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Jeb Bush lectures on education at Forum

Former Florida governor critiques school system, details policy change under his administration



JAMES DOAN/The Observer

Bush discusses education reform at the first event in this year's Notre Dame Forum series Monday in the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center. He emphasized the need for universal school standards.

By EMILY SCHRANK
News Writer

Public education in America must maintain the same standards of learning for all children, former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush said at the first Notre Dame Forum event of the year Monday evening.

Bush outlined the sweeping reforms he implemented in K-12 education during his time as governor in a presentation titled, "The Architect: Radical Education Reform for the 21st Century."

Bush said the college attendance rate is a testament to the shortcomings of the current system.

"Sadly, today, one-third of our young people get to their senior year [of high school] ready to be in college, one-third take remedial courses at community colleges and one-third don't graduate at all," he said. "The Florida story has begun to reverse that trend."

As governor, Bush said he found a number of excuses being used in the public education realm, including a lack of funding and the effects of poverty on students' achievement.

"The fact is, the United States spends more per student than any other country in the world," he said. "And because we have

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Professor criticizes execution

By JOHN CAMERON
News Writer

The State of Georgia executed Troy Davis, convicted of the 1991 murder of off-duty police officer Mark MacPhail, Wednesday. Controversy surrounded the case as many claimed changes in witness testimony warranted a stay of execution.

Rick Garnett, professor of law and associate dean at the Notre



Garnett

see EXECUTION/page 4

Students try Google+, favor Facebook

By DAN BROMBACH
News Writer

Google released Google+, the most recent challenger to Facebook's social networking dominance, this summer to a limited number of users.

On Sept. 20, the tech giant expanded access to all users 18 years and older.

A number of Notre Dame students created user accounts on the site during its trial phase this summer. While students said they liked the number of new features Google+ had over Facebook, some, like sophomore Elliot Badar, felt recent Facebook updates have closed the technological gap.

"I really liked Google+ at first because it had a lot of cool features that made it different from Facebook, like group video chat or the ability to choose who you share certain information with," Badar said.

"Now they're no different because Facebook just adapted and took all these features."

Due to the loss of this innovative edge, many Google+ users still favor Facebook, simply because it continues to be the most popular social networking site. Facebook has over 800 million active users according to its webpage.

Sophomore Chas Jhin continues to use Facebook because more of his friends and family have stuck with the site.

"Facebook basically copied all of Google+'s new things over the past month, so I'd say that I prefer Facebook simply because everyone is on Facebook and nobody is on Google+," Jhin said.

Other critiques ranged from the site's layout to Google's emphasis on integrating on-line services.

see GOOGLE+/page 5

facebook

Founded Feb. 4, 2004
More than 800 million users

Google+

Launched June 28, 2011
Opened to public Sept. 20, 2011
Est. 43 million users*

* Source: "Facebook vs. Google+: The Ultimate feature faceoff," CBS News. Sept. 26, 2011

LAUREN KALINOSKI | Observer Graphic

Weaver shares experiences, offers advice to students



Photo courtesy of Gwen O'Brien

Weaver poses with seven of Saint Mary's theatre students at a workshop held prior to Weaver's speech on the acting profession.

By CAITLIN HOUSLEY
Saint Mary's Editor

Born to an NBC executive father and actress mother, it seemed Sigourney Weaver was always destined to appear in blockbusters like "Alien" and "Avatar." Early on, however, she had different career ambitions.

Weaver wanted to be a "gypsy dancer."

"I was very disappointed to find out there was no real job called a gypsy dancer ... [I'm] still looking

for that job," she said.

The Academy Award nominee spent Monday evening at Saint Mary's O'Laughlin Auditorium sharing personal stories of Hollywood challenges and triumphs with students, faculty and members of the community.

After realizing that gypsy dancing and ballet school weren't for her, Weaver attended an all-girls boarding school. She emphasized the impact the knowledge and intellect she developed in her early school days had on her film career.

"I've been extremely fortunate to have a long career in Hollywood that includes a lot of films that are beloved and commercially successful," she said. "Some of it is luck, but the greatest part of my luck is that I have the privilege of this amazing education, and I bring it to everything I do."

Weaver, who graduated from Yale, said she still uses her education to evaluate scripts for potential roles.

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THE
OBSERVER

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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.

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

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CORRECTIONS

The Observer regards itself as a professional publication and strives for the highest standards of journalism at all times. We do, however, recognize that we will make mistakes. If we have made a mistake, please contact us at (574) 631-4541 so we can correct our error.

QUESTION OF THE DAY: HOW DO YOU SPEND FOOTBALL AWAY WEEKENDS?



Alberto Ortiz

sophomore
Zahm

"Sleeping,
hydrating and
watching the
game."



Caitlin Alli

senior
off campus

"Order Chinese
food with my
roommates."



Chris Mathew

senior
Stanford

"Watching
Adventure
Time!"



Ilse Zenteno

sophomore
Pasquerilla West

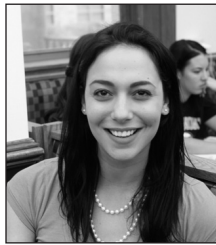
"Studying, like
everyone else
should be."



Kelsey Burke

senior
off campus

"I watch the
game with my
friends."



Natalia Cuevas

sophomore
Lyons

"I try to get
work done while
watching the
game."

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



JAMES DOAN/The Observer

Universisty Librarian Diane Walker reads from a banned book as part of this week's Banned Book Read-Out. The event features students, librarians and staff reading passages from their favorite banned or challenged books.

OFFBEAT

Thousands participate in Utah's Undie Run

SALT LAKE CITY — Thousands of people stripped to their underwear and ran through Salt Lake City to protest what they called the "uptight" laws of Utah.

Undie Run organizer Nate Porter says the goal of the event Saturday was to organize people frustrated by the conservative nature of the state's politics.

Nudity was prohibited by organizers. Participants donned bras, panties, nightgowns, swimwear or colorful boxer shorts — and some added political messages by expressing support for causes like gay marriage on their chests, backs or legs.

Porter estimates 3,000 people participated in the run, which began in downtown Salt Lake City and circled past the state Capitol building about a mile away.

Spicy fish mistaken for bomb in Atlanta airport

ATLANTA — Police say a bomb squad called to the world's busiest airport found something fishy about the unclaimed luggage at Atlanta's international airport — spicy fish wrapped up in aluminum foil.

Baggage handlers going through unclaimed luggage Monday thought something was amiss and called police. Broadcaster WSB-TV reports that the Atlanta Po-

lice Department shut down about half of the baggage claim area for an hour and ordered passengers to stand back 200 feet.

Upon inspection, police reported they found the package didn't contain explosives. But the baggage handlers' suspicions of something odd proved right.

An investigator says a traveler apparently was trying to spice up some fish with herbs while flying, something he insisted had been seen before. Police say the fishy luggage has not been reconnected with its owner.

Information compiled from the Associated Press.

IN BRIEF

Andre Van der Vesthuy-sen, visiting scientist at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administra-tion, will host a seminar today entitled "High-reso-lution nearshore wave and flow modeling: Infrastruc-ture, numerics, and phys-ics." The seminar marks the next installment in the En-vironmental Fluid Dynam-ics Seminar Series. It will take place from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. in Fitzpatrick Hall, Room 258.

Ernest Bai Koroma, pres-ident of the Republic of Si-erra Leone, will host a lec-ture today entitled "Faith, Tolerance and Progress." The lecture will take place in the Decio Mainstage The-atre of the DeBartolo Per-forming Arts Center from 4 to 5:30 p.m.

The Career Center will host Arts and Letters "What's Next?" Week for students considering gradu-ate and professional school. The event will take place to-night from 6:30 to 8 p.m. in LaFortune Ballroom.

The DeBartolo Perform-ing Arts Center will show the 2010 film, "The Sleeping Beauty," tonight beginning at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$3 for students and \$6 for regu-lar admission.

A Catholic Charismatic Prayer Meeting will take place in the Alumni Hall Chapel tonight from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m.

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

LOCAL WEATHER

TODAY



HIGH
LOW

56
52

TONIGHT



HIGH
LOW

60
55

WEDNESDAY



HIGH
LOW

61
53

THURSDAY



HIGH
LOW

70
51

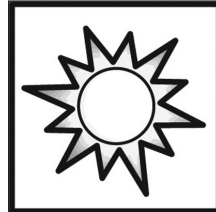
FRIDAY



HIGH
LOW

55
43

SATURDAY



HIGH
LOW

55
40

Honors students attend Shakespeare festival in Canada

By ALEXANDER LA
News Writer

Thousands of miles from Shakespeare's birthplace of Stratford-upon-Avon, Glynn Family Honors Program students attended its namesake event, the Stratford Shakespeare Festival, in Stratford, Ontario, this weekend.

The students saw performances of "Camelot," "Merry Wives of Windsor" and "The Homecoming" at the Festival, in addition to visiting Avon Theatres, two of the four venues at the festival.

Sophomore Brett Ubl said the

Festival Theatre's layout offered an interesting vantage point and a unique theatrical experience for the audience.

"I felt like there was a personal touch to being there," he said. "The way the theatre was set up allowed for interaction between the actors and the audience."

All students in the program, not just those interested in or pursuing majors in theatre, were invited to attend.

Freshman Wendy Liu said she did not consider herself a fan of theatre before the trip, but was glad to have attended.

"Normally I don't watch plays,

so I was apprehensive at first," she said. "In the end, I really enjoyed all the plays that I saw."

Ubl said the experience of Shakespearean times was not confined to the stage. The town itself is meant to resemble the architecture of the period.

"Every single building there looks like it's been around since the 17th century," he said. "It's got gorgeous scenery."

Ubl said he was surprised by the wide array of patrons drawn to the festival. While there, he met a couple visiting for its "second honeymoon" and a '59 Notre Dame alumnus.

In addition to meeting Shakespeare fans, Liu said the trip was an opportunity to get to know other students in the program in an unusual setting.

"It was a great bonding experience," she said. "I realized [other program students] were in my classes, and I actually see them around a lot, but never really got to know them until now."

The Stratford Shakespeare Festival is the oldest Shakespeare festival in North America and is famous for its continuous performances, which begin in May and go through October,

according to the Glynn Family Honors Program's website.

"I learned the term 'festival' is misleading," Ubl said. "It's more like a marathon."

The festival trip is a tradition for the honors program, and Ubl said he hopes it remains so. He said programming like the Stratford trip is what makes the Glynn program so unique.

"We definitely appreciate the alumni who keep the program going," he said. "It's very characteristic of Notre Dame."

Contact Alexander La at
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Forum

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kids in poverty, it isn't their fault. Their life circumstances shouldn't define who they are."

According to Bush, these excuses were allowing the perpetuation of substandard educating.

"We tried to change this culture of excuses and pessimism about whether children can learn," he said. "Every child would be held to the same standard."

Bush implemented a wide range of reforms, including higher expectations for all students, greater academic standards for teachers and more accountability for school administrators.

Florida was the first state to create a statewide voucher program, expanding the accessibility to alternatives for underachieving public schools, according to Bush.

"We expanded school choice in our state to include the greatest number of options for parents," he said. "We have voucher programs that create choice for people who otherwise wouldn't have it and, along the way, public education has improved."

Bush said he also focused on expanding the Advanced Placement (AP) program to urban-poor and rural areas. The AP program is offered through College Board, the same nonprofit that publishes the SAT. The program offers accelerated classes for college credit.

"We created the first College Board partnership and generated significant improvement

in places that never would have seen an AP teacher of any kind," he said.

The mix of reforms, often referred to as "the Florida cocktail," has led to a rise in graduation rates within the state, according to Bush.

"These are results are now being emulated around the country," he said.

Despite the successes of the "cocktail," Bush said the reform of public education in Florida and across the United States is not finished.

"The lesson of policymaking is that success is never final and reform is never complete," he said. "I found in Florida's education story that you constantly have to be rebuilding on the reform that you have."

Bush said the future of public education lies in regulating the teaching profession and in-



JAMES DOAN/The Observer

Bush's sold-out lecture drew a full house to the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center on Monday.

creasing the use of digital learning, and that Notre Dame can play a role.


He suggested that Notre Dame graduates could advance the mantle of reform and digital learning throughout the world.

"The brand of Notre Dame is world-class," he said. "Why not take this incredible brand ... and take it to many places where many other people wouldn't experience it?"

Contact Emily Schrank at
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Execution

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Dame Law School, said the execution highlighted the American courts’ inability to properly handle new evidence in cases after a conviction has been reached.

“The publicity [Davis’] case received had the useful effect of reminding us that it is very difficult for any criminal justice system — even one that has as many safeguards as ours does — to deal with evidence that is discovered, or that changes, after a person is convicted and sentenced,” Garnett said.

Garnett added that if the courts fail to aptly respond to changes in evidence or testimony after conviction, the parole process should be improved in order to do so.

“The Davis case should, among other things, underscore the importance of the clemency and pardons processes, which do not function well in most places,” he said. “[The processes] could provide a better way for responding carefully to new evidence and to cases where substantial doubts have been raised about factual guilt.”

Outside of a debate over the evidence used in the case or the actual guilt of the accused, Davis’ execution shines light on the greater debate about the existence of the death penalty in the United States.

Garnett, who previously worked with the Jesuit Volunteer Corps on criminal justice reform, has handled capital cases in private practice, as well as authored academic and popular works on capital punishment, and personally opposes the death penalty.

Regardless, Garnett said he respects those on the other side of the debate.

“Responsible and reasonable people disagree about the morality and utility of capital punishment. My view is that we should abandon the death penalty,” he said. “At the end of the day, we have to confront the question whether it is consistent with our bedrock commitment to human dignity to impose the death penalty even on people who are clearly guilty of serious crimes.”

Despite his criticism of the Davis execution, Garnett did not give much credence to claims of corruption or discrimination causing the condemnation of an innocent man.

“We should not overstate the argument,” he said. “We should not assert too confidently, as some are doing, that Mr. Davis was actually innocent, or rush to blame his execution on racism or unfeeling officials.”

Garnett said the justice system cannot be expected to be free of error, but should always be improving.

“Our criminal justice process is not perfect — no process can be. And, despite our many safeguards, we cannot eliminate entirely the risk, and the reality, of errors,” he said. “At the same time, we should never stop thinking critically about criminal justice.”

Garnett said even though the controversy surrounding the Davis case will eventually fade, citizens and politicians should remain focused on bettering the system.

“The news cycle will move on from Mr. Davis’s case,” he said, “but we should not move on from the task of improving, and making more fair and accurate, our law enforcement and punishment processes.”

Contact John Cameron at jcamero2@nd.edu

Weaver teaches, leads theatre workshop

By BRIDGET FEENEY
News Writer

Saint Mary’s theater students welcomed a well-known guest lecturer Monday, as actress Sigourney Weaver led a master class at the College accompanied by her husband, director Jim Simpson.

Weaver, who recently added “Abduction” to a list of screen credits that includes “Avatar,” “Ghostbusters” and “Alien,” came to Saint Mary’s through the Margaret Hill Endowed Visiting Artist program, according to a press release on the Saint Mary’s website. The program, named after Broadway producer and Saint Mary’s alumna Margaret Hill, arranges for prominent actors to hold master classes at the College.

Junior theatre major Kara Quillard said despite Weaver’s high-profile name, the master class offered a relaxed atmo-

sphere for students to work on their art.

“A master class is the opportunity to work with a professional in an informal setting. The guest is merely the teacher, and we as students learn from their experiences,” she said. “We also get to enjoy lunch with them during our break and ask questions.”

As part of the class, seven students were selected to perform monologues for Weaver and Simpson. Junior theatre student Joy Viceroy and Quillard were both selected.

Viceroy said Weaver offered invaluable input.

“[Any] feedback I can receive about my acting is absolutely critical at this stage in my learning,” Viceroy said. “I need to find out what I’m doing right, and what could still use work. Performing for Ms. Weaver gave me the opportunity to have a complete outsider evaluate my work, which is as close to a profession-

al situation as I can get to right now.”

Quillard said she was honored to be chosen to perform for Weaver after auditioning before the Theatre Program faculty.

“Performing for Sigourney Weaver means everything — it was fantastic,” Quillard said. “For a brief moment, I felt like she treated me as an equal and I really valued her feedback.”

Viceroy said there was a noticeable change in her performance during the class.

“I performed the monologue three times, and each time it was incredibly different. It was cool to discover new things, and to have a fresh perspective on my work,” she said. “I walked out with great confidence, and I have so many new ideas from watching her work with my classmates too.”

Viceroy said she was intimidated by the prospect of performing for an Academy Award

nominee.

“My [monologue] was still relatively new, so I’m still discovering new things about it and the character,” she said. “The build-up and anticipation of hearing feedback [is what] gets me jittery right before performing. However, it’s powerful energy I’m able to use for the monologue itself, and it helps drive the piece that much further.”

Quillard said performing at the program’s class last year prepared her nerves for Weaver’s critique and made it easier to absorb the actress’s input.

“This being my second master class — I performed in front of Glenn Close as a first year — I felt more confident performing,” she said. “I really valued what Ms. Weaver and Mr. Simpson said, and I really adapted it to my performance.”

Contact Bridget Feeney at bfeene01@saintmarys.edu

Trip highlights engineering job opportunities

By ANNA BOARINI
News Writer

Professor Joannes Westerink brought a collection of 44 civil engineering and geological science students out of the classroom and into the engineering field last weekend. The group traveled to New York City and Lehigh University in Bethlehem, Penn., to meet with firms and explore the university’s lab.

Westrink said the trip, which he has led for the past six years, is meant to highlight the various job prospects for the engineering students after graduation.

“What we’re trying to do with this trip is to really show what the possibilities are for a civil engineering career,” he said. “We are giving everybody a flavor of the possibilities of jobs and projects that require some really innovative civil engineering.”

In New York, the students visited AECOM, the civil engineering firm working on the

Second Avenue subway line and the World Trade Center Transportation Hub.

The students had the opportunity to explore the area around Ground Zero, according to junior Andrew Bartolini. They were not allowed to visit the actual construction site for security reasons, but were able to inspect it from afar.

The students also visited Skanska, a firm with a “green” focus. Representatives from the firm presented on Leadership in Environmental and Energy Design (LEED) Platinum certification.

Bartolini said the presentation gave him a new perspective on the extensive requirements of LEED certification.

“One of the requirements of having a Platinum certification is that the majority of your materials have to come from [less than] a certain mile-radius away,” he said. “It’s not something you really think about with green engineering.”

After the presentation, the students accompanied the

Skanska engineers to their Brooklyn Bridge project site, where the firm is reconstructing the entrance ramps, Bartolini said.

“This was our most in-depth tour,” he said. “We got to see the huge machines that grind away at rock and soil when building the tunnel, and we got to go in one of the subway tunnels.”

Delving deeper into the project, the students also toured the facilities where the waste and byproducts from the construction were processed.

“We got to see where they take all the slurry and the dirt, where they clean it and then make it so they re-use the water,” Bartolini said. “It was just cool to see how it all works.”

The trip to Lehigh offered a look into the more academic side of the profession. Bartolini said the state-of-the-art lab is one of the largest in the nation.

“They have a lab that focuses on structure testing experiments that shows how fatigue affects a structure or how it might fail,” he said. “It’s one of

the best testing facilities you can have.”

Westerink said he chooses juniors because they have built a foundation of engineering knowledge and are just beginning to look into post-graduate opportunities.

“By junior year, you really want to get an internship, but also the trip is a great time for the students to bond and get to know each other in the department,” he said. “They are really focusing themselves in terms of what they want to do and where they want to go.”

Bartolini said the trip was refreshing because it gave students a hands-on experience of the real-world applications of their work in the classroom.

“When you do it on paper, you don’t realize the scale that it is,” he said. “I know some of the times when we were in those tunnels it was awe-inspiring to see how large these projects are.”

Contact Anna Boarini at aboari01@saintmarys.edu



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The Annual
McMahon Aquinas Lecture

Alasdair MacIntyre

“How Truth is Approached through Error:
Rereading Aquinas’s Project
at *Summa Theologiae* Ia-IIae, qq. 1 and 2”

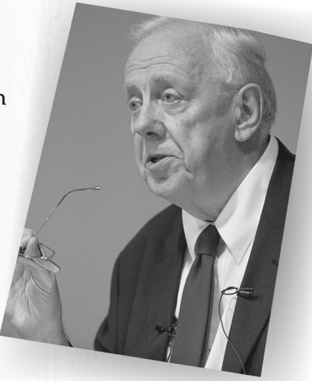
Join us as Professor MacIntyre explores the teachings of Thomas Aquinas. MacIntyre is the Rev. John A. O’Brien Senior Research Professor of Philosophy (emeritus) at the University of Notre Dame and is Senior Research Fellow at the Centre for Contemporary Aristotelian Studies in Ethics and Politics at London Metropolitan University. He is the author of *After Virtue* and numerous other celebrated works.

Saint Mary’s College
O’Laughlin Auditorium
7 p.m., Wednesday, September 28, 2011


Free and open to the public.
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Information Meeting Wednesday, September 28th 6:00 p.m. 117 DeBartolo Hall



Write SMC News.
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Weaver

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“When I get a script, I literally let loose the thunderbolt of my education on the script,” she said. “I look to see if this story sustains itself. Does it catch me up and maintain my interest? Is the theme about something I believe in? Is it bigger than just the people in it? And very few stories make it by the skill of my education.” Weaver said that even after a script makes it past her rounds of scrutiny, her education continues playing a role.

“It allows you to speak up and communicate, and solve problems in a way that a lot of times [directors and producers] don’t expect actors to be able to do,” she said.

After encouragement from a teacher, Weaver said she applied to 50 different summer stock or repertory companies before college, and was accepted at one.

While there, she said she performed six plays in seven weeks. It was at the stock company that she finally landed a role she loved. Weaver, however, was soon fired because of her height.

“I called my parents [after I was fired], and my mother said to me, ‘Oh, it’s only the first of many heartbreaks that you’ll experience,’” she said.

After leaving the acting company, Weaver applied to college to study drama.

“I got into all of them, which I thought was a good sign,” she said. “I went off to Yale with high hopes in not only acting, but also in writing and directing ... a year and a half later, the two heads of the department told me I had no talent and I’d never get anywhere.”

Despite their discouragement, Weaver graduated with a Master of Fine Arts and began searching for roles off Broadway, she said.

Four years later, she had an agent and was offered her first major role in director Ridley Scott’s “Alien.”

“It seems like I got ‘Alien’ overnight, and everything was rosy, but, in fact, I spent years working in flooded dressing rooms without bathrooms in terrible, broken

down condemned theaters, and I wouldn’t exchange a second of it for anything in the world,” Weaver said.

While the film offered Weaver a “big break” after years of challenges, she was hesitant to accept the role after reading the script.

“I had no pictures, so I just pictured this giant glob of yellow jelly kind of bouncing around doing something to people,” she said.

Weaver said she was honest when Scott asked her if she liked the script. She attributes her ability and confidence in articulating those feelings to her strong educational background.

“I said, ‘Well I didn’t like it very much,’” she said. “I thought it was quite unbelievable. It has a picture of human life that is very bleak, and I thought the love scene didn’t make any sense at all.’ I had my education and I opened my mouth, and luckily it was Scott who really cares that I spoke my mind.”

Weaver was ultimately offered the role and accepted it. The film was a success, and she went on to land roles in other well-known Hollywood films including “Ghostbusters,” “Working Girl” and “Holes.”

Despite the ups and downs of her career, Weaver said she wouldn’t trade her experiences for anything. Instead, she advised students in any field to embrace failure and enjoy the path they are traveling.

“I can’t predict what’s going to happen, but I’ve never really wanted to,” she said.

Weaver said she looks to a speech by George Wolfe, a former producer at the Public Theatre, for inspiration. In the speech, Wolfe compares life to a casino.

“People around you are hitting the jackpot, and you think, ‘Gosh, obviously there is something wrong with my machine,’” she said. “I want to go over to that machine, that is obviously a better machine ... and George said ... ‘Stick with your own machine. It may take longer, you may have to make adjustments but accept that everyone has a different timetable.’”

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Google+

continued from page 1

“I really don’t like how Google+ doesn’t have a wall feature,” Badar said. “I also don’t like how it tries to integrate my email and my social networking.”

On the less technical side of things, some students have chosen to remain with Facebook to avoid the time and hassle associated with setting up and maintaining a new account.

“I considered going on Google+,” said sophomore Kyle Craft, “but I ultimately didn’t because I knew that maintaining two social networking accounts at once would be too much work.”

Jhin is highly skeptical of Google+’s ability to eclipse Facebook as the primary social networking tool.

“Maybe if Facebook starts a nuclear war and everybody deletes their account, then I’ll consider embracing Google+ over Facebook,” Jhin said.

Time and patience will determine how Google+ develops and ultimately fares as a social networking site, but some are already offering bleak forecasts.

“I can see Google+ being the [retired NFL quarterback] Ryan Leaf of social networking getting off to a promising start, but ultimately proving to be an incredible disappointment in the end,” Badar said.

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INSIDE COLUMN

Hey Leonardo: A love affair

Leonardo DiCaprio is haunting me. And by haunting, I mean gracing me with his presence on an almost daily basis through some of my favorite forms of media.

He's on the cover of October's GQ discussing his lead role in Clint Eastwood's newest film, "J. Edgar," and the possibility of a directorial debut in the near future.

He's on E! on Saturday and Sunday afternoons, playing Jack Dawson in "Titanic" and rendering me immobile for a solid four hours. I'll never let go.

He's on my friend's Netflix Instant Queue at least twice. Inspired by the "Titanic" binge, I force all surrounding me to indulge in "The Beach" and then "Shutter Island." His portrayal of a crazed U.S. Marshal in the latter causes us to reminisce on his outstanding performances in "The Departed" and "Inception," each a favorite film of someone in the room.

He's with Blake Lively. On bikes in Central Park. On a boat in Italy.

He's donating \$1,000,000 to the Wildlife Conservation Society in an effort to conserve tiger populations. He's met with Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin to strategize.

He was even at a Lakers game sporting a Notre Dame hat, as if I needed another reason to love him.

Though it may seem like I'm OD-ing on DiCaprio, this resurgence of Leo in my life has only enhanced my appreciation for him as an actor, producer and activist. His career shows no signs of slowing, and it's already extensive and impressive enough to incite comparisons to the likes of Marlon Brando and James Dean. There's no one else in Hollywood with such a repertoire today.

So I will be continuing my affair with Leonardo in the coming months, when I see "Ides of March" in October, which he executive produced.

And when I see "J. Edgar" in November.

And when I impatiently wait until next November for his depiction of Jay Gatsby in Baz Luhrmann's take on the great American classic, "The Great Gatsby."

And when I re-watch DiCaprio and Luhrmann's first collaboration, 1996's "Romeo + Juliet," where DiCaprio and Claire Danes play the Shakespearean star-crossed lovers.

And when I inevitably spend another Saturday screening "Titanic" to put my not-so-difficult life as a college student into perspective (also to give me an excuse to sing "My Heart Will Go On" without shame).

So thank you, Leonardo, for assuming a role in my life of which you are completely unaware.

Contact Marissa Frobes at mfrobes@nd.edu

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



Marissa Frobes

Scene Writer

The unplugged challenge

Do you remember what boredom used to feel like?

I don't mean the kind of bored you are when you're sitting around on a Friday night complaining that there's nothing to do in South Bend. I mean a laptop-less, TV-less, cell phone-less kind of bored. The kind of bored you experienced as a kid on late summer evenings when entertainment consisted of a bucket of sidewalk chalk and a large cardboard box.

No, being bored in class doesn't count, nor does being a Pitt student at last weekend's game.

In the age of iEverything, we never have to be more than a couple of seconds away from texting a friend, checking our email or scanning the headlines. We try as hard as we can to eliminate boredom from our lives.

As the Queen of Multitasking, I avoid boredom like I avoid South Dining Hall during the dinner rush. I surf the web while I watch TV. I play solitaire while I wait in line. I turn on my iPod for walks longer than ten minutes.

I swore that I'd never be one of those girls who tries to ride her bike while talking on the phone and balancing a cup of coffee, but just last week I looked up mid-conversation to discover that I had turned into a terror on two wheels.

When I first got a smartphone, a wise friend told me that it would change the way I thought about in-

formation. He was right — for better or worse, the constant connectivity of the smartphone has changed my life. I've become a slave to having friends, email and the wide world of Wikipedia just a four-digit passcode away.

I didn't realize just how addicted I had become until one day over the summer when my Dad was driving me to the airport. I looked for my phone to check into my flight and realized that I had left it at home on the kitchen table. There was no time to go back; I had to leave without it.

All day I kept checking my pockets, reaching for my phantom phone because I felt so disconnected. It wasn't until the next day, when, Gollum-like, I greedily ripped open the FedEx package my Mom had overnighted to me, that I realized how absurd the situation was. I couldn't even go a whole forty-eight hours without my precious phone.

I saw the truth, and it was ugly. I had become totally and completely addicted.

Last week, I decided enough was enough. I was going to break the addiction by giving up my phone, cold turkey, for three days. Am I crazy? Probably. But I was curious to see what would happen. So, on Sunday I turned off my phone at midnight and vowed to not turn it on again until Wednesday at the same time.

The result? A couple of fairly annoyed friends.

To me, it was surprisingly refreshing not to be in constant contact with

everyone; I never realized how tiring it is to always be available and accounted for. But, for the people trying to reach me, it was apparently rather frustrating.

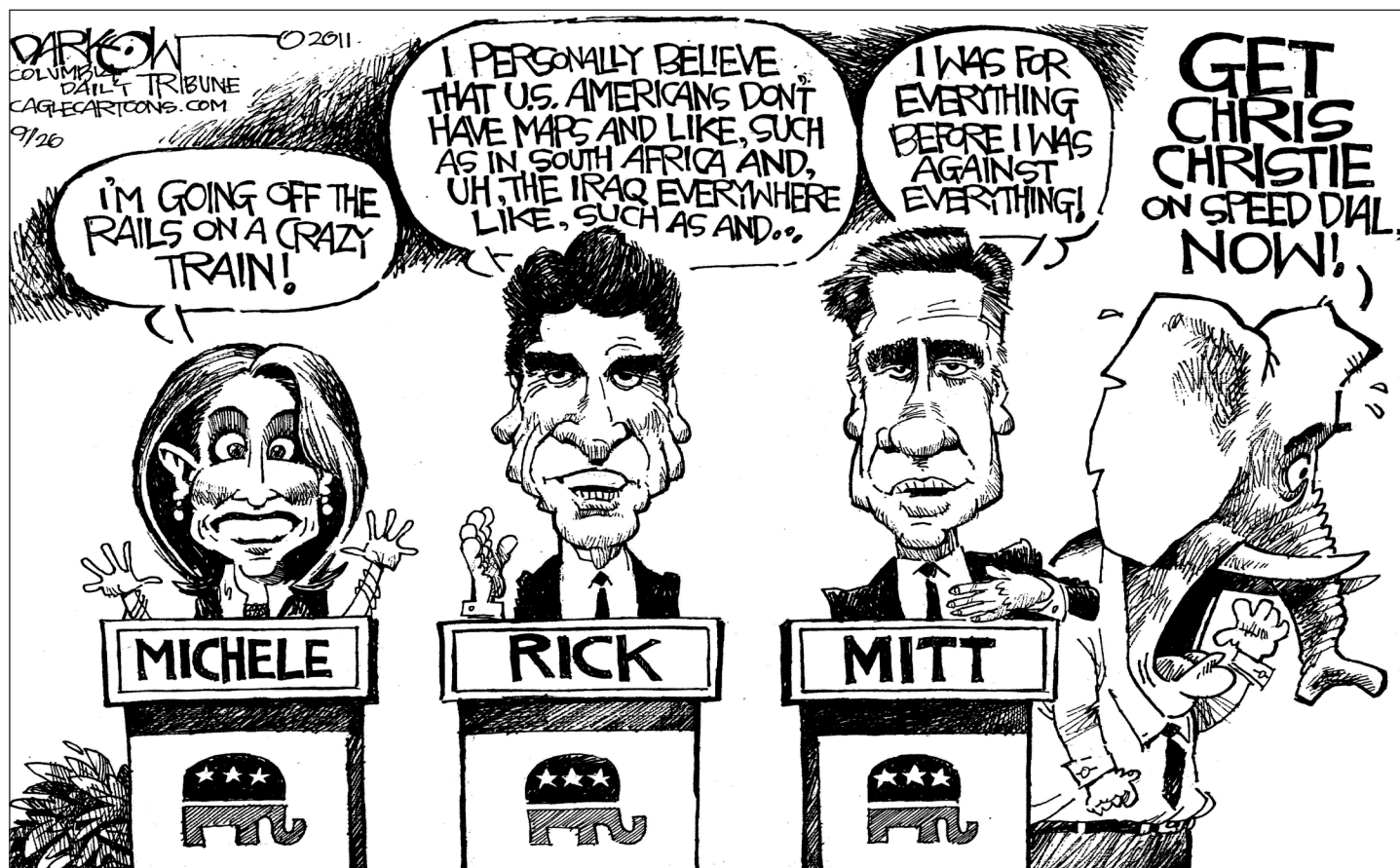
I forgot that even though I could disconnect from the world, the world would not necessarily disconnect from me. While I was happily living off the grid, other people were wondering why I was fifteen minutes late (answer: until I dug my watch out of my sock drawer on Tuesday, I didn't know the time). They were wondering if I had figured out the answer to number four on the homework, or if I wanted to grab lunch tomorrow. Nothing was urgent, but my lack of response was inconvenient and, admittedly, a little rude. So, to the friends I ignored last week, I apologize.

Still, I highly recommend taking the unplugged challenge, perhaps with a little more advanced planning. See where the boredom, or at least relative boredom, will take you. Relax during the ten-minute breaks in your day. See what kind of creativity flows from the part of your brain that's usually occupied with Angry Birds. You might be surprised by what you can do with a bucket of sidewalk chalk and a cardboard box.

Grace Concelman is a senior majoring in finance and philosophy. She can be reached at gconcelm@nd.edu

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

EDITORIAL CARTOON



QUOTE OF THE DAY

"A paranoid is someone who knows a little of what's going on."

William S. Burroughs
U.S. author

Submit a Letter to the Editor

Email obsviewpoint@gmail.com

WEEKLY POLL

Which band is best?

Nickelback
Creed
All-American Rejects
Train

Vote by 5 p.m. Thursday
ndsmcobserver.com

Syria and Libya won't be the same

The case of Syria initially seems to have many parallels with Libya — an autocratic regime, in power for decades, teetering on the brink. As in Libya, the Assad regime is known for brutality, as it has demonstrated in recent crackdowns against the Syrian people. Assad's approach mirrors that taken by Colonel Qaddafi, who preferred violent repression to any sort of reform. In addition, the Syrian regime is heavily dependent on oil revenues, which will be cut off in December when a regime of international sanctions goes into effect. This was also the case in Libya, where the lack of oil revenues ultimately undermined Qaddafi's ability to finance his repression.

Unfortunately, the cases also bear some major dissimilarity. First, the international community is much less likely

William Miller

Guest Columnist

to intervene militarily, as it did in Libya with the implementation of a no-fly zone. This is due to several factors, most notably the fact that both China and Russia, veto-wielding members of the U.N. Security Council, are unlikely to support such a measure. Russia relies on access to a Mediterranean naval base in the Syrian city of Tartus and is also one of Syria's largest arms suppliers. China, likewise, is a major supplier of arms to Syria, and both China and Russia would be loath to see a major customer disappear.

Second, the Syrian military is much stronger than the Libyan military was at the beginning of its revolution. Syria's army is four times the size of Libya's, its military spending is considerably higher and the armed forces are generally better equipped than their counterparts in Libya. This is especially problematic since the military continues to place its support firmly behind the Assad re-

gime, which was not the case in Libya. Military commanders are unlikely to jump ship until the rebels score some major successes, but these successes are much more difficult to achieve given the strength of the Syrian military.

Third, Syria is much smaller than Libya, meaning that it is harder for the rebels to concentrate before regime forces are able to attack. In Libya, Benghazi served as a critical base from which rebels could organize. On one hand, since the revolution was really centered in the east, it also gave the rebels a natural base of support to rely on when beginning their resistance. Protests in Syria, on the other hand, have been spread throughout the country, from Daraa in the south to Homs in the center to Al Hasakah in the north. While this means that the Syrian military has to respond to multiple threats, it also makes it much more difficult for the rebels to organize

the critical mass of fighters necessary to put up a major fight against regime forces.

Given these factors, it will be much more difficult for Syria's revolutionaries to oust the Assad regime from power. This is not to say that Assad will last forever — most autocratic regimes eventually fall. However, comparing the situation in Syria to the one in Libya highlights several major obstacles that demonstrators in Syria will need to overcome. Barring major changes on the ground, it seems likely that Assad will be able to weather this storm just as his father did before him.

William Miller is a sophomore majoring in Arabic and political science. He can be reached at wmiller3@nd.edu

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Notre Dame bucket list

As you know, time at Notre Dame passes with unwelcome speed. After four years it feels like it's time to move on, but you've grown so much you don't want to let go. Now that I'm an old man of 23, I recall my most lasting memories, but don't include common items like exploring the bell tower or the tunnels, or climbing into potentially off-limits spaces (all of which I did).

1. Learn the Alma Mater. Don't mumble like you mumble some of the fight song — it was written for Knute Rockne's funeral mass.

2. Go to all the football games — this is for you disenchanted seniors.

3. Talk with Fr. Jenkins during office hours. He'll respond because your opinion is important.

4. On Football Saturdays, don't miss the band marching out of the tunnel.

5. Also, rush into the Dome right after the Concert on the Steps to hear the trumpets play the Alma Mater.

6. Write to the The Observer. I was cautious in expressing my opinion because so many people read Viewpoint every day. If you really believe in something, don't be afraid to attach your

name to it.

7. Get to know your buddies in your dorm. Eat, play football, go to mass, study and fight with them. These are some of the closest friendships you'll ever find.

8. If you're still on campus, check out Tenebrae and the Easter Vigil. The organ and choir make the floor shake.

9. Read Father Sorin's plaque by the lake (to the right of Bond Hall). It's my favorite spot on campus — nice in every season and a grassy spot for lunch on warm days.

10. Over break, read "Notre Dame versus the Klan." Did you know Notre Dame stood up to the KKK, or that "Fighting Irish" was originally an insult?

Lastly, the biggest lesson I learned at Notre Dame was to ask people about themselves. Behind that façade is an interesting human who's just as cool (and even insecure) as you are. When you have no lunch plans, ask someone who's sitting alone if they want company.

Vu Nguyen
alumnus
Class of 2010
Sept. 26

EDITORIAL CARTOON



UWIRE

Two-year colleges need investment

As the economy struggles to recover from this recession, one facet of higher education is beginning to suffer very badly: our community colleges.

A new report from the Education Policy Center at U. Alabama shows that students are taking on more and more debt to pay for college, and that community colleges are unable to meet the expanded need to retrain workers, according to the Chronicle of Higher Education.

The report, titled "Access and Funding in Public Higher Education," is based on the results of the latest annual survey of the 51 members of the National Council of State Directors of Community Colleges, conducted from July 5 through Aug. 24, according to the Chronicle.

This report is predicting cuts to state operating budgets at community colleges, regional public universities and public flagship universities. Tuition is going to continue to grow, and financial

aid won't be able to keep up because it will continue to dwindle or remain flat, according to this report.

We need to invest in our community colleges, and President Barack Obama has taken a necessary and significant first step in proposing to do so. Obama has proposed investing \$5 billion to improve facilities at community colleges and tribal colleges. Ninety-four percent of the respondents of this survey said that the new money for construction and renovation was a significant need in their state. In a separate article, Jim Hermes, the director of government relations at the American Association of Community Colleges, affirmed this need.

"This is certainly an area of great need among our institutions," Hermes said. "We are heartened by the renewed recognition of this issue."

Investing in community colleges has been one of Obama's education objectives for quite some time. Shortly after his inauguration, he proposed a \$12 billion program to rebuild community

colleges, as well as increase the number of two-year students who graduate and go on to four-year institutions. It would have also improved remedial education and forged stronger ties between employers, according to the Chronicle. The plan, called the American Graduation Initiative, was dropped in negotiations over overhauling student-aid programs and health care legislation, according to the Chronicle.

Preserving funding for community colleges is critically important to the economic well-being of this country. Many students look to community colleges as an alternative to four-year institutions for a wide range of reasons. Some students want to train directly in their chosen profession rather than spend the extra time fulfilling the general education requirements of four-year universities.

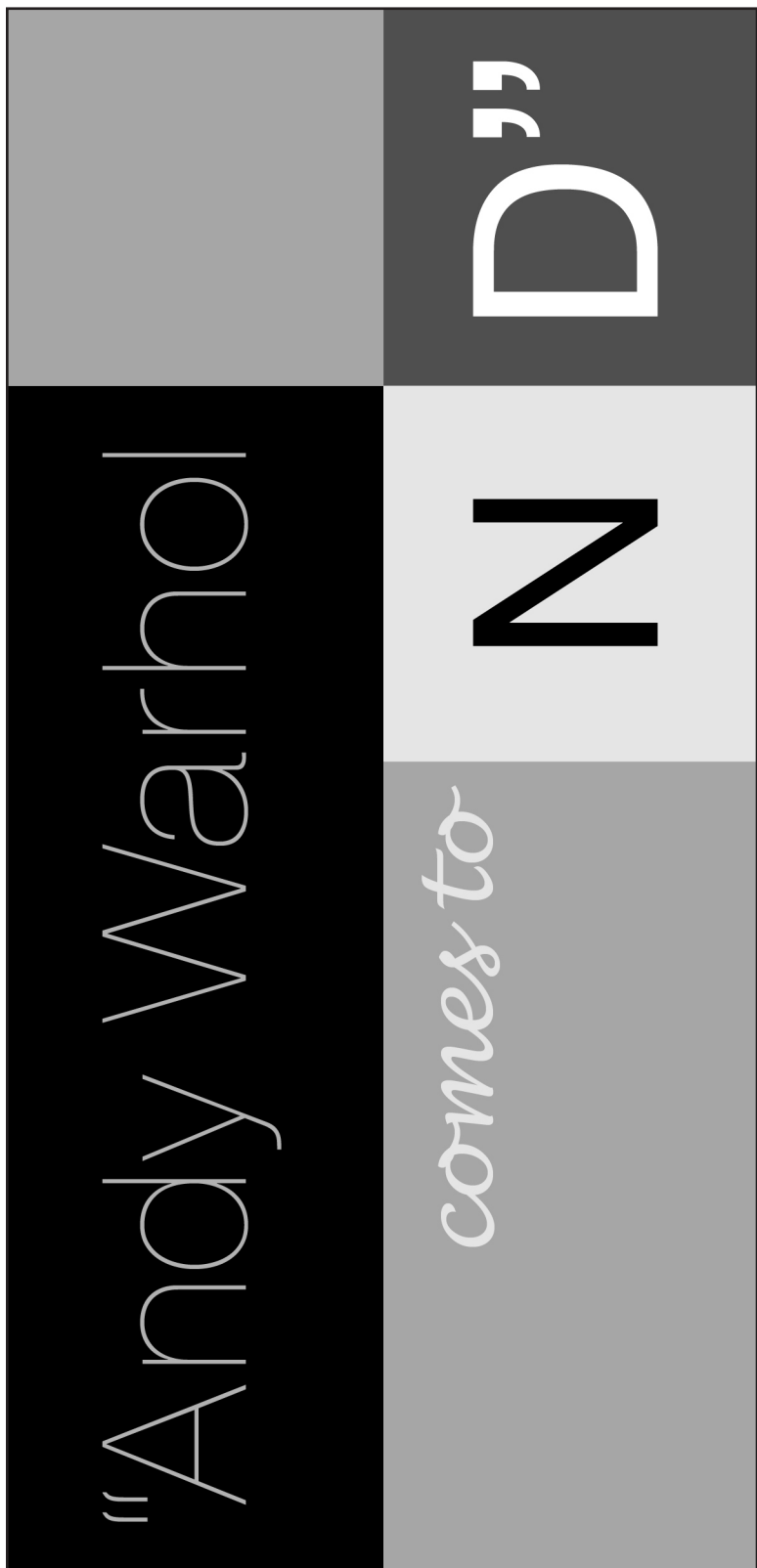
For other students, a community college may provide a second opportunity to improve their grade-point average before applying to a public university. If

students apply right out of high school, the high school GPA will be the one evaluated, whereas a community college gives the student a shot at having the community college GPA taken into consideration as well.

The other reason to preserve community colleges is a matter of helping students save money. Some students may choose to attend a community college prior to attending a four-year university in order to fulfill their general education requirements at a lesser cost. They can then choose to transfer their credits to a four-year institution that will accept them. Let's preserve community colleges for the sake of education and the health of our economy.

This column first appeared in the Sept. 22 edition of the Central Florida Future, the daily publication serving the University of Central Florida.

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



By MARY CLAIRE O'DONNELL
Scene Writer

When you think of Andy Warhol, one of the first images that pops into your head is probably a Campbell's Soup can or an image of Marilyn Monroe. And the PopArt pioneer is best known for these images. An exhibit at the Snite Museum, which runs through Nov. 13, offers a look into a unique and relatively unknown side of Warhol with the exhibit, Warhol's Camera.

This exhibit comprises a collection of Polaroids and gelatin silver prints, which the Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts donated to the Snite in 2008. These rare photographs provide fantastic examples of Warhol's use of photography in the last ten years of his career. The exhibit highlights the residency of the Merce Cunningham Dance Company at the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center.

Cunningham, an American dancer and choreographer, and Warhol were good friends in the post-war era. Both pioneered new and innovative forms of art in their respective fields by incorporating new media and exploring the relationship between different genres and art forms. Warhol also further tested the traditional limits of genre through revolutionary collaborations with Merce Cunningham.

Curator Maria Di Pasquale describes the photographs as occupying a distinct place in Warhol's works.

"They are both artworks and biographical documents," she said in a description of the exhibit. "In addition, they provide an interesting view into Warhol's view of fame and a look into his personal vision. The prints and Polaroids allow the viewer to look through the camera as Warhol."

"When the sitter looks out, he or she is looking at Warhol and responding to him," Di Pasquale said. "The relaxed naturalness of the celebrity subjects of his candid photos is a direct reflection of their comfort and intimacy with Andy himself. The photos provide an intimate view into Warhol's life and vision."

Warhol's Camera includes a gorgeous and entrancing screen print of Merce Cunningham, emphasizing the relationship between the two artists. That image is one of the first you see as you enter the exhibit, but your eyes are also drawn to the captivating gelatin prints, and then to the engaging faces in the Polaroids.

Some black and white, some color, the gelatin silver prints show a simple look at Warhol's vision. From scenes of party life to still life,

the prints record events in Warhol's daily life, which complement his diary entries that describe his social life in detail. Ordinary objects, like a bedroom or a china pitcher, are transformed into novel items through Warhol's vision.

The Polaroids represent the most captivating and interesting part of the exhibit. They capture images of celebrities like Jane Fonda, Jack Nicklaus and Giorgio Armani, as well as shots of children. Some subjects are identified, but some identities have been lost, which provides a unique equalizing effect to the collection. Unidentified children and adults sit next to some of the most famous faces of Warhol's generation, both demanding the same amount of attention.

Gina Costa of the Snite recommends that all in the Notre Dame and surrounding community take advantage of this exceptional collection while it remains on view at the Snite.

"This is a unique chance for the university community to view not only the Polaroids, but also these beautiful gelatin silver prints that show a side of Andy Warhol that I don't think a lot of people know," Costa said. "These are real intimate, sensitive images [referring to the gelatin prints], and then these Polaroids, like the medium itself, are so spontaneous of his friends and other dignitaries."

Andy Warhol was an amazingly complex artist, and Warhol's Camera at the Snite offers a fantastic glance into a side of the artist that many people do not know. The exhibit will be open until Nov. 13 and admission is free.

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On campus

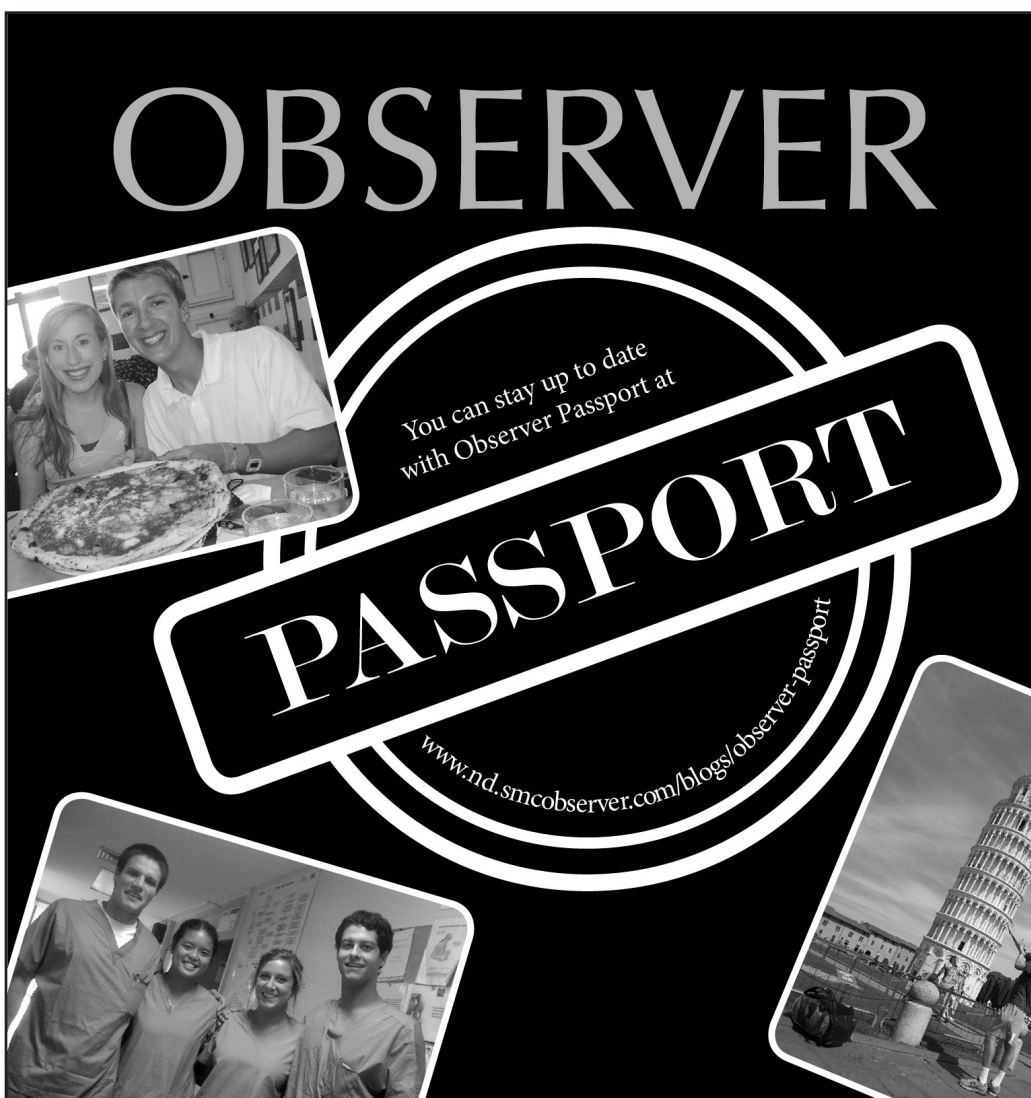
What: Warhol's Camera

Where: The Snite Museum

When: Sept. 18 - Nov. 13

How Much: Free

Learn More: www.sniteartmuseum.nd.edu



By SAM STRYKER
Scene Writer

Greetings from across the globe! While most Notre Dame students are busy on campus taking classes, tailgating and cheering on the Fighting Irish, hundreds of Domers around the world are studying abroad for the semester. The Observer is proud to have six of its staff members spread across three continents and six nations this fall. To keep up with their adventures, we decided to launch the Observer Passport.

Studying abroad is a two-word phrase for a reason: studying is balanced with the experience of living abroad in a foreign country. As much as the six of us enjoy taking classes, our time away from South Bend will be remembered most for the rich cultural experiences we not

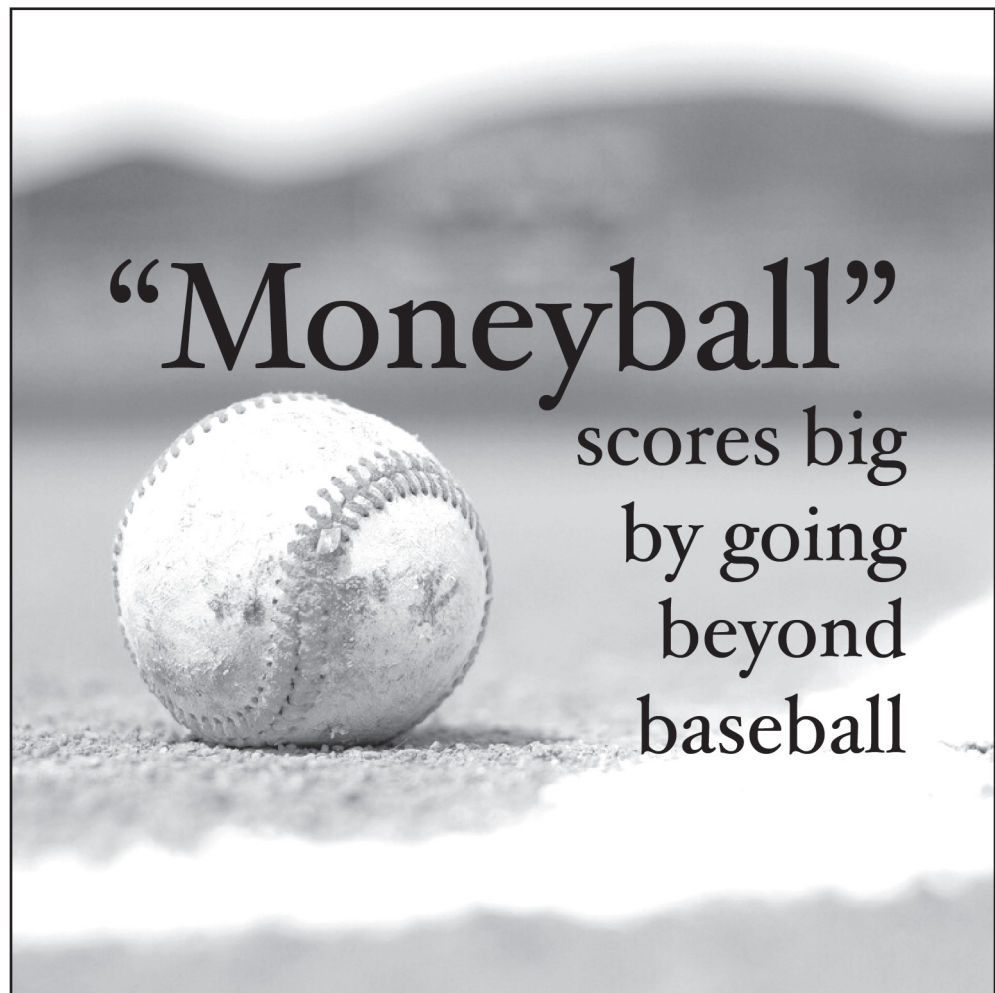
only observe, but also experience.

With the Observer Passport, we will show you what we do, see, eat, hear and learn during our time away from the Dome. Essentially, this blog is your passport to see the world in the way we will for the next semester. We hope you will travel with us often, as something new happens every day.

Be sure to check out Observer Passport's first entry right now. Along with several other Notre Dame students, Sam Stryker, enrolled in the Rome study abroad program, attended an Italian club soccer match. Your friends experienced a very different gameday environment than the typical college football game.

Sam Stryker is a junior studying abroad in Rome. Contact him at sstryke1@nd.edu

You can stay up to date with Observer Passport at www.ndsmcobserver.com/blogs/observer-passport



SCENE *Selects*

1 “Hoarders”

That Cabbage Patch doll? Definitely a keeper. That old McDonald’s bag? It has memories. If you’re familiar with rationale like this, you probably are a Hoarders fan. The show, featuring people who compulsively collect and keep things, is a great guilty pleasure. It has the train-wreck effect — you just can’t stop watching. These houses will make your dorm room look as if it could appear on the cover of “Martha Stewart Living.” Now it’s easier than ever to get caught up in the mess, as the show’s third season was recently released on Netflix.

2 Music Choice Channels

For those readers who have digital cable, these channels are a must to check out. Found in the 900’s, there are a huge number of channels, so one should definitely catch your eye and your musical taste. From pop to metal to country, you won’t be disappointed. And not only does each channel play constant music, but zero commercials will really make you loathe ever turning on a radio. It also provides fun facts about the artist or song playing. How else will you learn that Drake writes most of his music on his Blackberry? Check it out and become hooked.

3 Grape Soda

Often derided for its similarities to grape flavored medicine or overlooked because of its status as a stereotype drink, it is about time for grape soda to make a comeback. Because, and this is the most important thing, it is delicious. Usually containing very high levels of sodium benzoate and only trace amounts of actual grape, grade soda isn’t exactly the ideal beverage for the health-conscious and can have a slightly metallic taste. But it is worth it for a soft drink experience that is both unique and refreshing. Grape soda is available in vending machines throughout campus, and remember: Welch’s is the best.

4 Pumpkin Patches

Apple orchards are so over. This fall it’s all about the pumpkin patch. Throw on a sweater and some boots and prepare for a day full of frolicking in the crisp autumn air. Bonus points if your adventure involves a hayride. In addition to being just a tad more creative than apple picking, this excursion pretty much guarantees that you’ll come back with some awesome dorm room décor.

5 “New Girl”

This new show has launched a thousand different reactions but pretty much every one of them hinges on whether or not the viewer likes Zooey Deschanel’s quirky comedic sensibility. The adorable blue-eyed star plays Jess, a semi-dorky teacher who moves into an apartment with three other single men after a sympathy-inducing breakup with her cheating boyfriend. The men help her rebound and she helps them get in touch with their feminine side. The second episode in the series airs tonight at 9 p.m. on FOX.

By KEVIN NOONAN
Scene Writer

“Moneyball” missed being the best movie of the summer by a measly two days. Since it was released on Sept. 23, it is technically in the “fall” category. Which is too bad, because it would have easily been the best movie of the summer, redeeming a lackluster season for Hollywood.

I tried my hardest to remove all of my own personal bias when seeing this film. I’m a baseball nerd. I love baseball and I love all the seemingly insignificant statistics and trivial bits of knowledge that come with it at its deeper levels.

Billy Beane is one of my heroes. Before I saw this movie I had read the book on which it was based, I knew the successes and failures of his system, I knew about his infamously volatile personality and I had even tried to read some of Bill James’s works, the man who pioneered the mathematical theories on which Beane based his teams.

I was not going into this movie as a casual fan interested in a unique story. I was going in as a self-proclaimed expert of the source material, skeptical that a film could capture the essence of Michael Lewis’ “Moneyball: The Art of Winning an Unfair Game,” one of the most influential books in baseball history.

But they did it. They nailed it. Brad Pitt was not playing a character named Billy Beane. He was Billy Beane. Pitt was scary good. He brought Beane’s subtle sarcasm and notable charm, as well as his terrific temper to life with zero effort.

The only thing he couldn’t do was talk like Beane, because this was a PG-13 movie. It seemed like the director of the movie squeezed in as many expletives as possible, but in the book, Beane uses four letter words like he’s getting paid for it.

I, obviously, found the baseball part of the movie fascinating. This is one of the few chances baseball fans will ever get to see on the big screen how the baseball establishment does its business behind closed doors.

I also noticed the movie didn’t overwhelm the audience with baseball statistics and terminology, so non-baseball fans will not get bored with the

sports-specific information.

But what made this movie great was not the specifics about sabermetrics. Rather, it was the overall focus on the human element and story behind Beane’s struggle to succeed against the established system.

At its heart, that is what this story is about. This was two men, Beane and Paul De Podesta, fictionalized in the movie as Peter Brand and played by Jonah Hill, who had an idea. They had a new way of doing things, and everyone told them they were wrong. But they believed in what they were doing, they stuck with it and in the end they changed history.

At that level, this isn’t a niche market sports movie. This is a film about American ideals and triumph over adversity, using the drama of professional sports as its backdrop.

But the story does not stop there. The film does an excellent job of focusing on the personal stories of its characters. The interactions between Beane and his daughter show him to not just be the grumpy executive that was at the stadium, but also a loving, devoted, divorced father.

All in all, “Moneyball” is a fantastic movie, possibly the best baseball movie since the turn of the century. Baseball fans will appreciate this.

Besides, any movie that takes a shot at Scott Boras deserves a pat on the back.

Contact Kevin Noonan at
knoonan2@nd.edu

“Moneyball” Columbia Pictures

Starring: Brad Pitt, Jonah Hill and
Philip Seymour Hoffman
Directed By: Benett Miller
Produced By: Scott Rudin
Productions and Michael De Luca
Productions



SPORTS AUTHORITY

Jump on the EPL

You might not want to hear this, so I'll just get right to it: You should be watching soccer. You've seen people jump on the bandwagon for the World Cup over the past two summers, and why not? It's fun to root for the red, white and blue over the international forces of evil that are Ghana, Slovenia and Sweden. Now that it's over though, it's easy to turn away from the beautiful game and all of its magic. Instead, try paying attention to the English Premier League - The Most Interesting League in the World.

The EPL is the top tier of English football (that other football), and the skill on display is unbelievable enough to deserve viewing on its own. But there are plenty of other reasons to watch. For one, the passion the matches evoke is second to none in Europe. Take a nation of fifty million crazy, drunken, hooligan fans and twenty top teams and cram them onto a country the size of Alabama. Now take away the handful of teams any given fan may support in the colonies (er, states) and put all that allegiance behind one team, and you get the hysteria that is EPL fandom.

If that's not enough for you, just look at the owners of these clubs, who all seem to be a cross between Mikhail Prokhorov, Mark Cuban and the Godfather. Take 2010 champion Chelsea, a club owned by Russian billionaire Roman Abramovich, a man whose Wikipedia page has an "Alleged Crimes and Wrongdoing" section. Indian Lakshmi Mittal, better known as the sixth-richest man in the world, recently purchased Queens Park Rangers F.C., only to watch his shiny new toy lose their home opener 4-0 to lowly Bolton. Throw in the supreme goal-scoring talents of adultering Wayne Rooney, sex-taping Frank Lampard and allegedly-team-mate's-wife-impregnating John Terry, and the EPL will keep you interested both on and off the pitch.



Jack Hefferon
Sports Writer

The EPL is the top tier of English football (that other football), and the skill level on display is unbelievable enough to deserve viewing on its own.

Another great EPL concept is relegation, where the bottom teams in every league are sent down, and the lower leagues' winners get promoted to play with the big boys. Relegation can make even the worst teams' seasons exciting to the wire, and it needs to come across the pond. For example, imagine that the Carolina Panthers, instead of finally getting rewarded with a winning quarterback (sorry, Mr. Clausen), were punished for their terrible play last season and sent to the UFL, losing hundreds of millions of dollars. Meanwhile, the Las Vegas Locomotives would have their chance at a Super Bowl. How much fun would that be?

And while relegation may seem awesome, the Premiership's most appealing aspect is its rivalries, which break through the common standards of a modern society and must often be contained by fences in the stadiums and riot police outside of them. The best current rivalry can be seen in the derby between Manchester City and Manchester United, which dates back to 1881. City has been dominated by United in the recent past, winning just five of the teams' last thirty-three league matchups. Tension built until 2008, when City was bought by oil baron Sheikh Mansour, half-brother of the current president of the UAE, who immediately bought up the world's best available talent. Now, the sides are considered the two front-runners for the league title.

And if the appeal of the EPL wasn't enough to pique your interest, there are other benefits for the Notre Dame student. The games are typically early on Saturday mornings, which is the perfect excuse to start your tailgating early. If you're not a morning person, the games are now even being shown on Sundays on FOX in the normal, American football timeslot (dancing robots need not apply). If you missed their Chelsea-Man U broadcast two weeks ago, do yourself a favor and watch Tottenham at Arsenal this Sunday on FOX. You (probably) won't regret it.

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

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CLUB SPORTS

Ultimate opens with strong showing

Ultimate Frisbee

This past Sunday, Notre Dame women's ultimate frisbee traveled to Ann Arbor, Mich, to compete in an early season warm-up tournament with just two weeks of practice as a full team. For this tournament, the squad split into two even teams in order to give everyone more playing time, especially the rookies. The teams each competed against one team from Michigan State and two similarly split teams from Michigan.

Michigan State brought very few rookies to the tournament and Michigan was the national runner-up last season, so both proved to be stiff competition for the Irish. Although neither team came home with a victory, the teams enjoyed perfect weather, great early-season playing time and a friendly, spirited competition atmosphere.

Over the course of the day, both teams saw visible improvements in chemistry, individual confidence, energy and effort. While the rookies learned the tricks of the game, the returning members became comfortable in their new roles both on and off the field. Senior captains Vickie Hadlock and Ashely Satterlee kicked off the season with strong leadership, positive attitudes, and solid playing. Sophomore Kelsey Fink and junior Annie Flood did a great job stepping into the role of handlers and supporting their teammates. Lastly, sophomore Rachel Tonnis and juniors Jackie Maas-Hull and Elizabeth Lent, all rookies, made excellent in-cuts all day and showed great potential. The Irish will get back to practice this week in preparation for their home tournament at Junior Irish Fields from Oct. 1-2.

Cycling

Cycling opened the mountain bike season at the Michigan Cross Country Race this past weekend. In Men's B, graduate student Douglas Ansel and sophomore Luke Tilmans finished third and fifth respectively for the Irish. In the Men's C Division, junior Carl Josephson and sophomore Colin Sidberry entered their first competitive event. Sidberry had to pull out of the race due to a mechanical issue, while Josephson finished mid-pack.

Women's Rugby

Notre Dame women's rugby opened its season with a friendly match and 50-10 victory over the University of Illinois at Chicago this past Sunday afternoon. Entering their second year as a club sport, the Irish have many more seasoned players this fall compared with their previous fall season. However, there were

also a few new recruits this time around who were eager to experience playing in a game for the first time. The game was played in 30-minute thirds instead of the usual 40-minute halves in order to give players the chance to experience different field positions while still having significant playing time. The Irish played a solid first game, especially in maintaining an aggressive attitude on defense and capitalizing off UIC's mistakes to gain possession of the ball.

The game opened with Notre Dame receiving the kickoff, and shortly after junior Ashley Okonta took the ball out wide for the first Irish try. Junior Amelia Vojt kicked for points, successfully putting the Irish at a 7-0 lead early in the game. Graduate student Kayla Bishop brought the ball in for another try during the first period of the game, and Vojt made the conversion again. Later in the third the Flames countered, passing the ball out wide for its first try of the game. UIC missed the conversion though, bringing the score to 14-5.

In the second period the Irish continued to put pressure on the Flames, which resulted in another try, again by Okonta, converted successfully by Vojt. After a long standoff at the UIC tryline with the Irish unable to get past the opposing defense, Vojt made the decision to kick for points off a penalty and won three more points for the Irish. UIC pushed back, bringing the ball around a scrum close to the Irish tryline and scoring again, bringing the score at the end of the second to 24-10 with the Irish in the lead.

In the last third of the game the Irish again seized opportunities to get the ball and move it forward, for a total of four more tries by senior Christina Konkey, junior Janet Mostrom, and freshman Natalie Branch and senior Carli Fernandez, both rookies. Vojt again demonstrated her kicking ability by successfully converting three of the four tries, bringing the Irish score to a total of 50 points. Notre Dame was able to successfully hold UIC from scoring again, and the game ended with a final score of 50-10. The squad will continue to prepare for the challenge of facing Division I teams by taking on Grand Valley State University and Iowa State University at home Sept. 25.

Men's Water Polo

Notre Dame started out its season well with a victory over Iowa. Senior captain Dan Geisman made the opening goal with a skip shot to the upper right corner, and junior Chris Jennis followed soon after with a goal off an ejection to put the Irish up two. In the second quarter

,sophomore Jack Turek managed to put a point on the board. On the other side of the ball, sophomore goalkeeper Geno Freeman managed a complete shutout for the entire first half. In the third quarter, Iowa finally managed to get on the board during an ejection play, but Jennis answered with two more goals putting the score at 5-1. Iowa came out strong during the last quarter by scoring a quick goal off the start. But Geisman scored two goals out of hole set, finishing the game with a 7-2 Irish victory.

Notre Dame had a rough start in its next matchup against Michigan State, missing two fast break scoring opportunities and two man-up situations. The Trojans capitalized on these mistakes and gained the lead by three. The second quarter did not go much better for the Irish as the Trojans scored six more goals. Jennis did manage to bar in a shot, putting the Irish on the board, but the Trojans continued to pull away, managing to score six more points in the second half. Freeman did stop a five-meter penalty shot, and Geisman scored late in the fourth, but it was not enough, and Michigan State emerged with a 15-2 victory.

With a quick turnaround between the two Michigan teams, Notre Dame next faced the Wolverines. Though Michigan only scored one in the first quarter, the Irish offense struggled to develop. The next quarter Turek and freshman Dolf Hanke both scored, but their efforts were countered by three goals from the Wolverines. Although the Irish were still in the game, they simply ran out of gas in the second half, as the Wolverines marched down the pool and scored three more times before ending the game with a score of 7-2 Michigan.

When the game started out, the Irish seemed to have an apparent advantage as Illinois had no substitutes. But after Notre Dame lost a few passes off Illini cherry picking, the Irish went down by two in the first. Notre Dame came out strong in the second, with Hanke scoring off of a five-meter foul. Jennis also scored a cross-cage skip shot to tie the game. Illinois responded by scoring two goals of its own to maintain a lead. During the third, Geisman scored out of hole set, but again Illinois answered with a score of its own. In the final quarter, the back and forth continued as Geisman put in another score during a man up, and the Illini scored two, temporarily widening the gap. After an Irish timeout, the Irish rallied with Jennis and Hanke putting in back-to-back scores, though they could not manage to regain the lead, and the Irish dropped the match 7-6.

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"Fight Club was the beginning, now it's moved to the basement, it's called Project Mayhem." - Tyler Durden
"Tomorrow will be the most beautiful day of Raymond K. Hessel's life. His breakfast will taste better than any meal you and I have ever tasted." - Tyler Durden
"I am smart, capable, and most importantly, I am free in all the ways that you are not." - Tyler Durden

"Boys, the rules don't make much sense. But I believe in the rules. Some of us broke them. I broke them. I can't do this. I can't win like this." - Pete Bell from Blue Chips
"They gave everything they had! They played up to the *maximum* of their ability! They gave it everything. And you know, it wasn't good enough. It wasn't good enough for me, wasn't good enough for you, wasn't good enough for anybody!" - Pete Bell from Blue Chips

"There is a natural aristocracy among men. The grounds of this are virtue and talents." - Thomas Jefferson
"And in the end, it's not the years in your life that count. It's the life in your years." - Abraham Lincoln
"I am always doing things I can't do. That is how I get to do them."- Pablo Picasso

Naaachoooooooooooo!!!!
I'm not listening to you you crazy.
I know that wrestlers get all the fancy ladies, and all the creams and lotions. But my life is good, really good. I get to wake up every morning, 5 a.m., and make some soup. It's the best. I get to sleep in a bed by myself all of my life. It's fanTastic. Okay. Go away! Read some books!
Get that corn out of my face!
Go Irish. Beat Boilers.

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NFL

Vikings top list of teams failing to close out games

Associated Press

Anyone searching for the secret to success in the NFL can find it simply by recognizing what not to do.

Such as coaching not to lose. Or playing a prevent defense, particularly before the final minutes. Or going ultraconservative on offense when in the lead. Or failing to convert third downs.

All are formulas for failing to protect a lead in the NFL. All were perfected by the Vikings, Texans, Eagles and Patriots this weekend.

The Vikings are the poster children for blowing leads. They have been ahead at the half by 10, 17 and 20 points, outscoring opponents 54-7. Then they go into the locker room and, basically, stay there.

In the second half, Minnesota has been outscored 67-6 and has an 0-3 record to show for it. The Vikings have achieved that without turning over the ball in the second half, and are a plus-1 in turnover margin overall.

They also are 1 for 15 trying to convert third downs in the second half, while their defense has allowed 13 conversions out of 22 chances.

There are two words for such numbers in the NFL. Ugly is one. Winless is the other.

"A lot of teams wouldn't have come out with the energy and effort that our team came out

with today," Vikings coach Leslie Frazier said after the Lions erased a 20-point deficit and won 26-23 in overtime. "We battled right until the end."

That is the NFL equivalent of whistling past the graveyard. Less than a month into his first full season as Vikings coach, Frazier has a slew of issues to deal with, from damaging penalties to strange play-calling — Adrian Peterson ran five times after halftime against Detroit — to a sense of the inevitable.

As in the inevitable defeat.

"We are making some similar mistakes when it comes to penalties. Not really the same people making the mistakes, but the penalties have been costly," he said. "The games have come down to the last play sometimes, so they have been a factor, along with our being able to convert third downs, our being able to limit points allowed in the second half. Those have been things that have crept up in the second half of games."

Nobody crept up on the Patriots or Texans in Week 3. Anvils dropped on them in the form of prolific offenses in Buffalo and New Orleans.

That doesn't excuse some of the ailments plaguing each team.

Yes, the Patriots (2-1) can score with anyone and Tom Brady is off to the fastest passing start in NFL history. New England also can't cover anyone, isn't produc-

ing much of a pass rush and, shockingly, is making mistakes when it has a lead.

The Pats were beating their patsies, the Bills, 21-0 in the first half Sunday, seemingly on their way to a 16th straight victory against Buffalo. Instead, Brady — whose streak of 358 regular-season passes without a pick ended in Week 1 — started hitting defenders in stride.

Four picks later, the Bills were kicking the winning field goal to take the AFC East lead, and the Patriots were looking perturbed and puzzled.

"There were a lot more (mistakes) than there should have been. We've got to learn from it and get better," safety Josh Barrett said. "We've just got to do more across the board. We've got to lock receivers down. We've got to do a better job on their big-play guys from making plays. It comes down to just getting off the field when we need to."

For years, Houston has been plagued by having porous defenses that kept its potent offense off the field, a major reason it's never made the playoffs since joining the league in 2002. Against New Orleans, in a game with five lead changes, the Texans wasted a 26-17 fourth-quarter edge and fell 40-33.

There is no shame in losing to the Saints. There is much concern when a team stops pressing the issue, especially against



Lions' kicker Jason Hanson kicks the game-winning field goal in overtime, sealing Detroit's 26-23 win over the Vikings Sunday.

a strong opponent. Houston's blown lead and ultimate demise can be pinned on its weakness in the red zone, settling for four field goals.

"We had some great opportunities on the offensive side of the ball with a nine-point lead to make some plays that we didn't make," coach Gary Kubiak said. "We just did not close the game."

In a game that was a litmus test.

"We came into the game wanting to know where we are as a football team," star receiver Andre Johnson said. "Everyone battled and left it all out there on the field, but we just didn't score

seven points when we needed to. ... and playing against an offense like [the Saints'], you have to score seven instead of three."

The Eagles have spent two straight weeks falling behind, surging ahead, then flopping. Against the Giants in a 29-16 defeat, they were frazzled by a hand injury to Michael Vick and by the Giants' ability to get unheralded receivers in favorable positions against their ballyhooed secondary.

For Philadelphia, the 1-2 start and failure to hold onto a pair of leads might have as much to do with cohesiveness as strategy. It's hard to put together a "Dream Team" so quickly.

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WOMEN’S INTERHALL

Badin’s goal line defense seals slim win

Farley and Lewis post shutouts; PW earns comeback victory with last-second score

By BRIAN HARTNETT
Sports Writer

The Badin defense pulled out all the stops Sunday night, making two goal line stands and stopping a key two-point conversion en route to the Bullfrogs’ 7-6 victory over Howard.

Badin’s strong defensive effort began on the very first drive, as sophomore safety Liz Leonard made a key interception on third down. The Bullfrogs (1-1) then marched down the field and scored their first touchdown of the season on a 16-yard run by freshman running back Dionne Sandoval.

Howard’s offense answered back with some high-powered passing plays, as junior quarterback Katharine Mack completed passing plays of 18 and 23 yards, before hitting sophomore receiver Amelia Vojt on a seven-yard touchdown pass. However, Mack’s two-point conversion pass fell incomplete, preserving Badin’s slim lead.

The failed conversion was just the start of Howard’s red zone struggles, as the Bullfrogs’ defense forced the Ducks (1-2) into two turnovers on downs in the red zone in the second half. The Badin secondary, which had three interceptions, caused numerous problems for Howard and its dual-quarterback system.

“The defense just stopped us tonight,” Mack said. “The secondary really jammed us and prevented me from seeing everything on pass plays.”

For Badin, the game represented a marked improvement from its first game, a 28-0 loss to Cavanaugh.

“We definitely played with more intensity today,” Leonard said. “We were really hungry to win after last week, and we committed to playing our best.”

Badin hopes to extend its newfound winning streak when it plays Pangborn on Tuesday, while Howard will try to rebound with a victory when it takes on Pasquerilla West on Tuesday.

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Farley 14, Breen-Phillips 0

By PETER STEINER
Sports Writer

Farley’s strong defense prevailed again Sunday as the Finest (2-0) completed their second shutout of the season by blanking Breen-Phillips.

The Finest added offensive production to their stout defense, and senior receiver Kaitlyn Vitale said some of the team’s offensive success simply can’t be developed in practice.

“It’s really just team chemistry,” Vitale said.

Senior quarterback Megan Bastdo echoed the thoughts of her teammate.

“Most of us have known each other for a long time, and so we kind of know what each other is doing,” Bastedo said.

Vitale and Bastedo combined for 43 yards in the air including, Vitale’s 12-yard touchdown catch near the end of the first half. Farley then put the game away for good when Bastedo threw a four-yard touchdown

pass late in the second half.

The Farley offense did have two interceptions in the game, but the squad’s defense prevented the Babes (0-3) from scoring.

“The defense always executes well,” Bastedo said. “They bail us out when we make mistakes.”

Breen-Phillips’ two interceptions held Farley to 14 points, a marked change for the Babes, who had given up an average of 34 points in their first two games.

“Our team did well on defense with the interceptions,” sophomore quarterback Molly Toner said.

Toner played her first game at quarterback Sunday, as the Babes’ starting quarterback was injured in their loss Tuesday night.

“It was a little intimidating at first,” Toner said. “But I think we played well.”

Breen-Phillips looks for its first win against Cavanaugh next week, while Farley hopes to stay undefeated against Pangborn.

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Lewis 6, Welsh Family 0

By STEPHANIE BANTA
Sports writer

In a game riddled with penalties and turnovers, Lewis silenced Welsh Family in a 6-0 shutout Sunday night.

“After losing last week, this win is just what we need,” senior linebacker Margot Debot said.

The Chicks (1-1) dominated the field with a suffocating defense, pressuring Welsh Family (2-1) into three turnovers and two interceptions, including one forced by Dubot.

“We really picked up the intensity in the defense this week,” Dubot said. “We shut down their strong quarterback, which was really exciting”.

The Chicks’ energetic spirit was not reserved solely for their defense though. Junior quarterback Connaught Blood drove the Lewis offense with 90 rushing yards, highlighted by a 65-yard punt return resulting in the game’s only touchdown.

“[Blood] has great strength on the field,” Dubot said. “She has a strong arm and really knows how to make connections on the field.”

The Whirlwind did not go down easily though. Led by junior quarterback Vicky Moreno, who threw for 110 yards as well, Welsh Family racked up 100 rushing yards.

“We are discouraged by this loss, but overall I feel we played well,” senior captain Charlotte Seasley said. “Besides the one punt return, I feel we really dominated a lot of the game.”

The Whirlwind held their own, sacking Blood three times and forcing Lewis into three fourth down punts.

“Our defense held really well today,” Seasley said. “We just need to make those connections in our offense.”

Welsh Family looks to bounce back when it takes on Ryan next Sunday, while Lewis hopes to add to its winning streak against Pasquerilla East.

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McGlinn 16, Lyons 12

By SCOTT FRANO
Sports Writer

On a chilly fall night, McGlinn held off a second-half rally by Lyons to claim a 16-12 victory.

McGlinn (2-1) dominated the first half as senior quarterback and captain Lauren Miller constantly found openings for long runs. In the first offensive series, Miller found junior receiver Caitlin Day for a touchdown. Junior receiver Katie Ritter then caught a Miller pass for the two-point conversion to give the Shamrocks an 8-0 lead.

Later in the first half, Miller hit freshman running back Emma Collis in the end zone for a one-yard touchdown pass.

“We were confident in our ability to move the ball,” Miller said. “We had a good game plan from the start, and we came out with good energy and were able to execute very well.”

Lyons (0-2) got on the board in the second half with a short run from senior quarterback Kat Rodriguez. The Lions scored again late in the game on a 10-yard touchdown pass from Rodriguez to senior receiver Carolyn Henderson. But the Lions failed on both two-point conversions, which proved to be the difference in the game.

Lyons sophomore receiver and captain Christina Bramanti felt her team benefited from the game experience, which led to improved play in the second half.

“We haven’t had a good practice yet, so the first half was like a practice for us,” Bramanti said. “We got a good flow going and got back into the game [in the second].”

McGlinn will vie for its third win against Walsh when it next takes the field, while Lyons looks for its first win against Pasquerilla East on Monday.

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Pasquerilla West 18, Pangborn 14

By MIKE MONACO
Sports Writer

Pasquerilla West junior Alice Yerokun scrambled from nine yards out for her third touchdown of the game as time expired to give the Purple Weasels an 18-14 comeback win over Pangborn.

“We needed that win coming off a tough loss to Cavanaugh,” Yerokun said. “We just pushed to the last second.”

Yerokun, who had played running back up until the game-winning drive, took over at quarterback with her team trailing 14-12 with under a minute left to play. Starting at the Pasquerilla West eight-yard line, Yerokun scrambled three times for 30 yards.

The Purple Weasels (1-1), facing a fourth-and-two, took a timeout with 12 seconds left in the game. Yerokun went to the air for a 23-yard conversion to senior receiver Laura Phillips. Following a penalty, Yerokun

scampered in for the score and the win.

“We know we have the skill and the athleticism,” Yerokun said. “We need to use this game to keep moving forward and win the league.”

Pangborn (1-1) kept the game close with strong defense and timely offense. The defense kept the Purple Weasels in check for most of the game, forcing two three-and-outs and a 70-yard interception return for a touchdown.

“[This loss] really hurts because we beat ourselves,” senior captain Liz Pawlak said. “Obviously [Pasquerilla West] played well and made some plays, but we beat ourselves and made mistakes. Hopefully this loss will light a fire under us.”

Both teams take the field on Tuesday when Pasquerilla West takes on Howard and Pangborn squares off against Badin.

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Walsh 12, Pasquerilla East 12

By ALLY DARRAGH
Sports Writer

Both Pasquerilla East and Walsh came ready to play Sunday night in a heated battle that resulted in a 12-12 tie.

Walsh (0-1-1) dominated the first half, coming out strong and scoring on its first drive. The Wild Women would continue to overpower the Pyros (0-1-1) with junior quarterback and captain Kat Leach leading the way.

But after making some halftime adjustments, the Pyros shut the Walsh offense down for the entire second half.

“We just got more pumped up at halftime. We knew we were down by two touchdowns and that the offense needed to drive more,” Pyros sophomore quarterback Emma Haduch said. “We got rid of a few penalties, which were our biggest problem in the first half.”

Despite the defensive struggle, each team only allowed one turnover.

“I was frustrated after the interception because I didn’t realize we were so close to scoring. We needed a pick six so bad,” Pyros senior safety Nneka Ekethukwu said. “Even though I didn’t score, the interception felt amazing.”

Defense was a key part of this game, as both teams had opportunities to take the lead for the victory.

“Our defense worked as a great unit, and I’m proud of the errors we fixed from our first game last week,” Walsh captain Lindy Navarre said. “I think flag-pulling was extremely crucial, and we just went out and made it happen. Even though it wasn’t the outcome we wanted, I think everyone really stepped up tonight.”

The Pyros took on Pangborn, while Walsh faced McGlinn on Monday night. Scores were unavailable at the time of publication.

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NFL

Offseason arrests get attention

Associated Press

CINCINNATI — Bengals union representative Andrew Whitworth is upset that running back Cedric Benson and other NFL players could face suspensions for offseason incidents.

Benson and cornerback Adam “Pacman” Jones are subject to league discipline for arrests that occurred during the NFL’s lockout. Eight players overall are facing discipline under the league’s conduct policy. Benson has a hearing scheduled for Tuesday.

Whitworth said Monday he wouldn’t have supported the new collective bargaining agreement if he knew players would be suspended for things that happened before the deal was reached.

“I was very shocked,” Whitworth said. “It doesn’t make a whole lot of sense to me.”

“I feel like it’s the wrong decision, and I also believe the union let those eight guys down. I don’t feel like that was fair. To me, if I was told that was a make-or-break, I would have said that’s a make-or-break deal, that we were going to sell out eight guys to have an agreement.”

When the deal was reached in July, it was unclear whether the league could fine or suspend players who got in trouble during the NFL’s 4½-month lockout, when there was no collective bargaining agreement. The NFL Players Association had decertified as part of the labor dispute.

The league and the NFLPA eventually agreed that eight players could be disciplined for incidents in the offseason, while 25 others would not be.

“I feel like it was the wrong decision to allow those guys to be punished,” Whitworth said. “They weren’t employed [during the lockout] and they didn’t have a job, so they shouldn’t be able to be punished for it.”

“Now, I don’t think that them doing stuff is OK. But if no one else can get punished, they shouldn’t be able to, either.”

Benson was arrested during the summer of 2010 over an alleged bar fight in Austin, Texas. He was charged with misdemeanor assault. Benson met with NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell after the incident and wasn’t disciplined. He was arrested again last July and charged with misdemeanor assault over an altercation with a former roommate in Austin.

Benson reached a plea agreement to settle both court cases and served five days in a Texas jail before the season began.

Jones faces trial in November over his arrest at a Cincinnati bar last July on misdemeanor charges. The case is being monitored by authorities in Las Vegas, where Jones is on probation from a 2007 strip club fracas.

Kubinski

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place individually.

“I’m really excited for Carre-on,” Kubinski said. “He’s worked harder than anyone else on the team this fall, and it’s nice to see him get the results.”
Despite the frustrating day, the

Irish are in position to make a run today as they sit just 12 shots off the lead. Kubinski is confident that with a good round and a little luck, the Irish still have a shot at taking the tournament.


“It’s there for us if we eliminate the big numbers,” Kubinski said. “We really can’t have any tomorrow. But if we have a great round and some of the leaders play a little sub-par, we have a shot.”

The final round of the Fighting Irish Gridiron Classic begins this morning at 8:15 a.m. at the Warren Golf Course.

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Waldrum

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it changes what we do with our soccer program.”

Talks of major realignment began in the summer of 2010, when Nebraska and Colorado left the Big 12 for the Big 10 and Pac-10, respectively. Following Colorado, Utah left the Mountain West to head to the Pac-10 (now the Pac-12), while BYU became independent and TCU announced it will become a part of the Big East starting in 2012.

But what strikes Waldrum is the uncertainty surrounding the situation, as talks of realignment have stretched over a year with questions still looming.

“To tell you the truth, I’m tired of [the speculation],” Waldrum said. “It’s always circulating, and as a coach it’s very unsettling having been in the Big East for such a long time.”

Waldrum has experienced great success in the Big East since taking over as coach in 1999, following a three-year stint building Baylor’s women’s soccer program from scratch. In his 12 seasons as Notre Dame’s head coach, Waldrum has led the Irish (4-5-2, 1-2-1 Big East) to 11 Big East regular-season titles and seven Big East tournament championships, while taking his team to the NCAA tournament every year.

So with all of the rumors swirling, Waldrum remains uncertain regarding the future of his program and the conference, but trusts the leadership

of the university.

“I would hate to see anything happen to the Big East, but I definitely trust President [John] Jenkins and [Director of Athletics] Jack Swarbrick to do what’s best for the school,” the two-time National Coach of the Year said. “But you just don’t know what’s going to happen with everything.”

The 2012 season will feature the addition of TCU to the Big East while coping with the departure of rivals Syracuse and Pittsburgh. But with all of the changes, scheduling becomes an issue. According to Waldrum, programs usually receive their schedules a year or two in advance based on a school’s conference.


“It’ll be interesting heading back to Texas to face TCU, but we just don’t know how it’s going to be,” he said. “Usually we get our schedules way in advance so we can see what we have to prepare for and where we have to go, but it’s different now with everything that’s going on, and you just want it all to be done with.”

Despite the potential impact conference realignment could have on the Irish, Waldrum said that the problem has yet to cause any uncertainty or speculation among his players.

“I haven’t even heard a word of it in the locker room, and I think that is really how it should be,” he said. “It doesn’t really affect our players, and our focus is just centered on this season.”

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Media

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complications behind the scenes as far as putting things in place for us to be in a great conference, and the potential to really magnify our program on television,” Jackson said. “I know that the majority of our issues regarding television are now resolved, and now it’s just a matter of getting clearance from the conferences that we’re looking at to move forward. And I would expect that it will be resolved here in the next few days.”

While Notre Dame is hoping to have its conference choice finalized soon, it is also nearing the completion of construction of the Compton Family Ice Arena, the team’s state-of-the-art hockey facility, which is scheduled to open in late October or early November. With the rink now in place, the Irish were able to conduct an open skate on their new home ice for the first time yesterday.

Although playing in a new arena is an exciting change for the Irish, they realize the importance of maintaining focus on the game itself, especially as they begin their home slate in the Joyce Center.

“We’re all really excited,” junior goaltender Mike Johnson said. “[But] we have talked about the distraction factor — there’s no way it’s not going to be a distraction. So we need to remember although it is really cool and exciting to get a new arena, [we need] to worry about

the first few weeks before we’re even in there because they’re coming around just as quickly.”

With the talk of conference realignment and the new arena, the announcement that could most directly impact the Irish on the ice in 2011-2012 was a bit overshadowed. Senior defenseman Sean Lorenz and senior forward Billy Maday were named co-captains by Jackson, while sophomore forward Anders Lee earned the role of alternate captain for the season.

Lorenz, who led the CCHA in plus-minus rating last season at +33, said the added dynamic of off-ice leadership will increase his role on the team even further.

“It’s going to add a little bit more [pressure],” he said. “You’ve got a little bit more responsibility [and] a little more pressure to make sure guys are keeping focused, keeping level-headed.”

Maday is also looking forward to having more of an impact in the locker room.

“I’m not only representing myself, but the program, and I have to lead certain players in the right direction to make sure we continue on the right path as a team and reach our goals,” Maday said. “I’m willing to take on that challenge.”

The Irish open exhibition play against Western Ontario on Sunday, followed by the season-opening series at Minnesota-Duluth from Oct. 7 to 8. The home opener is Oct. 14 against Ohio State in the Joyce Center.

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Griffins

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any kind of consistency. “We made a lot of mistakes and committed a lot of turnovers on offense,” junior linebacker and captain Robert Toole said. “Our defense continued to be a bright spot for us.” Strong performances from sophomore safety Michael Fischer and junior linebacker Andy Heck aided the Kangaroos’ defensive effort. “Once we work out some execution issues, we’ll greatly improve our chances of winning out the rest of this season,” Toole said. Keough next takes on Dillon Oct. 9, while the Griffins look to remain undefeated against Dillon on Sunday.

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Sorin 7, Zahm 0

By BRIAN HARTNETT
Sports Writer

One touchdown was all that Sorin needed to remain undefeated, as the Otters beat Zahm 7-0 in a close defensive struggle. Sorin (2-0) finally broke through in the third quarter when junior receiver Ryan Robinson caught an 18-yard touchdown pass in double coverage from junior quarterback Ted Spinelli, the end result of a methodical 65-yard drive. “We ran a basic hitch-and-go route, and I was able to use my elevation to go up and beat the defenders to the ball,” Robinson said. Robinson’s touchdown proved to be the one offensive highlight in a game marked mostly by defensive stops and turnovers. Sorin received its big break late in the second quarter when it forced a Zahmbie (0-1) fumble on Zahm’s 18-yard line. However, the Otters wasted the opportunity just plays later, when Zahm senior linebacker Greg Bennett intercepted a Spinelli toss in the end zone. The Otters also missed a crucial 30-yard field goal at the end of the first half. “We got the victory, but we are not happy with the way we played,” Robinson said. “The Zahm defense really threw us for a loop.”

Zahm’s defensive scheme, called the “Pizza Formation,” held the strong Sorin offense in check.

However, the Zahmbies’ offensive struggles prevented any comeback attempts, as the offense was only able to muster one first down on the day.

Bennett, one of the leaders for the Zahmbies, concluded that the team needed to make some drastic changes heading into the upcoming game.

“There needs to be a coup-d’état on this Zahm team,” Bennett said. “I plan on starting as running back next week, and senior defensive end Luke Lenon should be our new kicker.”

Sorin takes the field next Oct. 9 against Carroll, while Zahm looks to gain its first victory when it takes on Carroll on Sunday.

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Alumni 6, Duncan 0

By ISAAC LORTON
Sports Writer

Alumni showed off its strong

defense with its second straight shutout, keeping Duncan on its heels and ultimately emerging from the hard-fought defensive battle with a 6-0 victory.

“I was really proud of our defense,” senior running back and captain Dan Dansdill said. “We like to rotate our defensive players a lot to keep them fresh, and it worked again today.”

Along with this mobile defense, Alumni (2-0) stuck to a smash-mouth running offense. The Dawgs ran for 128 yards, with Dansdill running for 55 yards and sophomore running back Kevin Rolfs running for 51.

“We have a strong offensive line,” Dansdill said. “So we let them work on people and run behind them.”

There was not much of a passing game without the services of starting sophomore quarterback Will Cronin. However, freshman quarterback Tyler Barron filled in, getting the job done.

“Tyler did a great job stepping in and leading our offense,” Dansdill said.

The lone score came on a quarterback sneak, as Barron punched it in the end zone from one yard out after the Highlanders fumbled on their own 30-yard line.

The Highlanders failed to get their offense running against the Dawgs’ stout defense.

“We couldn’t run the ball very well today, so we had to resort to passing,” junior right tackle and captain Neil Eveld said. “Once they figured that out, it was hard to pass as well.”

Duncan (0-2) struggled with key turnovers and penalties, which crippled its offense.

“We can’t make mistakes,” Eveld said. “Turnovers and penalties kill drives.”

The Highlanders look to improve Sunday as they seek their first win against Morrissey, while the Dawgs hope to shut out Siegfried.

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Siegfried 9, Knott 0

By ANDREW CARDOZA
Sports Writer

It took one big play from Siegfried senior defensive back Will Gesicki to help the Ramblers defeat Knott 9-0 in an interhall grudge match.

Gesicki recovered a fumble on the second defensive drive of the game and returned it 47 yards for a Rambler touchdown. It was all Siegfried (1-0) would need to defeat Knott (1-1).

“All I knew was once I saw that football, it was my job to pick it up and go the distance,” Gesicki said. “I got a great bounce and managed to take it back to the house.”

The slick field and wet football resulted in a very sloppy game, with the two teams combining for only 173 yards of total offense. The conditions resulted in four botched quarterback snaps, two fumbles, one interception and a poor snap on an extra point that was never kicked.

The key play in the game occurred in the second quarter when Knott fumbled the ball on Siegfried’s one-yard line. That

was its only trip to the red zone in the game.

The Ramblers’ defense played well, containing junior quarterback Jake Coleman in the pocket and holding him to only nine passing yards. The Ramblers were led by senior defensive end Mike Dineen, who had four sacks, two forced fumbles and 13 total tackles.

“Our defense’s great line pressure helped our guys on both ends of the field,” Dineen said. “It really closed up the field for them.”

The Ramblers look to continue their winning streak against Alumni on Sunday, while the Juggerknotts hope to recover against Alumni on Oct. 9.

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Fisher 6, Carroll 0

By ERNST CLEOFE
Sports Writer

Fisher outlasted Carroll in a grueling battle, emerging with a 6-0 win after scoring the go-ahead touchdown in the fourth quarter.

From the start of the game, both teams were locked in a defensive matchup while the offenses struggled to make progress down the field.

Fisher (1-1) relied heavily on its running game and proceeded to wear down the Carroll (1-1) defense. In the fourth quarter, the offense finally broke through by stringing together solid gains through the air with quick passing routes.

Sophomore quarterback Joe Paggi scored the only points of the game with a designed inside quarterback run from inside the five-yard line.

The Green Wave held on to win after two costly penalties by Carroll. On the next Fisher drive following the touchdown, Carroll jumped offside on a fourth-down punt, allowing Fisher to run down the clock further.

Then on the subsequent Carroll drive, sophomore quarterback Jack Gardner threw a deep pass that was picked off by the Fisher defense. The interception, Gardner’s second of the game, halted what had been Carroll’s strongest offensive drive and sealed the Fisher win.

The win gives the Green Wave their first victory of the season after a disappointing loss to Sorin in their opening game.

“Last week was a tough one, our offense had trouble,” Paggi said. “It’s nice to be back up and win this week.”

The loss brings the Vermin to .500, and going forward they look to reduce the mental mistakes that have hurt them in the first two games of the season.

“We came out and had a lot of mental mistakes,” junior captain Keith Marrero said. “For us, the game was lost between the ears.”

Carroll looks to rebound against Zahm next week, while Fisher hopes to start a winning streak against St. Edward’s.

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Dillon 14, Keenan 6

By MEGHAN RODER
Sports Writer

Keenan was a cohesive force that took the game by storm in

a 14-6 win over Dillon.

From the bench to the starting lineup, the Knights (2-0) were ready to play against the Big Red (1-1).

“This was a team unity win. Everyone was ready to go from the snap,” junior Andrew McDonough said. “Even though we were short-handed, we still came out on top. One of our captains, [senior] Erik Blackwood, was out and a few men were injured. Regardless, with [sophomore] Jeremy Riche, [junior] Kevin Walsh and [senior] Nick Burley, we did what needed to be done and took control. Our offensive line was unstoppable.”

Junior receiver Nate Carr made himself comfortable in the end zone, snagging a touchdown reception. Along with Carr, Riche caught a shoestring pass and ran it into the endzone to score the second touchdown.


On the other side of the line, Dillon’s defense kept it in the game while the offense struggled.

“The blame [falls] on the quarterback. I made too many mistakes today,” sophomore quarterback Kevin Fink said. “Keenan put us in a position where we had to throw the ball to make some plays, and I didn’t make good enough decisions. The credit has to go to Keenan. Keenan has a good offense and they beat us fair and square.”

Dillon’s defense was its saving grace. Senior Evan Wray had an impressive interception that kept the fire burning for Dillon toward the end of the game, and freshman Colin Terndrup brought refreshing intensity to the field, but it was not enough to hold off Keenan.

Both teams will take the field Sunday at 3 p.m. at Riehle Fields, as Dillon faces Stanford and Keenan takes on O’Neill.

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Eduardo Nolla
Professor of Political Philosophy
Chairman of the Department of Political Science
at the Universidad San Pablo-CEU (Madrid)

Friday, September 30
Panel I: 9:30 - 11:30 a.m.
The Tocqueville Thesis: Looking Backward
Catherine Zuckert, Moderator

Mark Noll: Was de Tocqueville’s America Only 1831-1832?
James Schleifer: Tocqueville, Religion and *Democracy in America*: Some Essential Questions
Aristide Tessitore: Tocqueville’s American Thesis and the New Science of Politics

Friday, September 30
Panel II: 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.
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HOCKEY

Compton, captains, conferences

Irish initiate 2011-2012 season with first media day

By SAM GANS
Sports Writer

Though the Irish do not begin practice until Saturday, the 2011-2012 season got off to an unofficial start yesterday with media day.

On a day in which Irish coach Jeff Jackson named his captains and the team skated in the brand new Compton Family Ice Arena's rink for the first time, perhaps the biggest news was no news.

Notre Dame has still not announced its plans for conference affiliation after the CCHA disbands following the 2012-2013 season. The Irish have offers from both Hockey East and the newly created National Collegiate Hockey Conference (NCHC).

Hockey East has 10 teams, including Merrimack and New Hampshire, both of whom Notre Dame defeated on the way to the Frozen Four last season, and national powers Boston College and Boston University.

The NCHC currently consists of eight members, including defending national champion Minnesota-Duluth, current CCHA rival Miami and North Dakota and Denver, the latter two of which have a combined 14 national championships.



SUZANNA PRATT/The Observer

Senior forward Billy Maday eyes the puck in Notre Dame's 2-1 victory over New Hampshire on March 27. Maday and senior defenseman Sean Lorenz will be Irish captains for the 2011-2012 season.

Jackson, who stated the Irish will not pursue independence, did not announce if Notre Dame has a preference toward either conference, but did say he sees both as a potentially good fit.

"I don't think we can go wrong," Jackson said. "The most important thing is that we put ourselves in position to

recruit and we put ourselves in position to compete against the best teams in the country, and put ourselves in position to play in front of big crowds in great buildings every night. And I think that exists in both conferences."

Part of the reason for the ongoing delay in choosing a confer-

ence was Notre Dame's desire to limit conference breakups as much as possible, Jackson indicated. The Irish were also concerned about television packages.

"What people have to understand is that there was a lot of

see MEDIA/page 13

MEN'S INTERHALL

Stanford survives Keough

By JONATHON WARREN
Sports Writer

In a battle of defensive wills, Stanford overtook Keough, winning its first game of the season 7-0.

The game was locked 0-0 until a 20-yard touchdown run by freshman Dan Groom in the second quarter decided the game for the Griffins (1-0).

"Overall, we looked great at times and bad at others," junior captain Paul Babiak said. "We had some first-game jitters. We have some kinks we need to work out, but everyone was really happy with how the game turned out."

Despite a strong performance from the offensive line, Stanford's offense struggled against the Kangaroos' defense.

"At times we looked really sloppy, and we just need to work that out in practice," Babiak said. "We have a lot to work on, but it's very doable. We looked very strong, and I think we'll continue to show that."

The Kangaroos (0-2) failed to score on the Griffins, as the offense committed six turnovers and failed to gain

see GRIFFINS/ page 14

MEN'S GOLF

Irish struggle as hosts

By CONOR KELLY
Sports Writer

Hosting the Fighting Irish Gridiron Classic at the Warren Golf Course, the Irish shot a 583 through the first two rounds of the tournament, leaving them sitting at sixth place in a 12-team field.

With the team sitting 12 shots behind Houston, the leader of the field, the finish was disappointing for Irish coach Jim Kubinski, who watched his talented team struggle with inconsistent and sloppy play throughout the day.

"We certainly did not get what we were looking for," Kubinski said. "Especially at home, we have to be better. It's frustrating, and our guys know that."

Throughout the young season, the Irish have struggled to put together top-quality rounds by their entire top-five golfers simultaneously, and this was certainly the case in the first round Monday. Seniors Tom Usher (E) and Max Scodro (+1) played well, while the rest of the squad failed to keep pace, finishing at a combined +14 on

the round.

Usher's round was particularly impressive given that without a triple bogey on the twelfth hole, he might have finished at -3 on the round.

"Tom did a good job today minus the triple on 12," Kubinski said. "We made some birdies towards the end of the round that helped close the gap, but we just didn't follow it up with a good second round."

No Irish player shot better than a +3 in the second, as the squad finished the round at +25.

"We make enough birdies to be a heck of a team," Kubinski said. "But we put up enough big numbers to be a bad one. It's been our M.O. for the last year or two. Until we eliminate those, we won't win tournaments."

One golfer the Irish might like to have back in their lineup is sophomore Andrew Carreon, who made his first tournament appearance of the fall competing only as an individual. Carreon's -2 mark on the day puts him in a tie for second

see KUBINSKI/page 13

ND WOMEN'S SOCCER

Uncertainty pervades Big East



ALEX PARTAK/The Observer

Junior defender Jazmin Hill controls the ball during Notre Dame's meeting with Tulsa on September 2. The Irish captured a 7-1 victory over the Golden Hurricane.

By ANDREW GASTELUM
Sports Writer

With all of the speculation surrounding conference realignment in college sports today, it's easy to reflect on how the new arrangements

will affect college football and college basketball.

But according to Irish coach Randy Waldrum, how the changes affect other athletic programs at the university level remain overlooked.

"People sometimes don't un-

derstand that [realignment] affects all of the programs," Waldrum said before his team's road trip to South Florida and Marquette. "They see the changes and don't realize that

see WALDRUM/page 13