If we could shave off even a tiny fraction of a percent of that wasted time watching TV or doing unproductive things and channel the creative energy into producing useful things for society, then we'll change the world.

Our websites educate people, they make people laugh and they inspire people. And there's no limit to the opportunities that we have as we continue to refine this model and make it easier and easier for people to jump the divide from consuming to producing content.

MF: Do you envision yourself as the CEO of Spartz Media indefinitely?

ES: This is my life. I'm having the time of my life right now. This is the entrepreneurial sweet spot — having revenues, a hardworking team of talented coworkers and having an audience of 8.5 million unique visitors to promote your sites. This is as good as it gets for me.

Contact Marissa Frobes at  
mfrobes@nd.edu



ELISA DE CASTRO | Observer Graphic

By **MARISSA FROBES**  
Assistant Scene Editor

## OMG-Facts

Launched in February of 2010, OMG-Facts is one of the most successful brands of Spartz Media. The brand's video show boasts over 500,000 subscribers on YouTube, and the eight new facts the website rolls out each day are simply addicting. Who doesn't want to know, for instance, that "Hippopotomonstrosesquippedaliophobia" is the fear of long words?

## GivesMeHope

Its tagline is "FML for Optimists." Beginning June of 2009, GMH delivers short anecdotes of love, kindness and friendship that are cute but somehow not nauseating. A corresponding book, "Gives Me Hope: 127 Most Inspiring Bite-Sized Stories" was published in November 2010.

## MuggleNet

Any true Potter fan, which describes a hefty chunk of generation Y, knows MuggleNet is the world's No. 1 Harry Potter

site. Twelve-year-old Spartz founded the site in 1999, and it has since published two books, one of which is a "New York Times" Bestseller. Perhaps the success of the site in the world of Potter can be best exemplified by the fact that J.K. Rowling herself called Spartz in 2005 to offer him a face-to-face interview in Scotland.

## Memestache

Memestache launched in July 2011. Trust Spartz Media when they say, "it'll grow on you." How does it work?

Someone finds a picture, adds a comedic caption and then the image begins to circulate with different, equally absurd captions. Popular memes like "Hipster Kitty" or "Annoying Facebook Girl" are surefire homework prevention methods.

## Rich World Problems

"There are real problems ... and then there are rich world problems."

Contact Marissa Frobes at  
mfrobes@nd.edu



## WEEKEND EVENTS CALENDAR

thursday 01



**Poker Tournament**  
**Legends Nightclub**  
**Midnight**  
**Free with ID**

How's your poker face? Head to Legends Thursday night for the first poker tournament of the year to test it out against other Domers. Try your hand at some classic card games and see if your skills can take you to the top of the pack. Who knows, this first tournament might be your stepping-stone to the World Series of Poker.

friday 02



**No. 16 Men's Soccer vs. Michigan**  
**Alumni Stadium**  
**7:30 p.m.**  
**Free**

The Fighting Irish are looking to avenge the football team's loss to Michigan on the soccer field Friday, so head out to Alumni Field to support them. Additionally, for all seniors, it's Senior Appreciation Night, so be sure to get your free pizza, free raffles and special seating.

saturday 03



**Rep Your Res**  
**Legends Nightclub**  
**Midnight**  
**Free with ID**

Notre Dame dorm life is a very unique institution of our great University. Rivalries are created, lines aren't crossed and lasting friendships are made down the hall. What better way to show pride for your dorm than to rep your dorm, mascot and colors with your friends at Legends after the football game.

sunday 04



**The Way**  
**Debartolo Performing Arts Center — Browning Cinema**  
**Noon and 3 p.m.**  
**Sold out**

The Nanovic Institute for European Studies will put on a production of this 2010 movie starring Martin Sheen and Emilio Estevez, who will also be present at the screening. Even if you didn't get tickets, you might be able to catch a glimpse of the father-son duo if you hang out by DPAC long enough.



*Father-Son Hollywood Stars Martin Sheen  
and Emilio Estevez Visit Campus for*

# "THE WAY"

By BRANDY CERNE  
Scene Writer

Most of the time, when students see actors at Notre Dame, it's only on screen. That won't be the case Sunday, when esteemed actors Martin Sheen and Emilio Estevez will make an appearance at the screenings of the film "The Way" at DeBartolo Performing Arts Center.

Written and directed by Estevez and starring himself and Sheen, "The Way" tells the story of Tom (Sheen), a father who travels to France to collect the remains of his son (Estevez) after he dies while walking the Camino de Santiago, a famous pilgrimage route through northern Spain. Tom decides to walk the route himself, grappling with his grief and

encountering strangers of diverse backgrounds along the way.

While not an explicitly religious film, "The Way" embodies many Catholic themes. Estevez and Sheen wanted to promote the Camino route and pilgrimage in general. Estevez referred to the film as "pro people, pro life — not anti — anything." It explores how loss, community and faith can be intertwined.

After doing well for a year on the festival circuit, "The Way" will stop in South Bend as part of Sheen and Estevez's cross-country promotional tour before the release date on Oct. 7. It seems surprising that Estevez and Sheen would choose to appear on a college campus in Indiana, but it makes sense when looking at the film's themes, not to mention

the fact that Sheen has always been a supporter of Notre Dame, even receiving the Laetare medal in 2008.

This father-son duo has had successful careers in Hollywood spanning decades. Estevez wrote the part of Tom specifically for his father. Sheen has starred in such classic films as "Apocalypse Now," "Wall Street" with that other Sheen son, "JFK" and "The Departed." For many, his most-loved role is the part of President Josiah Bartlet on "The West Wing."

As for Estevez, he played a big part in the "Brat Pack" of the '80s, starring in "The Outsiders," "The Breakfast Club" and "St. Elmo's Fire." He went on to act and direct in a variety of films, including "The Mighty Ducks" movies and "Bobby."

Besides representing their Catholic

identity in this film, Estevez and Sheen wanted to tap into their Spanish roots. Sheen's father is from a town close to the Camino, and Sheen himself took the pilgrimage while on hiatus from "The West Wing" a few years ago. "The Way" is filmed on location on the Camino, and despite a few main actors, everyone who appears on screen are real pilgrims.

Presented in partnership with the Nanovic Institute for European Studies, the authenticity of the film and their experience in Spain will possibly be a point of conversation when Estevez and Sheen speak before and after the two screenings of "The Way" on Sunday. Now sold out, it is sure to be a special event in the fall season at DPAC.

Contact Brandy Cerne at [bcernel@nd.edu](mailto:bcernel@nd.edu)

ELISA DE CASTRO



SPORTS AUTHORITY

Matt Kemp is MVP

What defines a Most Valuable Player?

Some define it as the best player in the sport. That is the standard thought when you hear the term “MVP”, but is this the right thought?

If that were the case, Alex Rodriguez would have 10 MVPs and there wouldn’t be any anticipation year-in and year-out.

So it seems as though being the most famous or popular player isn’t the only factor taken into defining what an MVP is — that qualification is reserved for an All-Star selection.

It is also clear the MVP doesn’t just go to the player with the most talent in baseball, as if hitting a 95-mph pitch with a stick in your hand isn’t enough.

But if you think about the players with the most talent in baseball, you look at five-tool players — the ones that possess a cannon for an arm, hit for average, hit for power, steal bases and cover the field defensively better than anyone else. That would mean every year only Carlos Gonzalez, Matt Holiday, Troy Tulowitzki, Matt Kemp and Josh Hamilton would have a chance to win and that obviously isn’t the case.

Yet another factor is how “valuable” is a player to a team. If you take the term Most Valuable Player literally, Albert Pujols would win every year. What player in baseball is more valuable to his team than Pujols is to the Cardinals? Just imagine where the Cards would be without Pujols’ presence (although you may not have to wait long to see that).

We are also witnessing this effect in the NFL with the Indianapolis Colts. Peyton Manning should win every year in a literal sense, especially this year just to prevent Kerry Collins from throwing another pass while he should be applying his Just-for-Men.

Therefore, it seems that the MVP is awarded to the player with just the right mixture of these factors — and let us not forget about the need for a statistically good year — that goes without saying. So who should win this year’s MVP then?

Matt Kemp.

This Rude Boy has given us one of major-league baseball’s best seasons statistically when compared to his peers. Kemp, 25, is currently in the top five in the National League in every major



Andrew Gastelum  
Sports Writer

category including third in home runs (33), third in RBI (109), fourth in batting average (.316), second in stolen bases (38) and first in outfield assists (11). Just looking at these five-tool stats compared to the rest of the National League, it is obvious Kemp wields one of baseball’s most talent-rich arsenals. Check one category off the list.

Kemp has also gotten recognition as baseball’s best player over the last year, most notably by Dusty Baker and Davey Lopes. Check notability off the list.

But next, the question remains: how important is he to the Dodgers?

The All-Star center fielder leads the Dodgers in runs, hits, home runs, RBI, walks, stolen bases, batting average, on-base percentage, slugging percentage, outfield assists and has yet to miss a game in over two years. Would the Dodgers even be hovering around .500 and in third place in the NL West in the midst of their most controversial season in the franchise’s proud history? I would be willing to put down Frank McCourt’s six houses on that answer.

But the question always remains: Does an MVP need to be on a playoff team? To know the answer to that question, one would have to look at the other candidates.

Having two players in the race hurts the Brewers’ MVP chances. Prince Fielder is not the Brewers’ most valuable player because that title belongs to Ryan Braun, and vice versa. Their collective effort has led to the Brewers’ first place standing, and thus it would be difficult to choose either. The same goes for Ryan Howard.

There is a reason why A-Rod has only won two MVPs in his seven statistically remarkable seasons with the Yankees — because his effort is diluted by the great years the rest of the Yankees are having.

Meanwhile, Jose Reyes would look like the likely MVP choice, if he didn’t miss games due to a new hamstring strain every other day. Tulowitzki, too, is having a great year, but just not quite up to par with Kemp’s numbers.

So if the voters get it right, we should see the MVP and Cy Young in the Dodgers’ hands. Too bad I ran out of room to write about Clayton Kershaw.

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

Contact Andrew at [agastel1@nd.edu](mailto:agastel1@nd.edu)

MLB

Red Sox blow lead against Blue Jays

Associated Press

BOSTON – Now comes the really hard part for the Boston Red Sox: four more games against the Tampa Bay Rays.

The Red Sox lost for the sixth time in seven games, wasting an eighth-inning lead when Adam Loewen’s two-run single off hard-throwing Daniel Bard lifted the Toronto Blue Jays to a 5-4 win Wednesday.

“It’s just another loss. I don’t think it’s any tougher than any other loss,” first baseman Adrian Gonzalez said. “We’ve got to find a way in the next series to play better baseball.”

Just 3-10 in September, the Red Sox began the day with a four-game lead over Tampa Bay in the AL wild-card race. Boston led the AL East at the start of the month and was nine games ahead of the third-place Rays.

After getting swept in a three-game series at Tampa Bay last weekend, Boston hosts the Rays in a four-game series starting Thursday night.

“Very frustrating,” said Bard, 0-3 with a 30.86 ERA in his last three appearances. “I’ve been through it before. “Sometimes the effects are magnified by how big the games are.”

Boston led 4-2 in the eighth before Toronto came back against the hard-throwing Bard (2-8), who entered and walked Edwin Encarnacion and Kelly Johnson.

Mark Teahen bunted, and Bard’s throw to first pulled Lars Anderson off the bag for a throwing error that loaded the bases.

J.P. Arencibia’s RBI groundout cut the lead to 4-3, with third baseman Kevin Youkilis bobbling the ball and throwing to first. Loewen followed with a single to center.

Loewen, converted to outfielder from pitcher, was 0-1 with a 6.63 ERA in four starts against the Red Sox for Baltimore in 2006 and ‘07.

“I’m very aware of that. They got me,” he said, dressed in a ballerina costume as spoke to the media, part of late-season rookie hazing. “I think the best chance I had was against (Josh) Beckett in our place. I came out of the game (ahead) 2-1 in the sixth,



**Boston catcher Jason Varitek tags out Toronto’s Brett Lawrie in a collision home plate in the sixth inning Wednesday.**

and they ended up winning it in the top of the ninth.”

Loewen has taken advantage for openings created by injuries.

“September is about taking a look at all of our personnel and he’s capitalized on every opportunity, so there’s no reason to think that’s not going to still be in the rotation and in the mix,” Toronto manager John Farrell said.

Ricky Romero (15-10) allowed four runs — three earned — and six hits in eight innings. He improved to 8-1 in his last 10 starts.

Frank Francisco pitched a 1-2-3 ninth for his 15th save in 19 chances as the Blue Jays won for just the third time in nine games at Fenway Park this season.

Red Sox starter John Lackey gave up two runs and seven hits in 5 1-3 innings. He threw 115 pitches.

“He had a high pitch count, mainly early,” Boston manager Terry Francona said. “When he came out of the game, we had a good chance to win.”

Toronto took a 2-0 lead in the first on consecutive run-scoring singles by Encarnacion and Johnson, but Boston tied it in the second when Ryan Lavarney reached on a run-scoring error by third baseman Brett Lawrie and an RBI grounder by Jason Varitek.

Marco Scutaro hit a sacrifice fly in the third after Jacoby Ellsbury’s triple, and Gonzalez homered into the Red Sox bullpen for a 4-2 lead in the sixth.

In the sixth, Varitek held on and tagged out Lawrie, who came crashing in with his forearms while trying to score from third on Adam Loewen’s bouncer to second with the infield in, Varitek flipped over backward.

NOTES: Gonzalez left with left calf tightness after his homer. He said it tightened up in his previous at-bat and bothered him on his home-run trot. “When I was rounding the bases, it got worse as I kept going,” he said before saying he hoped to play Thursday. ... Lawrie left with a bruised knee. ... Red Sox DH David Ortiz missed his second straight game with muscle spasms in his back. “He really wanted to play today,” Francona said. “He woke up this morning and was real sore, but he’s moving around better.” ... The Red Sox honored RHP Tim Wakefield with a brief on-field ceremony after he became the 108th player in major league history with 200 career wins in Tuesday’s 18-6 victory over the Blue Jays. ... Francona was also honored on the field for being elected to the National College Baseball Hall of Fame earlier this year. ... Toronto SS Yunel Escobar missed both games in Boston because of a bruised left arm. ... The Blue Jays have a day off Thursday before they attempt to stop the Yankees’ CC Sabathia (19-8) from winning his 20th game. Brett Cecil (4-9) is scheduled to pitch for Toronto. ... Kyle Weiland (0-1) opens the series against the Rays’ Jeremy Hellickson (12-10) on Thursday.

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MLB

Tigers rally past White Sox to extend winning streak

Associated Press

CHICAGO — In a memorable month filled with exhilarating moments, Wednesday's come-back win stood out for the Detroit Tigers.

Carlos Guillen singled home the go-ahead run in the 10<sup>th</sup> inning and Detroit extended its longest winning streak in 77 years, rallying past the Chicago White Sox 6-5 for its 12<sup>th</sup> straight victory.

"We hung in there and had a real nice win," Tigers manager Jim Leyland said. "A really unbelievable win."

Guillen also hit a solo homer for Detroit, which hadn't won 12 in a row since 1934 — when Hank Greenberg, Charlie Gehringer and the Tigers lost a seven-game World Series to the St. Louis Cardinals' famous Gas House Gang.

Jose Valverde struck out the side in the 10<sup>th</sup> to remain perfect in 44 save opportunities this year.

Closing in on an AL Central title, the surging Tigers rallied for three runs in the ninth off Chicago's bullpen to prevent rookie Dylan Axelrod from earning his first career

win.

Ryan Raburn's pinch-hit homer with one out off Chris Sale brought the Tigers within two. Magglio Ordonez walked, chasing Sale. Alex Avila pinch-hit for Andy Dirks and hit Sergio Santos' second pitch into the seats in right-center to tie it.

The Tigers have won 22 of their last 26 games overall and 21 of 27 against the White Sox.

"We've just been on a roll and able to do it with all aspects of the game," Avila said. "The biggest thing is everybody is contributing, so that's the biggest reason why we're rolling."

Guillen, a three-time All-Star, hadn't started a game Sept. 3 — but Leyland had no doubt the 14-year veteran would be ready to contribute.

"I'm happier for him than anybody else today," Leyland said. "He's been working like everybody else. He's a proud guy. He's a pro and he knows he hadn't played for 10 days. He wants to show people he's a very capable player. He showed that today."

Guillen hit the ball hard in all five plate appearances.

"He must have a dumb manager," Leyland said. "Dumb managers sit guys for 10 days and when they come out, they hit (five) balls hard. I must be pretty dumb."

Speaking in the middle of a jubilant Tigers clubhouse, Guillen said he's experienced this kind of scene before.

"When I was with Seattle in 2001, we won 116 games," Guillen said. "It's very similar. Similar feeling. The way the things happen, every day somebody comes through, different guys."

Axelrod struck out eight and threw six strong innings in his first career start just two years after pitching for the independent Windy City ThunderBolts.

"It's nice to get individual accolades like wins and things, but it's a team game," Axelrod said. "Unfortunately we came out on the losing end, but I was happy with what I did and just want to continue to build off that."

Santos (4-5) blew his sixth save of the season.

"It's a shame," White Sox manager Ozzie Guillen said. "(Axelrod is) pitching very well and all of a sudden we just blew it for him. Very nice day, you see this kid having success in his first time in the big leagues and all of a sudden, poof, another bad day for the White Sox."

Miguel Cabrera singled, doubled and scored a run for Detroit.



Detroit Tigers relief pitcher Jose Valverde celebrates a 10th inning 6-5 win over the Chicago White Sox Wednesday.

Alexei Ramirez laced a two-run double and Paul Konerko added a two-run single during Chicago's four-run second. Konerko reached 100 RBIs for the sixth time in his career.

Tigers starter Brad Penny allowed five runs — one earned — and eight hits over six innings. Phil Coke (3-9) threw a scoreless ninth for the win.

Ramirez doubled, singled,

walked and scored a run. Alejandro De Aza doubled, reached base four times, scored two runs and stole a base for Chicago.

The mood couldn't have been more different in the other clubhouse.

"We're having a good time," Raburn said. "We're having fun going out and playing, just trying to enjoy the moment and keep going on."

MLB

Alfonzo suspended, fined for second case of drug abuse

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Colorado Rockies catcher Eliezer Alfonzo became the first player suspended twice for performance-enhancing drugs under the Major League Baseball testing program when the commissioner's

office announced a 100-game penalty Wednesday.

Alfonzo, a 32-year-old backup in his sixth big league season, was suspended for 50 games in April 2008 while a member of the San Francisco Giants.

"I am surprised by this positive test," he said in a statement

released by the Major League Baseball Players Association. "I learned my lesson in 2008 and have not taken any prohibited substances since then. With the union's help, I intend to fight this suspension and look forward to appearing before the arbitrator in the near future."

Under the major league drug agreement, first offenses are arbitrated before any public announcement — but additional offenses are litigated after a suspension is announced.

Manny Ramirez retired in April rather than face a 100-game suspension following a

second positive test.

Baseball began testing with penalties in 2004. Under the current rules, a third violation would carry a lifetime ban.

Alfonzo is hitting .267 this season with one homer and nine RBIs in 75 at-bats. He has a .240 career average with 17 homers during a career that also included stints with San Diego and Seattle.

After the suspension three years ago, Alfonzo said he never knowingly took steroids but did take medicine for bronchitis while home in Venezuela.

The Rockies declined to talk about Alfonzo's most recent suspension.

"This is something that New York is very, very involved in," Rockies manager Jim Tracy said in Milwaukee before Colorado played the Brewers. "It's something that is out of my jurisdiction."

The Rockies plan to stick with Wilin Rosario and Chris Iannetta at catcher, and they also have Jordan Pacheco in case of an emergency. Pacheco is a converted catcher, but has been playing third base recently.

There have been 60 suspensions this year under the tighter minor league testing program. Three 50-game penalties were announced Wednesday, to Colorado right-hander Randol Rogers (Boldenone), Cincinnati right-hander Cole Green (Methylhexanamine) and Baltimore first baseman Rhyne Hughes (an amphetamine). The trio will serve the penalties at the start of next season.

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NFL

Pair of Patriots’ tight ends are a force to be feared

Associated Press

FOXBOROUGH, Mass. — Before reaching the NFL, Aaron Hernandez watched Antonio Gates to pick up tips on playing tight end in the pros.

On Sunday, Hernandez will get a much closer look when New England opens its home season against Gates and the San Diego Chargers. And the Patriots have two productive players — both in only their second season — at that position.

Hernandez caught seven passes for 103 yards, Rob Gronkowski grabbed six for 86 and each scored a touchdown in a 38-24 win over the Miami Dolphins in which the Patriots gained a franchise-high 622 yards Monday.

“The skill set of both those players really allows us to be flexible,” Patriots quarterback Tom Brady said Wednesday. “Not only are they good blockers, but they can catch the ball, too. You can run it behind them, you can play-action pass and then they’ve become pretty efficient in the passing game also, just to spread them out and be able to run them on different run combinations. They’re very good players.”

Gronkowski, at 6-feet-6 and 265 pounds, is the better blocker. Hernandez, 6-1 and 245

pounds, sometimes looks like a wide receiver speeding downfield before and after the catch.

“I was more of a receiver growing up and running back through my whole life,” Hernandez said, “but when I went to college and came here, you had to start blocking a little bit, so that’s what I’m improving on.”

His learning wasn’t confined to the classroom and the practice field. He’d watch tight ends like Gates and Dallas Clark of the Indianapolis Colts in some of their games.

“I watched them before I got to the league, and try to take some things from them,” Hernandez said. “They’re great players. If I see them playing, I’ll definitely watch their games and see what they can do and what can help me.”

Gates wasn’t drafted coming out of college in 2003, but in his first eight seasons, he caught 537 passes for 69 touchdowns.

He had at least 50 receptions in each of his last seven.

Last year, the Patriots drafted Gronkowski in the second round out of Arizona and Hernandez in the fourth out of Florida.

“Hernandez is really athletic and fast. He’s kind of a wide receiver,” Patriots cornerback Leigh Bodden said. “Gronk is fast, but he’s not as fast as Hernandez. And he’s big. He can

body you.

“And Gates is a bodier. He’s not overly fast, he’s not quick, but he just finds ways to get open. You give him a small window, he’ll catch it.”

As rookie, Hernandez had 45 receptions for six touchdowns, while Gronkowski had 42 for 10. A position of weakness for the Patriots became a strength that could continue for a long time.

Like Gates, who has Philip Rivers throwing to him, Hernandez and Gronkowski haul in passes from one of the NFL’s best quarterbacks, reigning MVP Brady.

“Tom’s definitely going to find the mismatch,” Hernandez said. “When he gets to the line of scrimmage and he sees the biggest mismatch, you know he’s coming” to that receiver.

Hernandez considers himself a tight end. After all, how many wide receivers weigh as much as he does?

But he also can line up in the slot or the backfield.

“What they’re doing with that personnel group is awfully impressive,” Chargers coach Norv Turner said, “They’ve always been a great passing team, but to add the number of explosive plays really jumped out at you. When (Hernandez) starts moving around and is in the slot like that ... he’s capable of being an explosive wide receiver.

“He’s a matchup problem for defensive teams.”

With two versatile tight ends, the Patriots can be more diverse on offense, lining players up in spots that can confuse the defense and running complex patterns into open areas.

“You can move them around and give them different assignments and they’re able to handle



New England Patriots tight end Aaron Hernandez catches a touchdown in their 38-24 win over the Miami Dolphins on Monday.

*“The skill set of both those players really allows us to be flexible. Not only are they good blockers, but they can catch the ball, too.”*

Tom Brady  
Patriots quarterback

PGA

Donald denies tabloid insult against Woods

Associated Press

LEMONT, Ill. — Luke Donald disputes a British newspaper headline in which he says the Tiger Woods era is over.

“I don’t recall ever saying the Tiger era is over,” Donald said Wednesday at the BMW Championship. “I’ve certainly said in the past I think it’s tough to come back from physical injuries. I’ve had some, and obviously being away from the game for so long, it’s certainly not going to be easy for him to get back to where he was.

“I wouldn’t doubt that Tiger will come back and win again.”

The Daily Express published a story Wednesday with the headline, “Luke Donald: The Tiger Woods Era is ‘Over.’”

In the story, Donald is quoted as saying, “When you get that combination of injury plus the scandal that went on, mentally that’s quite scarring. It’s a lot to take, even for

someone with one of the strongest minds in golf. It’s a confidence sport. Even though Tiger’s only 35, there are a lot of young guys coming up — Rory McIlroy and Keegan Bradley and a bunch of others. I would assume a new era is upon us.”

Woods now has gone two full years without winning on the PGA Tour. His most recent win was the Australian Masters in November 2009, right before the car accident outside his Florida home brought revelations of infidelity.

Since then, five of the last eight major champions have been in their 20s.

“Whether the Tiger era is over, I don’t know,” Donald said. “Obviously, there’s a lot of great young players coming up and showing a lot of talent. But certainly, I would never be naive enough to write Tiger off. He has a tremendous amount of talent, and I’m sure when he starts playing a little bit more, that will start showing again.”

*“I wouldn’t doubt that Tiger will come back and win again.”*

Luke Donald  
PGA golfer

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## NBA

# Players may be forced to leave league for playing time

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Billy Hunter hoped to deliver good news when he meets with NBA players on Thursday in Las Vegas.

Instead, the executive director of the players' association isn't even sure how he will answer all their questions.

No progress was made toward ending the 2½-month lockout during a meeting with owners Tuesday, and Hunter might have to tell players to look elsewhere if they want to be paid to play basketball anytime soon.

"There are a lot of guys, many marquee players now, who have offers to go outside the country. And the question is, what do they do?"

Hunter said. "I mean, do they hold off making the decision, or do they wait in hopes that we get a deal in place sometime in the immediate future?"

Hopes of that diminished after Tuesday's meeting between the union's executive committee and the owners' labor relations committee ended with the sides still divided over the salary cap system, despite a hint of economic compromise.

And with Hunter and union president Derek Fisher of the Lakers warning that the season might not open on time, where do players go from here?

Overseas?

A court room, to sue the league after dissolving their union?

Back to NBA arenas, playing under a deal they hate?

Hunter makes the latter two options seem unlikely for now, reiterating Tuesday that players are unified in their refusal to accept the owners' current proposal.

But players might be considering overseas alternatives now more than ever.

"As time passes, guys are going to definitely defect, and you won't be able to find the same combination of skill and talent and character that the 450 of us NBA players possess," NBPA vice president Maurice Evans of the Wizards said. "You're not just going to

go out and find that at random to replace this product; that should definitely be noted."

To date, Nets All-Star point guard Deron Williams' deal with Turkish team Besiktas is still the only one signed by a top NBA player since the lockout began July 1. Commissioner David Stern has downplayed the overseas option, believing there isn't the money or comforts to entice his superstars. But lower-level players might choose any contract over no guaranteed payment back home anytime soon.

More than 40 players are in Las Vegas this week taking part in a league at the Impact Basketball academy, so union leaders decided to go there to speak with them. Meanwhile, owners will be meeting in Dallas. Stern has said there won't be any decisions at Thursday's session to cancel training camps, which were scheduled to begin in less than three weeks.

Despite Tuesday's lack of progress, Fisher said his message won't change much Thursday — because it's been cautious all along.

"I don't think we've minced our words in terms of our guys understanding that this was a moment that we expected to find ourselves in starting over two years ago," Fisher said. "We expected to be here, we anticipated that, we felt like our owners were strong enough in their position ... that they'd be possibly willing to risk time lost in the season to get the things they needed in this particular round of collective bargaining."

Hunter and Fisher likely will have to address the concept of decertification during their presentation. NFL players dissolved their union this year so they could file an antitrust lawsuit against the league, though they ultimately resolved their dispute with owners.

Hunter's preferred course has been to wait for a ruling on a charge the union filed against the league with the National Labor Relations Board for unfair bargaining practices.

*"I think there's probably a division of interest within their group, and I think trying to develop a consensus within the group is the issue."*

**Billy Hunter**  
executive director  
NBA player's association



Executive director of the NBA player's association Billy Hunter speaks to reporters in New York June 30. The NBA still has not made progress toward ending the lockout.

"We've never really had any discussions about decertification," Hunter said. "As you're aware, we've obviously been experiencing some pressure, at least in the media, from some of the agents about decertification. But that's not a message that's crossed our lips."

Hunter added he hoped for a ruling from the NLRB by the end of this month.

That would be too late to save the opening of training camps,

but time remains to open the regular season as scheduled on Nov. 1. Hunter hopes that at some point a split will develop between big-market and small-market owners — if it's not already there — and the big spenders who have more incentive to play without massive changes to the structure will push for a settlement.

"I think there's probably a division of interest within their group, and I think trying to develop a consensus within

the group is the issue," he said.

In the meantime, Fisher is instructing players to train as normal.

"Continue to prepare yourself physically and mentally for whatever circumstances play out, and if we start on time, you should be physically ready to go," he said. "The way it looks right now we may not start on time, and you should continue to make the decisions and the plans accordingly to your individual situation."

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PGA

# Players dissatisfied with Cog Hill course, speak out

Associated Press

LEMONT, Ill. — In what likely will be the last time the BMW Championship is played at Cog Hill, some of the PGA Tour's top players are not sorry to see it leave the public course south of Chicago.

The most biting comment Wednesday came from Steve Stricker, reputed to be one of the most polite players in golf.

Stricker is among those who fell out of love with Cog Hill when Rees Jones was hired to redesign the course in 2008 in an effort to land the U.S. Open. The greens were raised. The bunkers were deepened. The course was lengthened. Steep ridges in the greens led to impossible putts for a shot that was only slightly off its mark.

Cog Hill owner Frank Jemsek didn't get the U.S. Open, and now the BMW Championship is leaving.

"They need to get their money back, I guess," said Stricker, who won at the old Cog Hill in 1996 when it was the Western Open held around the Fourth of July. "It's too bad what happened here."

Cog Hill left a sour taste last year because the course was in poor condition, the product of an unusually hot summer that was tough on golf courses throughout the Chicago area. Phil Mickelson, not a fan of anything Jones designs, said the shape of the course wasn't the issue.

He attributed the criticism of Cog Hill to the man in charge of revamping it.

"I know we all wish it had turned out differently," Mickelson said. "But there was a lot of other guys to choose from that probably could do the job, and maybe if they just start over, it could turn

into something special. ...

"But tee to green and the property, it's got really great potential," he added. "I'd love to see Gil Hanse or a Crenshaw-Coore or Kyle Phillips or David Kidd — or guys that really know what they're doing — come in and create something special here because I think that's what the family and this facility deserves."

The BMW Championship, which starts Thursday, is the third FedEx Cup playoff event for the 70 remaining players. The top 30 in the standings after this week advance to the Tour Championship with a shot at the \$10 million prize.

Geoff Ogilvy is happy to be here. He had to make birdie on the final hole of the Deutsche Bank Championship last week just to get into the top 70. It was a clutch moment, and a relief, for Ogilvy who is also trying to play his way onto the Presidents Cup team.

His reaction upon making it?

"I get rewarded with a trip to Cog Hill," Ogilvy said, the sarcasm easy to read.

Few other players have such a keen eye on architecture than Ogilvy. His assessment last year was that if Jones wanted a course that was really hard, then he succeeded, and if he wanted one that was enjoyable to play, then he failed.

He described it Wednesday as "kind of the same as last year, just long and hard and really quite narrow in spots."

Ultimately, that doesn't matter. Everyone has to play the course, whether they think it's among the best or the worst they play. Stricker and David Toms both shared stories of winning on courses they didn't particularly



AP

**Geoff Ogilvy rakes a bunker during the Pro-Am at the BMW Championship golf tournament Wednesday. Ogilvy has been very vocal in his dislike of the Cog Hill course.**

enjoy at first sight — Toms twice at Kingsmill (no longer on the schedule), Stricker at Colonial.

"It's easier when you go to a course and you're inspired by the course," Ogilvy said. "Like when Phil gets to Augusta, he switches into a different mode. I'm the same. This is quite similar to a lot of courses we play on tour, so we should be used to it — long par 3s, long, rough, don't miss the fairway."

The BMW Championship is run by Western Golf Association, which supports the successful Evans Scholars program for caddies. It has a history of moving around the country, which it will do starting next year.

The tournament moves to Crooked Stick in Indiana — the Ryder Cup will be in Chicago a month later — and it will go to Cherry Hills in Denver in 2014. It is to return to Chicago in 2013, with Conway Farms in the northern suburbs on the short list of courses.

Plenty is at stake this week, whether Cog Hill is a favorite or a course they can't wait to leave.

Ogilvy and Ernie Els are at the lower end of the FedEx Cup list and need to finish among the top five or six to advance to the Tour Championship. Els has never missed going to East Lake in the FedEx Cup era.

Webb Simpson, a winner on the TPC Boston, is No. 1 in the standings and assured of being among the top five at East Lake. The leading five players only have to win the Tour Championship to collect the \$10 million bonus, no matter what anyone else does.

Simpson is followed by Dustin Johnson, who won the Barclays and is the defending champion at the BMW Championship. The next three are Matt Kuchar, world No. 1 Luke Donald and Brandt Snedeker.

The other "cup" on the line is the Presidents Cup. This is the final week to qualify for the team, and it's close on both the Ameri-

can and International sides. Jim Furyk is at No. 9, slightly ahead of Toms and Snedeker. On the International list, Ogilvy is at No. 10, barely ahead of Louis Oosthuizen, while Vijay Singh and the Aussie duo of Aaron Baddeley and Robert Allenby still have a chance.

"It's in great shape this year," Johnson said. "It's long, it's hard. You're not going to go very low here, so make a lot of pars and if you can sneak in a birdie every once in a while, then you're doing well."

Mickelson is No. 10 in the standings and needs a big week to

give himself a chance at winning the FedEx Cup. He likes the way he is playing, especially after another week of practice with the belly putter, which he intends to use.

As for his feelings about Cog Hill? Mickelson can overcome that. He had a chance to win at Torrey Pines, another Jones redesign. Besides, Mickelson's biggest beef is not how the golf course plays for the pros, rather the amateurs.

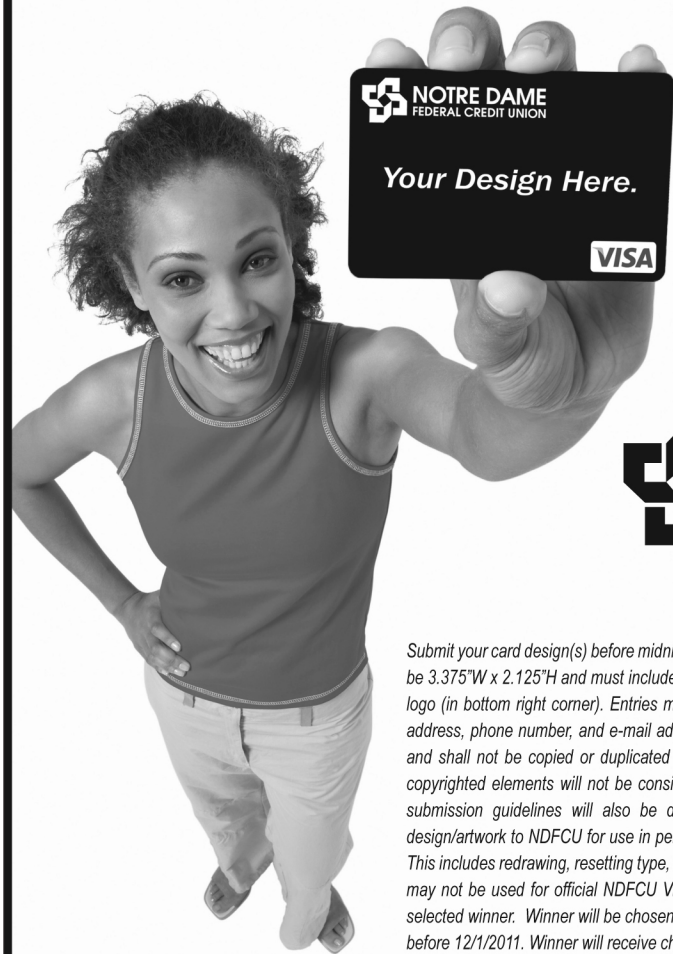
"A great golf course is ... challenging for the good player but playable for the average player, and I feel like this is the exact opposite," Mickelson said. "It's fine for us. We don't have any problems with it. But the average guy just can't play it."

*"A great golf course is ... challenging for the good player but playable for the average player, and I feel like this is the exact opposite."*

**Phil Mickelson**  
professional golfer

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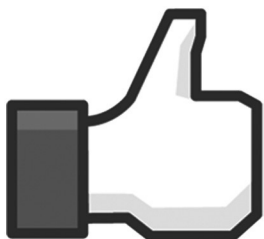


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# Watt

continued from page 24

one of the top junior players in the country in high school, leading to interest from Notre Dame.

A variety of factors led to Watt choosing the Irish.

“I was looking at the end [of the recruiting process at] Notre Dame, Duke and Virginia and I just fell in love with Notre Dame, he said. “Everything here seemed like a great fit and I loved the coaches so it was a pretty easy decision for me in the end.”

Upon arriving in South Bend, Watt made an immediate impact on the Irish squad, earning all-Big East honors his freshman season. He is now entering his third year as the No. 1 singles player for Notre Dame, a position that requires him to face each opposing squad’s best player.

“It’s tough playing No. 1 every day,” Watt said. “You play the best guys from each team, but each day I want to get better.”

He’s done that so far, gaining a slot in the NCAA tournament last season, and earning a preseason No. 28 national ranking by the Intercollegiate Tennis Association entering this year’s campaign. With that comes seemingly high goals, but right now, Watt is simply focused on playing to the best of his abilities.

“I basically want to have the best season [I can], because it’s my last year,” he said. “I want to surprise people and do better than I have the last two years.”

In order to surpass previous season’s results, Watt has worked hard to get better at different aspects of his game. In particular, his serve has shown marked improvement in his time on campus.

“The last two years or so, I’ve developed a serve that I’ve never had before,” he

said. “I’ve never been able to win points on my serve, but now I’ve developed a pretty good serve that’s allowed me to make things a lot easier on my service game. I’m able to attack the ball now, which is something I wasn’t able to do when I came in my freshman year.”

Being a senior marks Watt’s last chance for individual success, but it also increases his role from a leadership standpoint for the rest of the team.

“As a senior, I remember when I was a freshman, I always looked up to the seniors and I realized that when I’m a senior, the younger guys will be looking up to me,” Watt said. “We’ve got to set a positive example and lead by example on the court and off the court and be the backbone for our team.”

*“It’s tough playing No. 1 every day. You play the best guys from each team, but each day I want to get better.”*

**Casey Watt  
senior**



SUZANNA PRATT/The Observer

**Senior Casey Watt watches his shot during the Big East championship April 29. Watt was named to the All-BIG EAST team.**

With Notre Dame’s season opening this weekend at the Illini Invitational, Watt gets the chance to open his year on a strong note — something the coaching staff is looking forward to seeing.

“[Watt] is certainly in the elite pack of players that will be there this weekend,” Irish associate head coach Ryan Sachire said. “He has been training hard and preparing very well. He knows he can compete, so now he just has

to worry about playing.”

Watt also has placed high expectations on himself for this weekend’s event.

“It’s the first tournament of the year and I want to play well. And I know if I play well, I can beat anybody out there,” Watt said. “That’s basically my one goal: just go out there, have fun and play well and see where everything falls.”

**Contact Sam Gans at  
sgans@nd.edu**

## NFL

# Injuries create a challenge for Rams, lineup affected

Associated Press

ST. LOUIS — St. Louis Rams quarterback Sam Bradford made all the throws during a short practice, making a fast recovery from a bruised index finger.

A special glove designed to increase blood flow to the injury and reduce swelling may have helped get him back on the field quickly.

“Everyone says I look like Michael Jackson,” Bradford joked Wednesday. “I’m not really sure what it does. They say it works and obviously my hand feels better, so I trust them.”

Bradford said although there was some soreness, the finger felt “10 times better” than it did on Monday, the day after the Rams’ opening 31-13 loss to the Philadelphia Eagles. The original plan didn’t call for him throw before Thursday and Bradford hadn’t been that optimistic.

“I wouldn’t have come out of the game if it wasn’t serious,” Bradford said. “I couldn’t feel it, I couldn’t move it, I really was concerned.”

Now he’s hopeful his right hand will be 100 percent by Monday night when the Rams play at the New York Giants. For anyone watching or on the receiving end, it’s already close enough.

“I couldn’t tell a bit,” wide receiver Mike Sims-Walker said. “He looked great to me.”

Trainer Reggie Scott said electrodes flow through the glove, which is dampened in water to promote connectivity, and then connected to an electrical stimulation unit. Bradford has been wearing the glove, in 20-minute sessions, at Rams Park and at home.

“It’s a neat little gadget,” Scott said. “It’s helped out wonderfully. He’s been living in it.”

Scott said the device helped running back Steven Jackson recover from a dislocated finger last season.

As a rookie, Bradford was among three quarterbacks who took every snap. Backup A.J. Feeley was needed for the first time in two seasons in the fourth quarter after Bradford was hurt when he struck the upraised hands of a defender after a pass.

“He’s kind of over the hump with some things, it looks like he’s going to be OK,” coach Steve Spagnuolo said. “I think it would be the understatement of the year to say it’s a relief.”

There are plenty of other concerns, though. Cornerback Ron Bartell was placed on injured reserve with two fractures in his neck, further thinning a position with little depth entering the

season. Bartell was a second-round pick in 2005 and is the second-longest tenured Ram.

“It’s unfortunate for Ron,” middle linebacker James Laurinaitis said. “He’s one of the leaders on our defense, and our team.”

Jackson, who strained his right leg early in the opening loss to the Eagles, has not been

counted out for Monday night’s game at the New York Giants. Jackson was among a large group of players getting treatment during a workout that lasted just over an hour.


All of the injuries prompted a flurry of moves. Safety Tim Atchison was elevated from the practice squad to the roster and running back Quinn Porter, re-

cently released by the Cleveland Browns, was signed.

Center Drew Miller was released, safety Jonathan Nelson was released from the practice squad, and quarterback Tom Brandstater and offensive tackle Tim Barnes were signed to the practice squad. Brandstater also might get some work at wide receiver with the scout team.



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SMC VOLLEYBALL

Belles fall behind early, lose to conference rival



Senior Megahann Rose returns the ball on Wednesday against Alma. The Belles lost 3-1, bringing their record to 2-6.

By LAURA COLETTI  
Sports Writer

Despite strong performances in spurts, the Belles dropped a match to visiting Alma in a 3-1 decision Wednesday night. Saint Mary's (2-6, 1-3 MIAA) was coming off its first conference win of the year against Olivet, but failed to uphold that momentum against the Scots (6-2, 3-1), who managed to outlast the Belles in a series with big scoring runs. Alma scored the first five points of the first set before Saint Mary's closed the gap to just one. Alma went on to score the next eight points,

and ultimately won the set 25-16. The second set featured a back-and-forth battle before the Belles emerged victorious off a kill by freshman outside hitter Kati Schneider. This would be the only win for the Belles, however, as the Scots prevailed in the next two sets. Saint Mary's did not go down without a fight in the fourth and final set, which featured nine ties and six lead changes. For Saint Mary's, Schneider shared match-high honors with senior middle hitter Shelby Gray of Alma with 13 kills, and Schneider added 13 digs.

Junior outside hitter Stephanie Bodien was right behind Schneider with 12 kills and 10 digs of her own, while senior libero and defensive specialist Meghann Rose bolstered the defense and reached match-high honors with 28 digs. Freshman setter and defensive specialist Annie Bodien contributed 13 of the Belles' total 82 digs. Saint Mary's has nearly a week to prepare for its next game, when the Belles travel to take on in-state conference rival Trine on Sept. 20th. Contact Laura Coletti at lcoletti@nd.edu

SMC SOCCER

Belles top the Comets, stay undefeated on the season

By MATT UNGER  
Sports Writer

Powered by junior midfielder Maddie Meckes' two goals, Saint Mary's defeated Olivet 3-0 in an early season MIAA grudge match. The match was the conference opener for both teams and the Belles (5-0, 1-0) dominated the Comets (0-5, 0-1) throughout the rain-splashed contest. "The rain always makes the game a little more sloppy," Belles coach Michael Joyce said. "[It creates] more turnovers and more loose balls, so we weren't as technically proficient as we'd like to be." The game remained score-

less throughout most of the first half despite the Belles controlling the ball and playing pressure defense. Saint Mary's broke through with about 11 minutes remaining in the half, when sophomore midfielder Mollie Valencia found sophomore forward Jordan Diffenderfer open over the middle of the Comets' defense for a goal. The Belles then increased their lead to 2-0 with less than a minute left in the half to effectively take control of the game. Meckes drilled the first of her two goals into the net from 25 yards out. "Anything can happen the longer the game stays close, and the two goals late in the half sunk the other team," Joyce said.

Meckes added her second goal of the game and third of the season with 12 minutes remaining when her shot inside the goal box deflected off a Comets defender into the goal. Meanwhile, defensively, the Belles limited the Olivet's scoring opportunities, holding them to a meager seven shots and only one corner kick. Belles freshman goalkeeper Chanler Rosenbaum turned away all three Comets shots on goal to post her first career shutout. Through five games, the Belles have remained stingy on defense, surrendering only one goal. "Our defense is the real strength of this team," Joyce said. "The rest of the players can play



Sophomore midfielder Mollie Valencia receives a pass Wednesday against Olivet. The Belles won 3-0, bringing their record to 5-0.

with a lot of confidence knowing that even if they make a mistake, the defense can lock it down." After dispatching the winless Comets, the Belles will face a tougher test Saturday in a road game against conference foe Adrian. The Bulldogs (3-2, 1-0) won their conference opener against Alma. Despite the dominating win,

Joyce said the Belles will have a tough test against the Bulldogs. "It was a good way to start the conference [schedule], but Saturday will be a big test," Joyce said. "Adrian is a very good team, so we'll see what we're made out of on Saturday." Contact Matt Unger at munger3@nd.edu

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Tracy

continued from page 24

state titles in high school — two with her state record-setting 4x800 relay team and another as a senior in the 1,600 meter race. She is now considering returning to the pre-race ritual she used in high school. "I used to dance before every race just to get my muscles

moving," Tracy said. "I must have looked like a goofball in high school. It's usually just me jamming to my iPod in the corner." She said the dancing may return during track season, when there are many different events occurring simultaneously. The Irish host the National Catholic Championships Friday. Contact Matthew DeFranks at mdefrank@nd.edu

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# McHugh

continued from page 24

leader with her play,” Brown said. “She needs to be more consistent and vocal this year.”

If McHugh takes the next step this season, both player and coach should be happy. After a freshman year in which she led the Irish with 386 kills and a .216 hitting percentage, McHugh has been dominant early this season. Her 110 kills lead the team, yet Brown said she feels that McHugh’s defense has been the most improved part of her game, with more digs and

blocks already than she had last season. She said McHugh is a more complete player than a year ago.

“Last year she struggled at times with blocking,” Brown said. “But she’s worked hard at it and improved a lot.

Whether she’s getting kills or not, she’s always in the game. That consistency is something that was only starting to come out last year.”

“I don’t just hit the ball all the time,” McHugh said. “I’ve developed other shots. I’m not just looking for kills. I

have better court vision. I’m more aware of things.”

Contact Conor Kelly at ckelly17@nd.edu

*“I don’t just hit the ball all the time. I’ve developed other shots. I’m not just looking for kills. I have better court vision. I’m more aware of things.”*

Andrea McHugh  
sophomore



GRANT TOBIN/The Observer

Sophomore Andrea McHugh spikes the ball Aug. 28 against Butler. McHugh, who ended her freshman season with 386 kills, leads the 2011 team with 110 kills.

# Rivals

continued from page 24

how we were hitting the ball and playing 15 out of the 18 holes.”

Sophomore Doyle O’Brien turned in the lowest score of the tournament for the Belles as she earned 20th place with a 164. Senior Natalie Matuszak placed second for the Belles, shooting 167 and finishing 30th in the tournament.

The tournament provided the Belles an early season opportunity to face the top

teams in Division III. Top-ranked Methodist took home the title over DePauw by a one-stroke margin with a tournament score of 630, while Saint Mary’s finished with a score of 681.

There were a lot of low scores this past weekend so we know we need to continue practicing and get better in order to advance to nationals in the spring,” junior

nior Cara Kielty said.

The Belles will have a chance to see more competition, and begin defending last year’s MIAA Championship, on Thursday in their first conference match. The first of four MIAA matches before the two-round MIAA Championships in October will feature all nine members of the conference.

*“We’ll look to equal our main rival Olivet that’s been scoring similar to us. I expect a real shoot-out.”*

Mark Hamilton  
Belles coach

Last fall, the Belles began their championship season by placing second in the season’s opening conference match, four strokes behind eventual runner-up Olivet.

“It’s our first conference match and they all count towards our conference championship,” Hamilton said. “We’ll look to equal our main rival Olivet that’s been scoring similar to us. I expect a real shoot-out.”

After hosting the first two contests of their season, the Belles will travel to Trine for the match. Undisturbed by the prospect of traveling, the Saint Mary’s players are expecting a solid performance

Thursday and are looking forward to getting a glimpse of Trine’s home course.

“Our team is hoping for some good competition Thursday, and looking forward to setting our lowest team score of this year,” Kielty said. “We will pay attention to the course and its layout because [Trine is] hosting nationals in the spring of 2012, so we are looking forward to a little preview of what is to come.”

The match will be held at Trine’s Zollner Golf Course at 1 p.m. Thursday.

Contact Joseph Monardo at jmonardo@nd.edu



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CROSSWORD

WILL SHORTZ

- Across**

1 Took off

5 Princess in a Nintendo game series

10 Ones trying to increase circulation, for short?

14 So-called Family City U.S.A.

15 It might have an attachment

16 One who 26-Across

17 3, 6, 11, 18, 27 ...

20 "Caught \_\_\_\_!"

21 Ship's doctor, in slang

22 Joint U.S./Canada military org.

23 Journalist on a mission?

25 Jacket part

26 Bugs

28 Some chip dip, informally

30 Small, low island
- 31 Totally baked

32 Casting director?

34 4, 2, 4/3, 1, 4/5 ...

40 Supports, with "up"

41 Part of a slalom run

42 Lens holder, for short

45 Setting for Genesis 2:8-25

46 Scoffed

48 Aladdin's home

50 Pop's \_\_\_\_ Vanilli

51 Isn't lazy, say

52 Gem

54 Alias

57 8, 1, -18, -55, -116 ...

60 First major publisher of board games in the U.S.

61 Instruction sometimes followed by "repeat"
- Down**

1 Classic theater name

2 Thereabouts

3 Any of the clues for 17-, 34- or 57-Across

4 Bird whose name is a Midwest school's initials

5 Complete losers

6 Improve

7 Put on

8 Uncool sorts

9 "\_\_\_\_ right"

10 Printer brand

11 Standard of assessment

12 A language of South Africa

13 Fuddy-duddy

18 Apt name for a nun?

19 Org. that won the 1965 Nobel Peace Prize

24 Hindsights?

25 "The Wizard Of Oz" co-star

26 \_\_\_\_-rock

27 The time for action, often

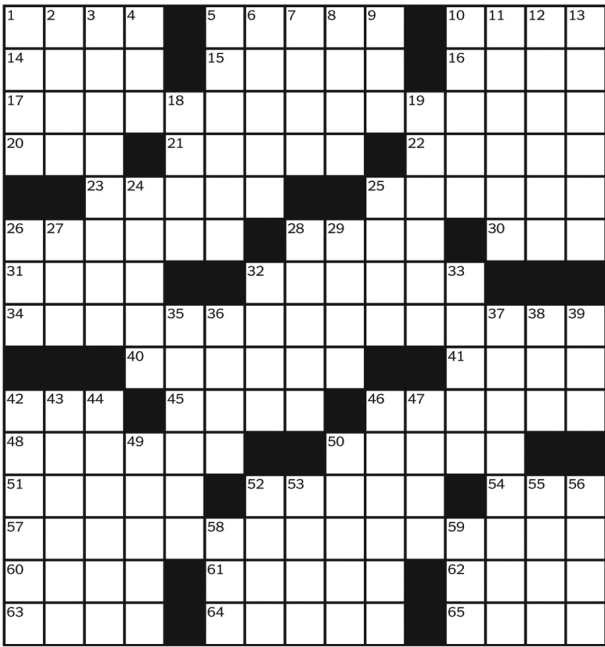
28 Presumption, in math

29 Inhales, perhaps

32 Front for "front"

33 Brightest star in Orion

35 Belief in something bigger than oneself



- Puzzle by Parker Lewis
- 36 Speaker of "Luke, when gone am I, the last of the Jedi will you be"

37 In the answers to 17-, 34- and 57-Across, it was replaced in turn by 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 ...

38 Common French word with two accents

39 Signed as an illiterate would

42 Cause of feline friskiness

43 Show up

44 Down East native

46 Some spellings?
- 47 Monopoly util.

49 Ending with wilde- or harte-

50 Old-fashioned

52 Do some barbering

53 \_\_\_\_ salad

55 Gung-ho

56 Contributes

58 Form letters?

59 Kind of port

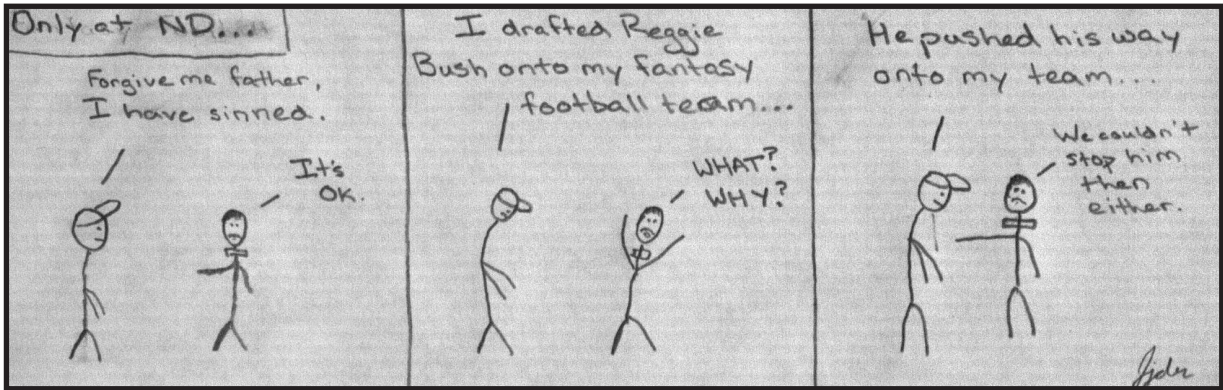
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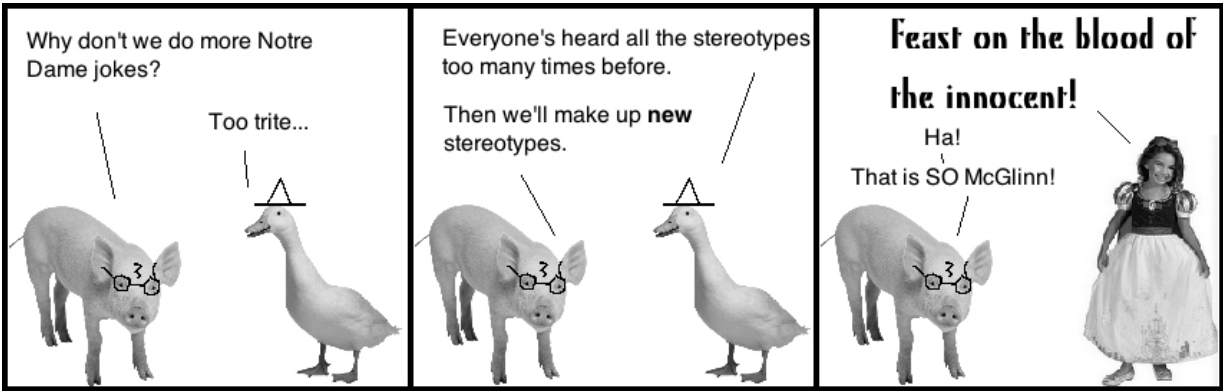
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EUGENIA LAST

**CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:** Ben Savage, 31; Tyler Perry, 42; Jean Smart, 60; Jacqueline Bisset, 67.

**Happy Birthday:** Review what you have to offer and plan to expand your skills and diversify. Strive for perfection and make sure that what you have to offer is in demand. Working with an institution or government agency will pay off. Altering your home to suit the projects you want to pursue will ensure that you get the most out of time spent working to reach your goals. Your numbers are 9, 16, 21, 29, 33, 38, 45.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19):** Avoid situations that will add to your anxious mood. Relax and look at whatever situation you face practically. Once you decipher what's required, work toward getting the best end result. You will advance if you are precise and reasonable. ★★★

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20):** You can make headway at home and work if you push to be more productive. Your efforts will be impressive and lead to advancement, gratitude and rewards. Your concern and sensible approach confirm how valuable and reliable you are. ★★★

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20):** Take action if you have concern. Doing your best to help those less fortunate will change the way you think. Difficulties with friends or while networking will occur if you share too much personal information. ★★★★★

**CANCER (June 21-July 22):** Strive for perfection and choose your words wisely. With the right mix of mental and physical reaction, you will accomplish all you set out to do. Do something special for the people you love. Good fortune will come from helping others. ★★★★★

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22):** Opportunity is apparent, but don't feel that you have to do things on a grand scale. Simple and moderate can be just as effective in bringing a higher profit personally, professionally or financially. Trying something new will feed your imagination. ★★★★★

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):** Opportunities are apparent. Travel, communicate and mull over possibilities with peers and you will develop something worthwhile. Networking and socializing will result in potential partnerships that can lead to profits, if your motives are practical. ★★★

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22):** A snap judgment will lead to emotional problems. Secrets must be kept for now and emphasis must be put on protecting your money, possessions and reputation. Avoid getting backed into a corner. Less said, less interference. ★★★

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):** Concentrate on personal and professional strategy. Patience will be the key to achieving your goals. Your secretive nature will drum up curiosity and protect you from having your game plan disrupted by someone who is jealous or in competition with you. ★★★

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):** You'll find it difficult to stay out of trouble. You may want to fill your life with adventure, but keeping the peace and avoiding controversial situations is a must for now. Stick close to home and busy yourself with domestic changes. ★★★★★

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):** Enjoy the benefits of organizations you belong to. Use whatever you can to improve your financial position. Consider opportunities that pertain to family and changes that will lower overhead. Love is on the rise and romance should be scheduled. ★★

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):** Focus on what you can do to stabilize your life mentally, physically or financially. Set your course carefully to make the most out of what you have to work with. Do what's best for you in a timely fashion. Past experience will play an important role. ★★★★★

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20):** Personal and professional maneuvers will be necessary to stay in control at home and at work. Take on more responsibility if it will bring you the clout to get things done your way. A partnership will weigh heavily on the decisions you make. ★★★

**Birthday Baby:** You are strong-willed, dynamic and determined. You will take on tasks that others shy away from.

JUMBLE

HENRY ARNOLD  
MIKE ARGIRION

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

RMFUO

LIDUF

RERUSP

BIUCLP

Answer: A

Yesterday's

Jumbles: SWOON VISOR EFFECT PURELY

Answer: Double faulting resulted in this for the tennis star — A NET LOSS



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

Answer: A

(Answers tomorrow)

THE OBSERVER

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## ND VOLLEYBALL

## Young talent

*McHugh returns to the Irish after summer playing with the U.S. Junior National Team*

By CONOR KELLY  
Sports Writer

Just a little over a year ago, Irish coach Debbie Brown knew then-freshman outside hitter Andrea McHugh would make an impact in her inaugural campaign. What she might not have predicted was that McHugh would lead the Irish in kills and be selected Big East freshman of the year.

"We knew she came in with a good skill set, and we figured she would be a solid rotational player and a good contributor," Brown said. "But she really stepped up and sort of exploded."

McHugh's exploits for the Irish earned her a spot on the U.S. Junior National Team this summer as the squad traveled to Peru to compete in the FIVB Women's Junior World Championship. In an interesting twist, McHugh and the Irish competed against McHugh's national coach Rob Browning,

also the head coach at Saint Mary's (CA), when they took on the Gaels on Sept. 3.

"Playing for the United States was an honor and an amazing experience," McHugh, now a sophomore, said. "I learned a lot and became a much better player. Seeing other styles of volleyball, how fast the play was, was quite interesting."

McHugh hopes that the experience will help her lead the Irish and step up into the leadership role she earned with her play last season.

"Between the Big East award and playing this summer, I got a lot more confidence to be a more vocal leader on the court," McHugh said.

Browning said McHugh's leadership qualities still need improvement to match her on-court talent.

"Last year, McHugh was a

see McHUGH/page 22



GRANT TOBIN/The Observer

**Sophomore Andrea McHugh blocks a hit against Valparaiso on Sept. 11. McHugh spent the summer playing for the U.S. Junior National Team in Peru.**

## ND CROSS COUNTRY

## Tracy prepared to defend Big East title, lead team to victory

By MATTHEW DeFRANKS  
Sports Writer

For Irish junior Rebecca Tracy, visiting Notre Dame was initially more of an appeasement than anything else.

"I visited [Notre Dame] on the way to Michigan mostly to appease my mom," Tracy said. "But I fell in love with this place and nothing else compared to it."

The Barrington, Ill. native has now made the most of her time at Notre Dame, excelling

in not only cross country, but also in track and field. Tracy claimed a Big East title during last year's indoor track season, finishing the mile run in 4:46.61.

"You can always challenge yourself," Tracy said. "Whenever you reach a goal or don't reach a goal, you can always go faster. You can always improve."

Tracy attributed that hunger for improvement to her determination to compete with the best runners in not only the

Big East, but also the nation.

"I'm not afraid to compete with the best people. The only way to get better is to race with tougher people," Tracy said. "The Big East is a great conference and there is always someone there to push you harder."

Tracy continues to push herself, aiming for a 6-kilometer run closer to 21 minutes. Her current personal best stands at slightly less than 22 minutes.

The psychology and prepro-

fessional major, however, is not just interested in personal goals this season.

"As a team, we want to win the National Catholic Championships," Tracy said. "We want to score some points at the Notre Dame Invitational. We want to win our regional. We want to be in the top 20 teams at nationals."

During cross country season a year ago, Tracy finished 69th during the NCAA Regional, crossing the line in 22:10.81 and aiding the Irish

to a sixth place finish.

Tracy continued her strong running during outdoor track season, narrowly missing qualifying for the NCAA meet. She finished the 1,500-meter run in 4:21.81 and in eighth place — one spot and less than one second away from qualification.

"It was difficult," Tracy said of the NCAA Regional meet.

Tracy is no stranger to top finishes, having won three

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## MEN'S TENNIS

## Watt leads Irish in senior season

By SAM GANS  
Sports Writer

Many athletes fall in love with a sport by chance or random opportunity. For Irish senior Casey Watt, however, becoming a tennis player was only natural.

"I mainly got into [tennis] because my mom played in college," Watt said. "So I picked it up and I liked it a lot."

Family roots helped get Watt started in the game at age 7, but it was ultimately his own talent and skill level that transformed him into



JAMES DOAN/The Observer

**Senior Casey Watt returns a ball against Texas A&M on Feb. 3. This is his third year in the No. 1 spot for the Irish.**

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## SMC GOLF

## Belles focus, strive to dominate conference

By JOSEPH MONARDO  
Sports Writer

After a disappointing finish in the O'Brien Invitational, the Belles are eager to retake the course with their first MIAA match of the season.

As the hosts of the O'Brien Invitational last weekend, No. 5 Saint Mary's ended the first day of play in eighth place before dropping to ninth after the tournament's second day. In a field that included nine of the top 11 teams in the

NGCA Division III Coaches' Poll, Saint Mary's was hurt by lapses in concentration, Belles coach Mark Hamilton said.

"We didn't play as well as we wanted to," he said. "There were a lot of bright spots, we had a lot of good scores after nine holes, but we couldn't quite finish off the round. Everybody seemed to have one or two big numbers that kind of skewed the score, but I was pretty happy with

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