

THE OBSERVER

The Independent Newspaper Serving Notre Dame and Saint Mary's

VOLUME 45: ISSUE 80

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2012

NDSMCOBSERVER.COM

NDAA partners with schools

By NICOLE MICHELS
News Writer

Notre Dame added two Catholic elementary schools in Florida to the Notre Dame ACE Academies (NDAA) program. The two schools — Sacred Heart of Pinellas Park and St. Joseph of Tampa — will be the program's newest partners.

Christian Dallavis, director of NDAA, said the program conducted a feasibility study to determine which schools in the Diocese of St. Petersburg would have the greatest potential for growth.

"We want to do two things: increase the number of kids that enjoy the benefits of the education offered at these two schools, and ensure that the schools are providing education of the highest possible quality," Dallavis said.

Dallavis said the program chose these two schools after focusing on areas with mechanisms like parental choice programs, vouchers and tax credits for low-income families to send their children to private schools.

see ACE/page 4

Nuns fight social issue

Group raises awareness on human trafficking in hotels



Photo Courtesy of Sr. Ann Oestreich

Sr. Ann Oestreich speaks with the Saint Mary's community about raising awareness on human trafficking in LeMans Hall on Thursday afternoon.

By CAITLIN HOUSLEY
Saint Mary's Editor

When it was announced that the Super Bowl would take place in Indianapolis this year, a group of nuns at Saint Mary's got excited — not because of the football game, but because of the opportunity it presented.

Sr. Ann Oestreich and nuns from 11 congregations across Indiana and Michigan saw the close location of the Super Bowl as an opportunity

to raise awareness about human trafficking.

"Usually when there's a major sporting event in a city, trafficking incidents go up," Oestreich said. "So, at sporting events like the Olympics or the World Cup, there's always a lot of organizing to keep the incidents of trafficking down."

Oestreich, co-chair of the Coalition for Corporate Responsibility for Indiana and Michigan (CCRIM), said the group works to improve the

social and sustainability issues in companies within which they invest. Their current focus is on hotels.

"A lot of the times, traffickers can come into hotels and operate out of there without being noticed," Oestreich said.

Oestreich said the coalition teamed up with enforcement officials, the attorney general, people who own safe houses and people doing work with

see TRAFFICKING/page 3

Hall hosts annual DanceFest

By AUBREY BUTTS
News Writer

Welsh Family Hall will bring together dance groups ranging in style from swing to hip-hop this weekend in its annual signature event, DanceFest 2012.

Junior Anna Gorman said the goal of DanceFest is to highlight the performing arts culture at Notre Dame.

"The DanceFest started as a way to showcase dance groups on campus because not too many are aware they exist or find them interesting," Gorman said. "We have dancers on campus who are absolutely phenomenal and deserve more attention than they currently receive."

DanceFest will take place Friday and Saturday at 7:30 p.m. in Washington Hall. The show will feature numbers from Dance Company, TransPose, Project Fresh, the Pom Squad, Troop ND, the Irish Dance Team and Swing Club, along with a few group performances

see DANCE/page 4

Students travel to Super Bowl

By ANN MARIE JAKUBOWSKI
News Writer

The sports world's eyes will turn to Indianapolis this Sunday for the Super Bowl XLVI, which will feature a rematch between prominent East Coast teams the New England Patriots and the New York Giants.

Several students plan to make the short trip to Indianapolis and participate in Super Bowl festivities before the game begins Sunday evening.

Freshman Kayla Polcari said she and her sister, senior Annie Polcari, decided to spend the weekend in Indianapolis after they received tickets to the Super Bowl as a surprise gift.

"The best dad in the world surprised me with them," she said.

Seniors Christina Carson and Michael Oliver said they are also driving to Indianapolis with a group of friends to ex-

see SUPER BOWL/page 4

Amenities at the Super Bowl Village February 3-5, 2012

- ◆ Four-line zipline running tandem down Capitol Avenue
- ◆ "Fire and Ice" lounges providing food and beverage sales
- ◆ Kinect NFL PLAY FanDome
- ◆ Tailgate Town
- ◆ ESPN broadcast studios



ELISA DE CASTRO | Observer Graphic

Super Bowl ads utilize social media outlets

By CHRISTIN KLOSKI
News Writer

This year, advertisements for the Super Bowl XLVI will captivate audiences around the country in a new way.

Professor Robert Williams, assistant professor of marketing at Saint Mary's College, said this year's advertisements will be interactive with the use of social media.

"Social media has been the game changer for Super Bowl ads," Williams said. "The companies will receive quick feedback to the ads this way."

Williams said companies are trying increase their accessibility to consumers. Some will use the "AdMeter," an application

on Facebook, to track the receptiveness of viewers to company ads, he said.

Williams said companies use this information in preparations and designs for future ads and products.

Due to these changes, the cost of running advertisements during the Super Bowl has increased by 16.7 percent since last year, he said.


"It will cost \$3.5 million dollars for one 30-second spot to run during the Super Bowl this year," Williams said.


The rising cost in running time, however, demonstrates strength in the United States' economy, he said.


see ADS/page 4


HIGH
LOW

SMC premieres “Freedom Bound”



 Mad River Theater Works original performance on the Underground Railroad

 7:30 p.m. in O’Laughlin Auditorium at the Moreau Center for the Arts at Saint Mary’s

 Tickets: \$8 for students \$18 for public

By BRIDGET FEENEY
News Writer

Mad River Theatre Works, a traveling company of actors, will debut “Freedom Bound,” an original play that explores the history of the Underground Railroad, tonight at Saint Mary’s.

Richard Baxter, director of Special Events for the College, said he first heard of “Freedom Bound” from a friend who recommended the theatre company to him.

“I had heard about Mad River Theatre productions from one of my colleagues and we had an opportunity to book the group on a return trip from a performance in Chicago,” he said.

Baxter said the play tells the story of Addison White, a fugitive slave in the mid-

19th century. Though White successfully escapes to the North, he is not free due to a Fugitive Slave law that stated a U.S. Marshal could recapture slaves and send them back South. When White’s owner took the case to court, it received national attention, Baxter said.

Baxter said the chance to bring “Freedom Bound” to Saint Mary’s was too enticing to resist.

“The opportunity was too good to pass up,” he said.

Though he had difficulties scheduling the performance time, Baxter said he is excited to introduce the Saint Mary’s community to this historical era.

“I hope the audience will leave with a deeper appreciation for the role of the Underground Railroad in

our region’s history,” he said.

Baxter said he hopes “Freedom Bound” will be an enlightening experience for all involved.

“Audience members may expect an outstanding performance from an award winning theatre company,” he said.

“Freedom Bound” premieres tonight at 7:30 p.m. in O’Laughlin Auditorium at the Moreau Center for the Arts at Saint Mary’s. Tickets costs \$8 with a student ID and \$18 for the general public. Tickets may be purchased before the event, by visiting www.moreaucenter.com or by calling 574-284-4626.

Contact Bridget Feeney at bfeene01@saintmarys.edu

ELISA DE CASTRO | Observer Graphic



Photo Courtesy of Sr. Ann Oestrich

Sr. Ann Oestreich leads a prayer service in LeMans Hall on Thursday afternoon with members of Saint Mary’s College.

Trafficking

continued from page 1

immigrants and refugees in order to keep incidents of human trafficking during the Super Bowl to a minimum.

“We wanted to work with hotels to educate their staffs so they could recognize the signs of trafficking and take safe and responsible action when they thought that it might be occurring within their hotel,” she said.

The group contacted 200 hotels within a 50-mile radius of Lu-

cas Oil Stadium, she said.

Of the 200 hotels contacted by the group, 45 said they had previously held training with their staff, seven asked the coalition for help to set up training for the Super Bowl and 99 asked for the local contact list and information about an industry-

wide code of conduct against trafficking.

“We’re really very grateful to the hotel managers who talked with us, worked with us, took our materials and are on the lookout for traffickers, especially this weekend in Indianapolis,” she said.

However, the initiative runs deeper than making phone calls and deliv-

ering packets, Oestreich said.

“The other part of this initiative ... that is just as important as contacting the hotels, is the prayer part of it,” she said.

On Jan. 11 — National Human Trafficking Awareness Day — the sisters held a prayer service at Saint Mary’s. The Sisters of the Holy Cross also sent information about this initiative to their fellow sisters around the world, so they could pray in solidarity.

Oestreich said the coalition also published a prayer card with an image of Saint Josephine Bakhita on its front. Bakhita was a victim of human trafficking herself.

“The sisters from these 11 congregations and a lot of others who joined with us from other places in the states and actually from around the world have been saying the prayer to end human trafficking every day from Jan. 12, and we’ll say it right up to Super Bowl Sunday,” she said.

Despite highlighting a more serious side of the Super Bowl, Oestreich said she wants all Super Bowl fans to have a fun time on Sunday.

“We’d really like for [the Super Bowl] to be a great event for Indianapolis and for the people who go, and we’d like them to have a real celebration without the exploitation that’s part of trafficking,” she said.

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Ace

continued from page 1

The relationship between Bishop Robert Lynch of the Diocese of St. Petersburg and Notre Dame also played a factor.

“Lynch has always been a great friend to the University and a big supporter of ACE,” Dallavis said. “He’s a great champion of Catholic schools.”

And y Shannon, principal of Sacred Heart, said despite recent efforts to combat low enrollment, the number of students at Sacred Heart remains far below its capacity.

“In K-8, we have 140 students,” Shannon said. “I could easily put another 100 students into my school... and be under

“We want to prepare kids for the economic and social mobility [that will] get them to a place where they can break the cycle of poverty.”

Christian Dallavis
Director of NDAA

standards for accreditation.”

Dallavis said the program would focus on bolstering enrollment, while increasing the quality of education.

“We want to prepare kids for the economic and social mobility [that will] get them to a place where they can break the cycle of poverty,” Dallavis said.

Dallavis said these schools will give students the skills they need to succeed by essentially being “college prep” elementary schools.

“We want to make sure that ... they get the message that we expect them to be prepared to go to college,” Dallavis said. “High school graduation and college attendance are critical to jobs in the current

economy, and [this trend] is only going to become more pronounced.”

Shannon said for his school, being offered the chance to

partner win Notre Dame is like winning the lottery.

“We realize how blessed we are by God to get this opportunity,” Shannon said. “It’s a game changer. It’s going to position us for future growth and development.”

Both schools will be under the jurisdiction of a board dedicated to facilitating their advancement, Shannon said. The schools will also benefit from the advice of a learning specialist and an advancement director.

“The learning specialist will work with both principals and teachers in both buildings ... to make our education the best it can be,” Shannon said. “The advancement director will help to raise significant funds, especially to get more students and more families into our schools.”

Though the will not be immediate, Shannon said the impact on the St. Joseph and Sacred Heart communities will undoubtedly be enormous.

“I think what it’s going to do for our families is give them a lot of hope,” he said. “I just think that hope is what a follower of Christ has to give out.”

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Super Bowl

continued from page 1

perience the events in Super Bowl Village, though they do not have tickets to the game.

“We’re going downtown for the concerts in Super Bowl village, like Darius Rucker, LMFAO and O.A.R., and they’re all free,” Carson said.

The concerts begin Thursday evening and continue through Sunday. Carson and Oliver said they expect Saturday night’s CMT Cross-

roads Pepsi Super Bowl Fan Jam concert to be the highlight of their weekend.

“We also somehow won tickets to the Crossroads concert at the Pepsi Coliseum with Steven Tyler and Carrie Underwood, so I’m really excited for that,” Oliver said.

Though they plan to visit Super Bowl village, Carson and Oliver said they will come back to South Bend in time to watch the game with other students.

Oliver, a Patriots fan, will be set against students like Polcari who will cheer for the Giants.

“I’m so excited for the Giants win,” she said.

Freshman Rachel Miceli, of Queens, New York, said her decision to cheer for the Giants was painful since her true loyalties lie with the New York Jets during the regular season.

“I usually hate the Giants, but not as much as I hate the Patriots,” Miceli said. “I guess it comes down to the Giants being a New York team, so I’m supporting them.”

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Dance

continued from page 1

choreographed specifically for the show.

Gorman said she hopes the DanceFest’s collaborative nature will entice students to attend one of this weekend’s performances.

“People don’t necessarily want to go to all the different dance shows, but this gives them a taste of the different companies in one sitting,” Gorman said. “Hopefully, attending one show will spark their interest, and they will recognize the impressiveness of dance.”

Gorman said though all the performers share an enthusiasm for dance, each group participating in DanceFest brings its own unique style to the show.

“When you see the dancers on stage, you can see their passion, and you can tell their having a great time dancing under the lights and having an audience to enjoy their performance,” Gorman said.

Sophomore Katie Fusco, a member of the TransPose modern dance company, said DanceFest builds a stronger campus arts culture for students.

“The chance to collaborate with all of the dance groups on campus is an

opportunity invaluable to fostering a supportive performing arts community at Notre Dame,” Fusco said.

Gorman said proceeds from the DanceFest will benefit the Robinson Community Center’s Summer Shakespeare Program in support of the performing

arts.

“We hope our efforts will give more kids the opportunity to express themselves artistically through the Shakespeare program,” Gorman said.

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Ads

continued from page 1

“For 46 years, the prices of Super Bowl ads have increased and decreased, it is based on how well the economy is doing during that year,” Williams said.

Williams said social media may also help the Super Bowl and its advertisements become international. As more countries become interested in the sport, they will also be entertained by its advertisements.

“For example, if the Su-

per Bowl goes international, beer companies will show beer in company names which American viewers will recognize, such as Miller Light,” Williams said.

Williams said companies are already getting feedback by viewers on their websites. Due to companies’ use of social media, however, viewers may ignore advertisements during the actual game after watching them weeks in advance, he said.

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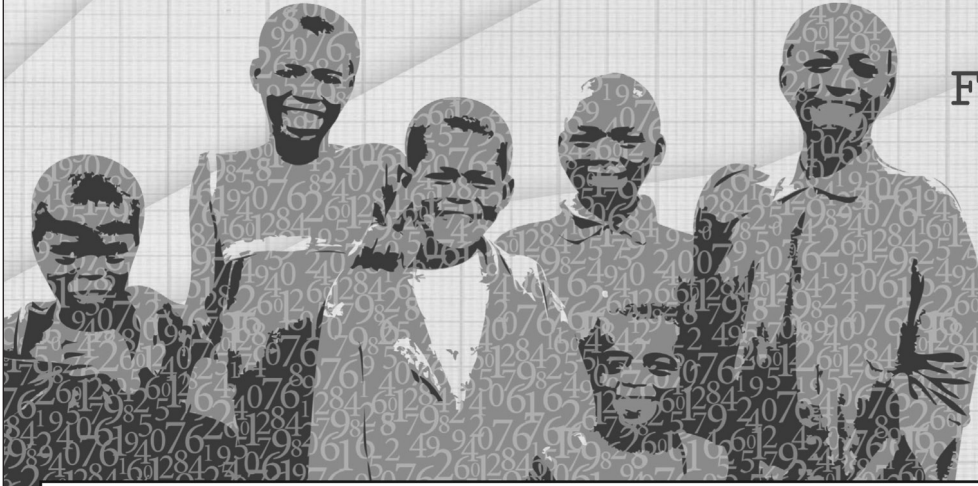
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Montgomery Theater, LaFortune Student Center | *Sunday, February 5 | 3:00 p.m.*
McKenna Hall Auditorium | *Monday, February 6 | 8:30 p.m.*

Dharma Master Hsin Tao

Transforming Self and the World—
A Story of Buddhist Spirituality
Sunday, February 5 | 7:00 p.m.

Bhai Sahib (Dr.) Bhai

Mohinder Singh Ahluwalia

The Story of A Sikh Luminary: Guru
Nanak Nishkam Sewak Jatha as an
Exemplar of Holiness
Monday, February 6 | 4:30 p.m.

Fr. Armand Veilleux, OCSO

Of Gods and Monks: The Story of the
Trappist Martyrs of Algiers
Monday, February 6 | 7:30 p.m.

Abdolrahim Gavahi, Ph.D.

Men of God - Symbols of Love and
Compassion: The Story of Ismael Dulabi,
A Contemporary Muslim Religious Healer
Tuesday, February 7 | 4:30 p.m.

Dalia Landau, Khader Al-Kalak, Yehezkel Landau

OPEN HOUSE: The Story of a Grassroots
Model for Promoting Reconciliation in
Israel/Palestine
Tuesday, February 7 | 7:30 p.m.

Details at ICL.ND.EDU

INSIDE COLUMN

Allegory of the cave

As many of you know, Plato's "Allegory of the Cave" is a part of Plato's larger dialogue, "The Republic." Many of you also know it is boring and unconnected to real life. I will now attempt to reinterpret the "Allegory" into terms any student can understand.

Plato's allegory begins with people who can't stand or turn their heads, essentially students who are in class or working vigorously at their desks. They are in a cave lit by artificial light — so if you've done homework in Fisher Hall you can definitely relate. Finally, they are watching shadows of statues of real things go by. This part is a little harder to relate, but there's a way to make sense of it: Plato considers these as representations of real things. Words and pictures, such as one might find in a textbook, are used to represent things in the real world. So, for our purposes, let's say they are looking at words and pictures in a textbook. Later in the Allegory (it applies here though, trust me), Plato mentions that the people in the cave have contests for naming the shadows and are given prizes for their skill in doing so. Students can think of the contests as exams and the prizes as grades. What do we have so far? We have students indoors, at their desks, reading their textbooks so they get good grades.

Plato then wants us to imagine one such individual is brought up out of the cave and into the outside world, which is equivalent to ... well this one is pretty obvious. This individual then can't bear to look up because of the brightness of the sun — so think early fall or late spring semester and you can no doubt sympathize. The individual can only bear to look at the reflections of real things in water and other mirrored surfaces. This can clearly be related to a trip to Notre Dame's wonderful lakes. Once the individual's eyes have adjusted they can ultimately look at the real things themselves. From the student perspective, this means you can play Ultimate Frisbee.

However, Plato is not finished. He says that the individual reaches "the good" when they look at the sun itself. First, a student may interpret "the good" as "the good life." The meaning of "good life" is clear to anyone familiar with the popular OneRepublic song of that title. Second, Plato's call to look at the sun cannot be taken literally (it would damage your retinas), so we students must interpret this as lying down (so as to face the sun) with our eyes closed. The second part of the Allegory has urged us to go outside, take a walk around the lakes, play on the quad and finally lie down with our iPods set on One Republic's "Good Life."

I can only conclude that since this University required me to read Plato's "Republic," it tacitly approve the message I have distilled: To pursue the best life, you must go outside to play and lay on the quad instead of studying at your desk to get good grades.

See you on the quad (in a month or two).

Contact Christian Myers at cmyers8@nd.edu

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



Christian Myers

News Writer

Where are our leaders?

You may remember freshman orientation, when administrators from Notre Dame tossed around figures about how many members of your class were sports captains, editors of publications or presidents of student government in high school. Suffice to say, the University likes to pride itself on recruiting leaders and churning them out even stronger than before.

To be sure, with 8,000 undergraduates at a top-flight research university, there certainly are a lot of leaders. But what happened Wednesday evening in the LaFortune Student Center, something that has been weeks coming, tells a different story — Notre Dame students may not quite be the leaders we imagine ourselves to be.

Student Senate rejected a recommendation by the Judicial Council to suspend next Wednesday's student body presidential election. The measure was proposed because juniors Brett Rocheleau and Katie Rose were the only official ticket approved by the Judicial Council.

The fact that student government ultimately decided we should have a student body president election is a good thing. It is disturbing to even imagine the suspension of elections was a viable option in the first place. Even if there is only one official choice, the student body should always have a venue to express its support or disapproval in an election. Thankfully, the privilege of choice was upheld.

However, the issue remains that this measure even came to a vote in the first place. The fact only one official ticket stepped forward is alarming. Complete and utter indifference from the undergraduate student body is unacceptable. This is Notre Dame — a school comprised of students who are leaders on this campus, and will go on to be leaders in whatever field they choose.

In this case, however, we came up short.

Students often complain about student government's perceived lack of action, but we are equally as guilty of such a charge. Here was the perfect opportunity to stand up, make our voice heard and do something — and we failed. What

does it say about our student body when among thousands of us, only two are able to identify themselves as worthy of such a role? Last year five tickets ran. What happened in a year that all of a sudden, no one wanted to fight to represent the student body?

It is hard, therefore, to take much issue with what student government does (or is perceived not to do) when no one wants to upset the status quo. Students can complain all they want about how they view student government, but it is a two-way street. Student government was not created to do amazing things for students with no strings attached — it was created as a voice

for our campus community to identify issues, solve problems and therefore advance our undergraduate lives. But when students don't want to use this voice, their ideas cannot be realized. The student body as a whole is at fault for not rising to the challenge.

Apathy is no excuse for dissatisfaction.

That isn't to say student government and the Judicial Council should get out of this with a free pass. It is hard to call the student body to action with only one or two bland emails advertising informational meetings during the hustle and bustle of the Christmas season, which most students probably relegated to their trash bin right away. Additionally, this process has been a long time coming. Even if both parties had the utmost faith in Rocheleau and Rose as leaders, it ultimately falls on their shoulders to make sure due process is followed — and it will not be. While they may have saved face by having the election, student government needs to realize that essentially promoting from within, without challenging other student leaders to step forward and identify themselves, cannot fly.

Wednesday will be like any other day at the University. Students will go to classes, practices and meetings as usual. The one difference is we will be voting to identify two of our peers to represent our student body. And as much as we are choosing them, these past few days and weeks we have made an even bigger statement — we don't identify ourselves as worthy of tackling the challenge.

THE OBSERVER Editorial

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Sports leagues of America: find balance, don't contract

Chris Masoud brings up two topics of deep debate in the sports world in his Feb. 2 Sports Authority piece. Contracts and competition are important issues to the fan who is both entertained by the competitiveness of the team and whose dollar pays the salaries of the players in front of him. Having determined this, contraction will never be the right answer because it hinders the potential for cities that deserve teams.

Beginning in the 80s and continuing through the early 2000s, sports leagues in America became obsessed with the term "footprint." They all moved to the South because the Atlanta Braves were the only non-football show in town, and the leagues wanted to cover more cities. So through expansion and moving of historic teams, these leagues decided to make one sport town into five sports towns. No offense to you Floridians, but every league overloaded the state with teams that are perennial cellar dwellers in the attendance category. There were signs that expanding just to get a footprint was and remains a bad idea. In 2001, the Miami Fusion and Tampa Bay Mutiny of Major League Soccer fame closed the doors due to a combination of poor fan support and mismanagement. Other leagues should have seen this as a sign that when you take your talents to South Beach, you better be able to be able to become a member of the community. This means that the team is seen more as an entertainment piece. The team has to be embraced as an institution.

MLS and NHL have come to realize this in recent years. Over 37,000 fans file into CenturyLink Field to watch the "three year old" Seattle Sounders FC, Timbers Army and the Sons of Ben fill an entire end of their stadiums to watch the Timbers and Union play, and Winnipeg has welcomed back the Jets as if they never left. These teams were brought into the fray of top level leagues, not because the city provided ample viewers, but because the sport and the fans help create a culture where it's not just another entertainment event.

I say move the teams that do little for the sport. Move them to cities like Hartford, Quebec City, etc. — cities that want the team to be their face. You don't solve a broken arm by cutting it off, rather you align it to where it should be and help the healing. That is the way the sports leagues of America should approach these unsupported teams.

Tim Staub
junior
Dillon Hall
Feb. 2

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"One's dignity may be assaulted, vandalized and cruelly mocked, but cannot be taken away unless it is surrendered."

Michael J. Fox
U.S. actor

Submit a Letter to the Editor

Email obsviewpoint@gmail.com

WHAT'S THE BEST PART OF THE SUPER BOWL?

The advertisements	58% (53)
The food	23% (21)
The uniforms	2% (2)
The rivalry	16% (15)

total number of votes: 91

Perspective

Men would not be free, Denis Diderot quipped, until the last king was strangled with the entrails of the last priest.

In hindsight, this was an exaggeration.

In 1401, the Florentine Guild of Cloth Importers held a competition to determine who would design the new east doors to the Baptistery. The two finalists were Filippo Brunelleschi and Lorenzo Ghiberti, each of whom had submitted a single panel, cast in bronze, depicting the Sacrifice of Isaac. Though the Guild pronounced the contest a tie and asked the two winners to collaborate on the new doors, Brunelleschi was furious at the suggestion that he was merely equal to Ghiberti; giving up sculpture entirely, he left for Rome to study architecture.

Brunelleschi eventually returned to Florence and, in 1418, defeated Ghiberti in the competition to design the dome — which would dwarf any before attempted — of the Basilica of Saint Mary of the Flower, the cathedral across the street from the Baptistery. In the meantime, however, the Renaissance had begun.

The reason is as much philosophical as it is artistic. Despite its depth, Brunelleschi's bronze panel is designed as though it were flat: it shows Abra-

ham, Isaac and the angel as though we were looking at them from the side — almost as though in the abstract. Ghiberti's bronze panel, on the other hand, shows the characters from the angles at which we would actually see them if we looked at them in the concrete: it shows the angel flying toward us while Isaac, his body twisted in space, looks back at it.

Regardless of the indecision of the Guild of Cloth Importers, Ghiberti saw something that Brunelleschi did not. For the panel of Ghiberti, unlike that of Brunelleschi, employs perspective — the recognition that the point from which we look at things determines how they appear to us: we see things, he realized, not as they are in themselves but rather only as they are conditioned by how we look at them. The Renaissance discovered we are even more limited than we realized: we have, it seems, eaten of the Tree of Knowledge no more than of the Tree of Life.

But this insight is not limited to art. Far from seeing the orbits of the planets as they are in reality, Nicolaus Copernicus realized, we see them only as they appear from our perspective here on Earth: the planets seem to circle Earth only because we are ourselves on Earth. But Earth is not the center of things: we see things, as it were, from a funny

angle — just as Ghiberti shows Isaac and the angel from a funny angle.

In physics, of course, perspective is called relativity. Indeed, the Scientific Revolution came into its own when Galileo Galilei asserted that what we see is not absolute motion but rather only relative motion — motion, that is, toward or away from us, toward or away from our perspective. Galileo realized that there is neither absolute position nor absolute direction — just as, three centuries later, Einstein realized that there is neither absolute distance nor absolute duration: position and direction, distance and duration, are the products of our interaction with the world, not aspects of the world itself.

This insight is not limited to theory. For once one realizes that how one experiences the world is the product of what one brings to that experience, much that once seemed beyond question suddenly seems to be no more than prejudice. No medieval could have faced the sort of existential crisis that every modern risks: that men and women were meant for salvation was, in that age, overwhelmingly obvious — was indeed so far below the threshold of doubt as to make it difficult to even articulate the alternative. With perspective, however, came the worry — one that drove the world mad — that the purposes that one sees in the

world are not in the world at all — that they are the product not of perception but rather of confusion.

Or, perhaps, of indoctrination. That men and women were meant for salvation — were meant, that is, to play the roles in kingdom and congregation assigned to them — began to look suspiciously like an invention of the kings and priests who assigned those roles. The Age of Revolution and the Reformation were sparked, ultimately, by the conviction that neither kings nor priests have a privileged perspective upon what is best for us — just as capitalism presupposes that there is no value to things beyond how much we happen to want them.

That kings still breathe and priests still digest is a red herring; we have freed ourselves — paradoxically, by renouncing our hope to transcend the limitations of our perspective. It takes no special brilliance to see that this renunciation has left a yawning emptiness within us — one that has, periodically, threatened to destroy us. But that is a story for another time.

Daniel John Sportiello is in his fourth year in the philosophy Ph.D. program. He can be reached at dsportie@nd.edu. The views expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dignity in contraception

I am writing in response to “Contraception and Dignity,” published on Jan. 31. Although I understand and sympathize with the Catholic Church's stance on contraception, I found this article offensive. The argument put forth by Notre Dame Right to Life, that women who use contraception lack “dignity,” is both narrow-minded and dangerous.

Notre Dame Right to Life should not have to resort to name-calling to make its stance clear on the subject of contraception, and should not expect to be able to publish such a Letter to the Editor without backlash. Notre Dame is an artificial safe haven for such rhetoric; this language would not be tolerated outside of Notre Dame's campus. People throughout the United States and across the globe use condoms and contraception to protect themselves and their loved ones in a variety of difficult circumstances that include, but are not limited to: protecting against consequences of domestic violence and rape, preventing the spread of HIV and other

STDs and ensuring that they can feed the children that they already have. These people are not undignified. In fact, they are actively taking steps to improve their situation with bravery and dignity.

The Catholic Church and Notre Dame Right to Life may oppose the use of family planning techniques, but such a general condemnation of the characters of the men and women who choose to use contraception is inappropriately judgmental. Notre Dame students should not tolerate this kind of broad rhetoric in further discussions about contraception.

Emily Bieniek
junior
off-campus
Feb. 2

Joel Moore
junior
St. Edward's Hall
Feb. 2

A woman's dignity

Dear Christopher Damian, Andrew Lynch, and Samantha Stempky:

I'm sure that I speak for many of my fellow Catholic women in saying that I found your letter in The Observer to be both insulting and upsetting. I take very serious offense in being told that, by choosing to take birth control, I have somehow made myself less of a woman and have sacrificed my dignity.

It is very discouraging that there are still people who believe that a woman's dignity is somehow tied to her ability and desire to produce children. Why shouldn't my dignity be evaluated on my intelligence? On my determination and drive? On my kindness and loyalty? Who I am as a person is not in any way related to the reproductive state of my uterus.

I also take issue with how you described what I believe to be a responsible and healthy choice. As a law student, I am in no position to be raising a child and have chosen to save that responsibility until I will be able to provide (both emotionally and financially) for a family.

I have not “sterilized” myself, nor

have I “[destroyed my] body's power to bring forth life.” I have simply deferred the process until a time at which it would be responsible and healthy for all involved. This is an idea endorsed, I believe, in the Church's teaching of Natural Family Planning.

The most disturbing part of your letter, however, was in the statement that, as a woman on birth control, I am “sexually available to any man.” This is insulting and more disturbing than I can even begin to express. I am “sexually available” to the man (or men) I choose. Period. The thought that “any man” now has access to my body simply because I am on birth control is dangerous, demeaning and incredibly infuriating.

My decision to take birth control has not made me “less,” it has not sterilized me and it certainly has not given control of my body to anyone but me.

On behalf of all Catholic women, I would urge you to remember that.

Anne Reser
Class of 2011
Charlottesville, VA
Feb. 2

A (brief) case for contraception

There has recently been a lot of discussion about contraception and the Catholic Church's teachings. I wish to continue the discussion about the use of contraception started in “Contraception and dignity” by Mr. Damian, Mr. Lynch, and Ms. Stempky.

Firstly, the claim that sex with contraception somehow makes the intimacy less genuine, less fulfilling and less meaningful, is debatable. Sex with contraception can allow the partners to have a more intimate and meaningful experience. What if a married couple is not currently in a position to take up the responsibilities of raising a child? They would be free to take their intimacy to its deepest levels without worrying about an unintended pregnancy. If you are using Natural Family Planning to avoid an unintended pregnancy, how is that any different than using a contraceptive, so long as the couple is not going to terminate an unintended pregnancy? Using contraceptives allows people to focus on the intimacy of a moment.

Secondly, I strongly disagree with the claim that contraception destroys a woman's dignity. Contraceptives empower women and give them the ability to make a choice in her creative gifts. Without female contraceptives, a man has all the control (even if God plays a part in the creation of a child, the sperm still has to fertilize an egg) in the creation of a child. Contraceptives give women the ability to pursue careers and develop other natural talents that would be hindered by having to raise a large family.

Finally, all people make poor decisions, or put themselves in positions of making poor decisions. On a college campus, students who drink heavily are more likely to make poor decisions that they might not have made had they been sober. Contraception is one tool that helps prevent a poor decision, such as hooking up, from becoming a life-altering event. Does this mean that contraception encourages promiscuity? Maybe. But isn't it better to prevent an unintended pregnancy than to put two students in the difficult position of raising a child that they aren't ready to have?

John Galeziewski
junior
Siegfried Hall
Feb. 2

SNOOP BRINGS PEACE, LOVE AND SOUL TO SOUTH BEND



G. MATTHEW SAAD/The Observer

By MARY CLAIRE O'DONNELL
Scene Writer

For years, I heard students bemoan the lack of good concerts at Notre Dame. When Wiz Khalifa or T.I. perform at friends' schools, students gnash teeth and wail about the lack of big names in South Bend.

And then Snoop Dogg came to Club Fever. For the second year in a row.

And don't worry, all you underclassmen too young to get into Fever — he promised he would come back to South Bend any time.

Snoop put on a fantastic concert at Club Fever on Wednesday night in front of a full crowd of South Bend natives and a few Notre Dame students.

Two local DJs opened for him, putting on a good show of house rap and R&B tracks, but the crowd was really waiting for the headliner.

Unfortunately, it took Snoop an hour to come on stage after the opening act left.

This would have been forgivable, had an emcee not come out frequently to announce Snoop's arrival in 15 minutes. But he more than made up for the wait.

To open his show, Snoop performed songs from his early albums.

He and his group all sported Notre Dame swag, from visors to pinnies. Snoop himself even wore a green Dayne Crist jersey, as well as some black sunglasses.

Nasty Dog, his animal mascot, however, was not in Irish gear.

The best part of Snoop's ensemble, though, was his microphone. Emblazoned across a golden background were diamonds, laid out to spell Snoop Dogg in cursive. His name, reflecting the lights of the stage, shone across the room, visible even to those at the back near the bar.

Although Snoop has been on the music scene for about 20 years, he still gave a fantastic performance.

He dedicated his show to peace, love and soul. He went on to punctuate his raps with running commentary, asking

how the crowd was doing and commenting on his favorite illicit substances. He kept the crowd's mood — and hands — up throughout his entire set.

A highlight of his first half hour was "Gin and Juice," which he called his anthem to adolescence.

As his one-hour set progressed, though, Snoop appealed to the younger, radio-conscious crowd with some of his newer hits.

Akon may not have been with him, but he still performed "I Wanna Love You," letting his backup dancers have the stage during Akon's parts. At times he also showcased his own fantastic dancing.

Throughout the show, Snoop dedicated quite a few songs to the sexy and single ladies in the crowd.

Near the end of his set, he even took his shades off so that he could sing "Sensual Seduction" to a woman in the front row who requested it. He kept the glasses off for the rest of the night, finishing his set with "That's That Sh**," a cover of "Jump

Around" and "Drop It Like It's Hot."

The best two songs of the night were the final two. After reminding the crowd of just who he was with "Who I Am (What's My Name)," Snoop demanded crowd participation, which was more than freely given.

And his final song truly encapsulated the feeling of the crowd. As every person in attendance sang along to "Young, Wild and Free," the crowd felt alive, utter joy coursing through their bodies.

Snoop's concert was everything that a concert should be. Yes, the crowd had to wait very impatiently for him to go on, but it was worth it.

One substantial downside, however, was the ticket price, which deterred a lot of people who wanted to attend.

But Snoop was worth the tight, smoky quarters at Fever. Don't miss him next time he comes to town.

Contact Mary Claire O'Donnell at
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ELISA DE CASTRO/Observer Graphic





Fashion, as we true enthusiasts know, is universal. It crosses seemingly impenetrable boundaries.

Likewise, here at Notre Dame, we are lucky enough to belong to a student body with representatives from every part of the international scene.

With this spirit in mind, how can we not combine the forces of fashion and student perspective for a greater good?

I interviewed our first fashion ambassador Yitong Zheng, a senior and a proud young Chinese woman.

Commenting on the differences between American and Chinese fashion, and sharing style notes, Yitong opens our eyes to the cool Chinese fashion aesthetic and the global fashion forces at work on our very own campus.

FbyF: So, Yitong, what were your style influences growing up in China?

YZ: Well, high school is generally when you start developing your own style. At boarding school for five days a week you hang out with your friends, read a lot of fashion magazines and start to cultivate that “daredevil” sense of young fashion.

You move away from the more conservative generation of your parents’ style, and in China there’s a lot of Western style influence, so we definitely adapt that as well.

FbyF: What do you think is unique to Chinese Fashion?

YZ: There’s a huge sense of “dressing neutral,” and androgyny in Chinese fashion. Men have a more feminine aesthetic, girls dress very boyish. This is definitely not something, especially for men, that you would see here on campus and in the States.

Likewise, there is a “cuteness,” meaning absorbing different influences from all over Asia into a young anime, naive and happy aesthetic.



Felicia Caponigri

Scene Writer

You can see this in the many colorful and character-driven accessories that a range of Chinese women embrace, from teenagers to early 30-year-olds.

Also, the use of parasols is indicative of a different sense of beauty. Here in the States, tan means beautiful, in China, a lighter, paler skin tone is the most desirable.

FbyF: What was the most surprising fashion impression you had when you arrived at Notre Dame for your freshman year?

YZ: I was so surprised by how casually people dress to go to class, and then how dressed up they would get to go out to evening events, almost as if they were changing into a different person.

In China, you never wear sweatpants out of the house. After a 16 hour flight back to China the summer after my freshman year, I got off the plane in sweatpants and my mother asked me how I could wear those in public.

The private and public spheres are much more delineated. In China, students get more dressed up for class, but they dress down for evening events.

FbyF: So have you changed your overall Fashion since being at Notre Dame?

YZ: Yes, I’m more concerned about my formal wear when I’m in China. And I’m more casual to go to class at Notre Dame and overall. Also, before, I would wear much more anime items like in China, but now I wear them less.

FbyF: Have you noticed a general change in the dress of other students from China?

YZ: Yes, I think overall the fashion is more Americanized, but we still bring the animated, fun quality of China style into our everyday aesthetic.

Contact Felicia Caponigri at fcaponig@nd.edu

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



Senior Yitong Zheng



Photo courtesy of pn.cn

P1 Street Fashion in Urban China



Disclaimer: For the sake of full disclosure, the author of this column wants the reader to know that she is someone who read Kevin Noonan’s article in Wednesday’s Observer, “Guide to watching that big football thing with all the funny commercials,” and thought, “Wow, those are great ways to fake my interest/knowledge/expertise on the Super Bowl!”

What follows is my naïve assessment of the challenging, heart-breaking, dire situation Peyton Manning must face as Indianapolis is swarmed by fans of his enemy, determined to claim a Patriots victory on Peyton’s home turf.

For the first time in the history of the great city known as Indianapolis, a teeny, tiny, barely noticeable event will take place on its freshly primed grounds.

For all intents and purposes, we’ll call this weekend’s Super Bowl game “This Could’ve Been Yours, Peyton Manning.”

On Sunday evening, Peyton’s baby bro Eli and unfortunately good-looking nemesis Tom Brady will face off in the year’s biggest sporting event.

Peyton will once again watch from the seats at Lucas Oil Stadium, as he has the entire season. A neck injury sidelined him for the year and any chance the Colts had of playing the Super Bowl in their very own stadium rapidly melted away.

The Colts’ year has been, to put it nicely, less than laudatory.

The only exciting part of their 2-14 record is that the numbers, coincidentally, are my birthday. As much as I appreciate the gesture, I’m selfless enough to sacrifice it if it means Pats fans would stay off Indy’s hallowed ground.

As the New York Giants and the New England Patriots swarm the

city, the monumental pain the Colts must feel is obvious. After two Super Bowl showings in the past six years, the possibility of playing in this year’s championship wasn’t too outlandish ... until Peyton got injured.

On the bright side, at least Peyton’s family will be around to keep him company this weekend. Though their attention will likely focus on their other progeny Eli, at least they can share a burger and beverage with their eldest son.

I hear Paula Deen will be at the pregame party — she’ll surely raise both Peyton’s spirits and cholesterol.

Though attention this weekend should really focus on the two teams duking it out for the trophy, Peyton can’t seem to find his way out of the spotlight.

As both he and Indianapolis Colts owner Jim Irsay have tried to turn attention to the actual sporting event about to take place, the media won’t leave the question of Peyton’s future alone.

Controversy has surrounded the Colts quarterback since fans realized his neck injury might complicate his contract with the Indianapolis team. ESPN reported Thursday that Peyton was medically cleared to resume his NFL career, but his fate in Indianapolis remains unclear.

Irsay has also been in the spotlight recently as onlookers have watched tense moments between him and the franchise quarterback play out.

With the recent firing of head coach Jim Caldwell and general manager Bill Polian, people wonder whose head will land on the chopping block next.

The Colts are expected to add former Stanford quarterback Andrew Luck to the team in April, which casts suspicion on the future role Peyton might have with the team.

Poor Peyton not only has to deal with recovering from an injury and wondering about his future; this weekend, he will also be forced to watch the conniving and contriving Patriots attempt to destroy another Manning.

Peyton, Indianapolis Colts fans feel for you. For the challenges you face this week, you win the award for Worst Week Ever.

Contact Adriana Pratt at apratt@nd.edu

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



Adriana Pratt

Assistant Managing Editor



AP

SPORTS AUTHORITY

Amping up the drama: series and relegation

One of the best things about sports is the drama it occasionally produces. Few things cause as much joy and pain at the same moment as the result of an exceptionally close sporting event. So as grand master of all that is sport, why wouldn't I want to increase the drama?



Eric Prister
Senior Sports Writer

Football is already one of the most dramatic sports, so little needs to be changed there. In fact, football will be the basis on which I increase the drama in the other sports.

The NFL's 16-game schedule nearly always produces close races that come down to the last week of the season. Even more dramatic is the college football season, where one loss can cost a team the chance at a championship. So how to best duplicate this drama in sports where the regular season seems more like teams are going through the motions?

The NBA is a prime example — an 82-game schedule when more than half the teams make the playoffs keeps things about as exciting as a football game that ends 9-6. Teams take games off and the best teams in the league know almost before the season starts that they'll make the playoffs.

But what if that season was shrunk to 20 games? The excitement would certainly increase. But 20 games is a terrible sample size for basketball games. So instead of 20 games, I would make the NBA season a set of 20 five-game series. That means teams can play anywhere from 60 to 100 games per season, and must beat a team three times in five tries to earn a win.

Because the playoffs would be decided by a team's record in its series rather than its games, each would be important. Teams that are successful

would have a shot at more rest because they could finish a series in three rather than five games.

The MLB could institute a similar process. Teams would play 25 seven-game series, more against teams in their division and none against teams from the opposite league (dissolving interleague play). Each game becomes more important because it is, for all intents and purposes, part of a seven-game season. And the series are each important because they are a part of a 25-game season.

In addition to the new schedule-type, I would set up a relegation system similar to the one the English Premier League uses. It would split each of the "big-four" professional sports leagues in half, and the bottom teams from the upper division would be in danger of losing their spots to the top teams in the lower division. This makes sure that almost every team is playing the entire season, either for a playoff spot or to keep themselves from being relegated.

Drama is what makes sports great. A last second 3-pointer, a two-minute drill touchdown drive and a bottom of the ninth walk-off home run are some of the most dramatic

and exciting moments in life to witness. Changing schedules and creating relegation systems serve only to increase this drama.

But one type of drama needs to be avoided at all costs — the type of drama created by talking heads on television

stations that provide 24-hour sports coverage. We need to avoid drama manufactured by people screaming and making predictions for the sake of drama. And for this reason, as my last act as grand master of all that is sport, I would make a decree that Skip Bayless is no longer allowed to speak in public. Ever again.

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

Contact Eric Prister at eprister@nd.edu

ND WOMEN'S TENNIS

Irish face ranked foes in Tennessee

By VICKY JACOBSEN
Sports Writer

The Irish face a stiff test this weekend as they travel to Tennessee to take on two top-20 teams.

No. 21 Notre Dame (4-1, 1-0 Big East) will play No. 19 Tennessee (2-2) in Knoxville, Tenn. on Friday before heading to Nashville for a 12 p.m. match-up with No. 17 Vanderbilt (6-2) on Sunday.

"We're playing two top-20 teams on the road, so it's going to be a big weekend for us," Irish coach Jay Louderback said. "They're both ranked ahead of us, so it's a crucial weekend for us after losing to Yale last weekend."

Louderback said neither team has any obvious weaknesses to take advantage of.

"They're both well-coached; they're very good," Louderback said. "Their singles are good, their doubles are good, they really don't have any holes in their line-up, so they're going to be tough matches for us."

The Volunteers qualified for the ITA National Indoor championship last weekend by knocking out UC Davis (1-3) and No. 22 Tulsa (3-1) at home. This is the third consecutive season Tennessee has qualified for the tournament.

The Volunteers clinched their ticket to the ITA National Indoors with a point from freshman Sarah Toti, who was named the SEC Freshman of the Week on Wednesday. Toti is 8-5 in singles



GRACE KENESEY/The Observer

Freshman Katherine White prepares to serve during a dual match in Eck Tennis Pavilion on Jan. 22.

and 15-3 in doubles play on the season. She and her doubles partner, sophomore Brynn Boren, are ranked No. 18 in the country and have won their last seven matches. Irish seniors Kristy Frilling and Shannon Mathews lost to Toti and Boren at the Riviera/ITA All-American Championships last October.

The Irish lost to No. 35 Yale (1-1) before winning their consolation match against No. 40 Maryland (1-2) in an ITA qualifying tournament last weekend. Mathews shined in the matches, winning both of her singles matches and splitting her doubles matches against the

Bulldogs and the Terrapins. She played in the No. 1 position for the first time this season in her singles match against No. 26 Cristina Stancu, a Maryland sophomore, winning 6-2, 6-4. Mathews's hard work did not go unnoticed, as she was named the Big East Women's Tennis Player of the Week this week.

The Irish begin play against Tennessee at 4 p.m. Friday and go on to play against Vanderbilt at 12 p.m. Sunday.

Contact Vicky Jacobsen at vjacobse@nd.edu

MEN'S TENNIS

ND to visit Wake Forest and Duke

By WALKER CAREY
Sports Writer

The Irish will be back in action this weekend as they travel to North Carolina to take on a pair of ACC squads.

Notre Dame (4-2) faces Wake Forest (4-1) Friday before making the short trip to Durham, N.C., to face Duke (3-0) Sunday. Irish coach Bobby Bayliss said Notre Dame's unfamiliarity with Wake Forest might present a challenge in Friday evening's match. "The interesting thing about [Wake Forest] is that we have not played them in awhile," Bayliss said. "All its personnel is new, so we have no experience against any of its players. We have some solid scouting reports that have helped us prepare, but it should be interesting when we actually get out and play."

Bayliss said the Wake Forest tennis facility and night-match surroundings should lead to a great atmosphere at the contest.

"[Wake Forest] has a really great facility," Bayliss said. "The bounce is a little more pronounced than

at our facility. They have a bit more rubber on the court, so points are probably going to be slightly faster. It will be interesting to see what the environment will be like for the night match. I would imagine there will be a good crowd and I would expect the crowd to be slightly animated."

Bayliss said the Wake Forest match would be key for momentum before heading to play No. 10 Duke on Sunday.

"It would be really nice to head into Duke coming off a win," Bayliss said. "Getting the victory before going to Duke would provide us with a little spark and that would be good to have when facing a very talented team."

In contrast to their unfamiliarity with Wake Forest, the Irish are familiar with Duke and its personnel.

"We have seen [Duke] and its guys a few times," Bayliss said. "[Duke] is a very strong team and are led by a very good player in junior Henrique Cunha at No. 1 singles. We have never beaten [Cunha] before, but we are looking forward to the challenge that he and the rest of the team presents."

Though the North Carolina teams

offer different challenges, Bayliss said the strategy is quite simple for the Irish to win both matches this weekend.

"We just need to play really well," he said. "We are facing two quality opponents who we know will be ready to play, so we have to be on top of our guys. I know we are capable of it, so it should be interesting to watch."

Besides coming away with two victories, Bayliss said he would like to see the Irish doubles play to improve this weekend.

"Getting better doubles play is definitely very important," he said.

"We have been working on it this week because getting that point is such significant momentum going into singles play. I want to see our doubles play improve because it will help our team as a whole improve." The Irish travel to Winston-Salem, N.C. to square off with Wake Forest Friday night before heading to Durham, N.C. to take on Duke on Sunday afternoon.

Contact Walker Carey at wcarey@nd.edu

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YOUR SONG

by Elton John
It's a little bit funny this feeling

inside
I'm not one of those who can easily hide
I don't have much money but boy if I did
I'd buy a big house where we both could live

If I was a sculptor, but then again, no
Or a man who makes potions in a travelling show
I know it's not much but it's the

best I can do

My gift is my song and this one's for you

And you can tell everybody this is your song
It may be quite simple but now that it's done
I hope you don't mind
I hope you don't mind that I put down in words
How wonderful life is while you're in the world

I sat on the roof and kicked off the moss

Well a few of the verses well they've got me quite cross
But the sun's been quite kind while I wrote this song
It's for people like you that keep it turned on

So excuse me forgetting but these things I do
You see I've forgotten if they're green or they're blue
Anyway the thing is what I really mean

Yours are the sweetest eyes I've ever seen

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

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SMC SWIMMING AND DIVING

Belles close regular season against Albion



Observer File Photo

Belles freshman Julianne Divine competes in the 100-yard breaststroke in a 152-50 win over Defiance on Nov. 12.

By JOE WIRTH
Sports Writer

With only one meet remaining before the all-important MIAA championships, the Belles have only a short time to hit their stride as they host conference rival Albion.

Belles coach Mark Benishek said he has high hopes for the contest.

"My expectation are the same for all our meets," Benishek said. "I want to see my swimmers swim their fastest and never give up on themselves or their teammates."

The Belles (1-6, 0-5 MIAA) were defeated by Alma and Calvin in their last competition two weeks ago and have not raced competitively since. Despite the defeats, there were some individual bright spots for Saint Mary's. Performances from upperclassmen have been a strong point all season for the Belles, and senior Megan Price and junior Kristyn Gerbeth continued that trend in the Calvin and Alma meet. Price had two second-place finishes in 1000- and 500-meter freestyle, while Gerbeth stood out with a second-place finish in the 100-meter

butterfly with a time of 1:03.71.

The Belles need another strong performance from the upperclassmen against Albion to garner some momentum going into the season-ending meet. Benishek said he counts on his senior leaders to set the course for the rest of the team going into big meets.

“Our senior leadership has been a strong point all year. [Senior swimmers] Katie Donovan, Megan Price and Audrey Dalrymple have all had strong performances,” Benishek said. “Their senior leadership has been great and they have backed it up with strong swims. We know we can always count on them for motivation.”

The Britons (1-3, 1-3 MIAA) are coming off a loss against Calvin in a conference meet, but pose a definite challenge for Saint Mary's. Although Albion's record is not formidable, the Belles have only defeated them once since 2005.

The meet will take place at 1 p.m. Saturday at the Rolfs Aquatic Center on Notre Dame's campus.

**Contact Joe Wirth at
jwirth@nd.edu**

Olivet

continued from page 16

play to this point," Belles senior guard Patsy Mahoney said.

The Belles have already faced off against Olivet (6-14, 4-7) once this season, taking a 67-54 decision on Jan. 7.

Senior forward Kelley Murphy led the Belles in the January contest, scoring 15 points and securing 10 rebounds as Saint Mary's led from start to finish in a dominant conference win. Mahoney and fellow senior guard Maggie Ronan also finished that game in double digits in scoring.

"To be successful on Saturday we need to do the little things right consistently," Mahoney said. "We need to play team defense, talk, box out, and have efficient offensive possessions."

Saint Mary's hopes it can rely on its seniors to mimic their previous success against the Comets come Saturday.

The Belles will need to cool off a Comets team that has been hot as of late, having won three of their past four contests. Olivet has averaged 66.3 points per game in the wins, almost 14 points-per-game better than their season average.

“Going into this final stretch, we are motivated to leave everything on the court,” Mahoney said. “With five seniors realizing their collegiate career is quickly coming to an end, we are willing to do everything we possibly can to play as long as possible.”

Saint Mary's will take the court against Olivet on Saturday at 3 p.m.

**Contact Nick Boyle at
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ND Women’s SWIMMING AND DIVING

Irish to close season against Ball State



GRANT TOBIN/The Observer

Sophomore Mikelle Masciantonio swims in the 100-yard breaststroke in a home meet against Michigan State on Jan. 21. The Irish won 218-82.

By BRIAN HARTNETT
Sports Writer

The Irish will look to close out the regular season with a strong showing when they travel to Muncie, Ind., to face in-state opponent Ball State on Saturday. Notre Dame (5-6) comes off a solid second-place performance at last weekend’s Shamrock Invitational. On their way to four victories, the Irish defeated Iowa 201-169, but could not get past Ohio State, falling to the Buckeyes by a score of 214-147. The Irish will face tough competition in Ball State (9-3), a team that began its season with victories in its first nine events, including victories in the IUPUI House of Champions Invitational and the Doug Coers Invitational. The Cardinals have struggled recently though, dropping their last three dual-meets and faltering against in-conference competition. A core of strong young swim-

mers leads Ball State, including sophomore Haley Richter, sophomore Bridgette Ruehl, sophomore Emily Wisolek and freshman Carlena Magley. Richter and Ruehl have already made impacts this season, as Richter holds the fourth fastest time in the 100-meter fly in the Mid-American Conference (MAC) this year and Ruehl currently has the third-fastest time in the conference for the 100-meter breaststroke. The Cardinals also feature senior divers Whitney Adams and Christina Riordan, who should challenge the Irish diving squad. Notre Dame will continue to look for the productivity shown by the team in its last two meets, which included last week’s second-place finish and the team’s Jan. 21 thrashing of Michigan State. Instrumental to Notre Dame’s success in the last few meets has been sophomore Kelly Ryan, who won four events against Michi-

gan State and picked up second-place finishes in the 100-meter and 200-meter freestyle events last weekend. The Irish have also picked up top-notch performances from freshman Emma Reaney, who won both the 200-meter breaststroke and 200 IM last weekend and swam NCAA B-Cut times in two races. In addition, the Irish diving team will look for another victorious effort from junior diver Jenny Chiang, who won the 3-meter dive and was the runner-up in the 1-meter dive last weekend. This meet marks the final competition of the regular season for Notre Dame. The Irish will follow up the meet with the Big East Diving championships, held from Feb. 10 to Feb. 12, and the Big East Swimming championships, held from Feb. 15 to Feb. 18.

Contact Brian Hartnett at
bhartnet@nd.edu

DePaul

continued from page 16

vereaux Peters’ recent tear on the glass. Peters has had at least 15 rebounds in her last three games, including a career-high 17 against Rutgers on Tuesday. Peters is only the second player in Notre Dame’s history to accomplish such a feat.

The Blue Demons could challenge Notre Dame’s stingy defense as well. DePaul ranks behind only the Irish and No. 3 Connecticut in conference scoring average. Notre Dame has been able to keep its opponents well below their season averages this season. The Irish held Rutgers, which averages 57.6 points per game, to 41 points Monday.

McGraw said the Irish do not scout each team specifically to pick out exploitable weaknesses. Rather, they have a daily commitment to being the best defensive team they can be.

“We take a lot of pride in our defense,” McGraw said. “We hold teams under their average, and we are in the top five in the nation in steals. We really like to play good pressure defense so we can get some easy transition baskets.”

Notre Dame’s offense has been in a groove this season as well. The Irish lead the conference in points per game, margin of victory, free throw percentage and field

goal percentage. Ignited by a fast pace offense due to junior guard Skylar Diggins, the Irish can get out, run and put teams away early. McGraw is hesitant, however, to say that her team has peaked. She said there is a lot of work to be done. “We continue to put new things in so that there’s always something new for them to look forward to at practice,” McGraw said.

There is a balance that must be struck between challenging the players in the gym every day and keeping them fresh during the grueling Big East season, McGraw said. The Irish did not practice Thursday to give the team a break. “We try to give them a lot of time off so we can keep them fresh physically and mentally,” she said.

Even with a huge rematch with the Huskies in Storrs, Conn., looming on the horizon, McGraw said that it has not been a challenge to keep the Irish focused on each game. “This is a team that is focused on every game,” McGraw said. “I think we know anything can happen in the Big East. Every game is a tough one. They’ve been really good at just looking at the next game.”

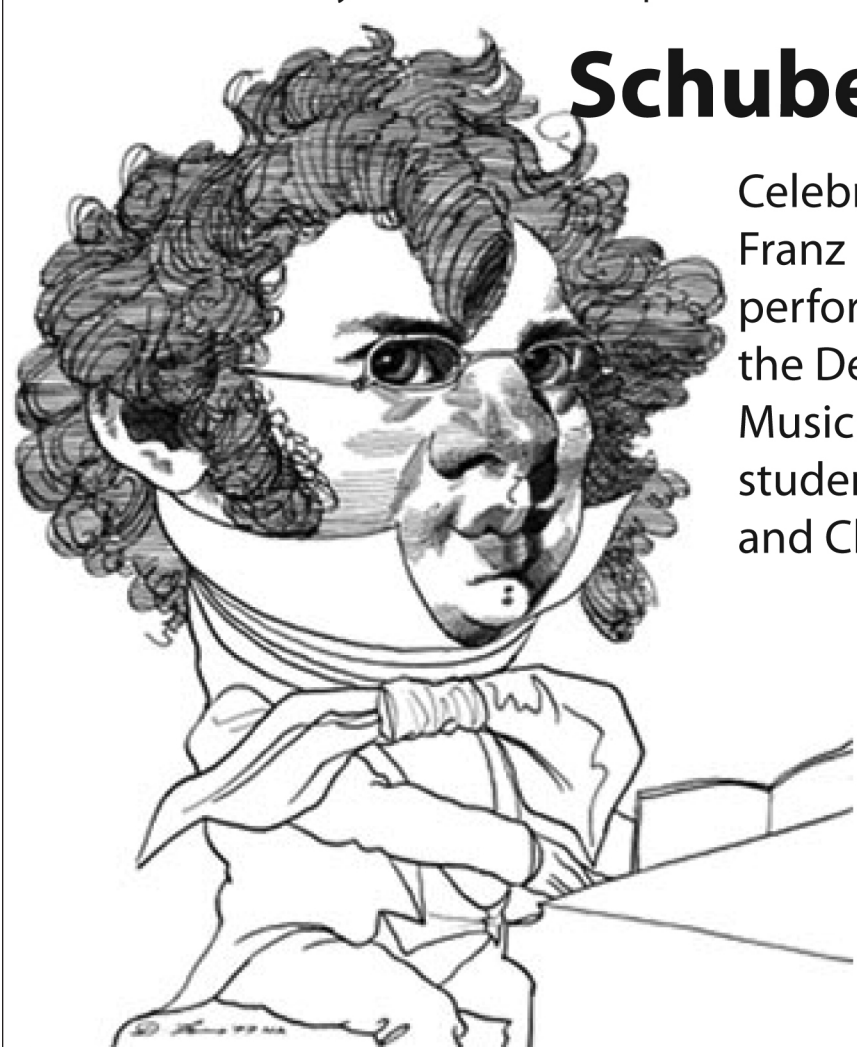
Notre Dame takes on DePaul at 1 p.m. in the Purcell Pavilion Sunday. The game will be televised nationally on ESPN.

Muffet McGraw
Irish coach

Contact Matthew Robison at
mrobison@nd.edu

“This is a team that is focused on every game... I think we know anything can happen in the Big East. Every game is a tough one. They’ve been really good at just looking at the next game.”

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MACKENZIE SAIN/The Observer

Freshman pole vaulter David Schipper competes Jan. 21 in the Notre Dame Invitational, a home meet against multiple schools.

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TRACK AND FIELD

Meyo Invitational celebrates 25th year

By LAURA COLETTI
Sports Writer

The Irish will face one of the most competitive fields of teams they will face this season when they host the Meyo Invitational this weekend.

The meet, named in honor of the man who funded building the Loftus Sports Center track, will celebrate its 25th anniversary this weekend. The donor, a 1963 alumnus Ray Meyo, attends the meet each year to shoot the starting gun.

The meet's one-mile run — dubbed the "Meyo Mile" — highlights the competition as athletes typically strive to break the elusive four-minute mark. Last year, junior Jeremy Rae won the race with a time of 3:59:62.

"Last year was an amazing experience," Rae said. "I had put pressure on myself to win the race and run under four [minutes], and doing so was an incredible feeling."

Rae said he is not as focused on running under the

four-minute benchmark this year.

"The situation is a little different this year as I'm not putting all that much pressure on myself to run a fast time," he said. "The emphasis is purely on winning. The Meyo Mile is known for annually being one of the fastest mile races of the indoor season."

The men's 400-meter relay team will be looking to keep its winning streak alive this weekend, and will face some strong competition. The meet draws dozens of top teams and competitors from

"We have a lot of athletes who can be really competitive at the events ... It'll be really exciting to see how everyone does with such big fields and really good competition."

Maddie Buttinger
Irish senior captain

around the country.

"There are plenty of good teams coming from all around the country," Rae said. "Teams from the South are typically strong

sprinters. The goal for the meet this weekend is for everyone to improve their marks heading into [the Big East meet]," he said.

Senior captain Maddie

Buttinger of the women's squad said her team will face tough competition as well.

"In all of the events, we have a bunch of all-Americans and National champions coming," she said. "There are a huge amount of entries and it's the highlight of a lot of people's indoor season."

The women have already had a number of athletes qualify for the Big East meet, and Buttinger said there is a great atmosphere surrounding the team right now.

"We've been getting better times and there has been a better spirit on the team since we've been doing well this year," she said. "It's really exciting because we're looking to rebuild after last year's disappointing Big East performance and rebuild."

The team will hope to continue receiving strong contributions, including from underclassmen.

"We have a lot of athletes who can be really competitive at the events," Buttinger said. "It'll be really exciting to see how everyone does with such big fields and really good competition."

The meet will get underway at 4 p.m. Friday inside Loftus Sports Center.

Contact Laura Coletti at lcoletti@nd.edu

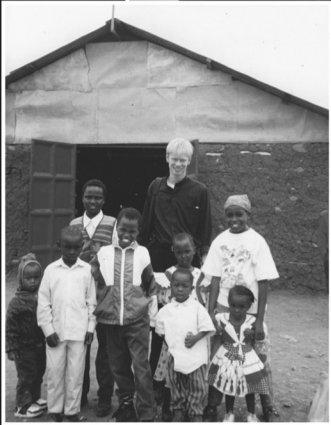
Fr. Bob Dowd, C.S.C.

He served the poor in East Africa and now seeks to integrate research and real-world efforts to alleviate extreme poverty.

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Fr. Bob Dowd, CSC, is a Holy Cross priest. He is an Assistant Professor of Political Science and serves as the Director of Kellogg Institute's Ford Family Program in Human Development Studies and Solidarity at the University of Notre Dame. Like the Founder, Blessed Basil Moreau, he serves so as to draw others to share in the work of educating minds and heart and to make God known, loved and served by all.

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Junior defenseman Sam Calabrese carries the puck against Michigan Jan. 20 in the Compton Family Ice Arena. The Irish won 3-1.

KEVIN SONG/The Observer

Goals

continued from page 16

shots in a 6-3 Alaska win. Junior netminder Mike Johnson started Saturday and made 15 saves in a 4-2 victory. Jackson did not indicate which goaltender would start tonight against the Falcons.

The Irish will also hold “Lefty Fest” this weekend to celebrate the life of long-time Irish hockey coach Charles “Lefty” Smith, with many of Lefty’s family, friends and former players in attendance to honor his memory. Smith passed away Jan. 3 from natural causes at the age of 81.

“It’s going to be a nice opportunity for our team to pay tribute to his legacy and Lefty’s family that will be here since we didn’t have the opportunity when he passed to attend the funeral, because we were on our way to Minnesota at that exact time,” Jackson said. “So it will be a nice opportunity for our team to be able to pass their respects on to the family, which I think is important because our guys, they know who Lefty was and they had a relationship with him.”

While the Irish will pay tribute to Smith this weekend, there is also business to be taken care of on the ice.

In addition to the tight CCHA race, Notre Dame, who swept the Falcons at Bowling Green

in a two-game series in October, is currently No. 12 in the PairWise Rankings, the formula used to determine the 16-team NCAA tournament field. The five conference tournament winners receive automatic bids to the NCAA tournament, with at-large berths going to the best 11 teams in the PairWise who did not win their conference tournament.

“[The players] know what’s going on. I don’t have to get into it in too much detail with them, they know,” Jackson said. “They know it’s crunch time. It’s getting crunchier by the game and we have to play every game the same way. We have to have that underdog mindset and play

with that passion every game because it’s not about the opponent. I don’t care who it is or where we’re playing, it’s about us.

“If we’re playing our optimal level, if we’re playing our A-game, we’ve seen what this team is capable of. The thing is finding a way to get them to play the A-game every night. We still have time, but time’s running out.”

The Irish will skate in a critical series tonight and Saturday against Bowling Green. The puck will drop at 7:05 p.m. for both games in the Compton Family Ice Arena.

Contact Sam Gans at sgans@nd.edu

Princeton

continued from page 16

to young Irish fencers Channing Foster and Nicole Ameli, a pair of freshmen who led the Irish epee unit with a combined record of 35-4 at home last weekend. The standout performance by the two will have to be repeated this weekend.

“They will be put to a very strong test because Princeton’s epee fencers are their best,” Bednarski said. “I believe they will learn how to fence against the best in the nation.”

Further competition on the women’s side is expected from Temple, and on both sides from Duke and North Carolina. Featuring former Olympic medalist Rebecca Ward, the Blue Devils figure to test the Irish’s strength.

“It will be very interesting to see how all of these teams fence against us and how we will fence against them,” Bednarski said. “I expect a very serious clash between these teams.”

The Irish sabreurs paced the men’s team (23-5) in last weekend’s Notre Dame Duals. The group combined to post a 100-8 mark over the two days of competition, including a number of strong performances from underclassmen.

Though both squads got off to mediocre starts that were uncharacteristic of Notre Dame in recent years, the path toward defending the 2011 National championship was smoothed with an impressive showing at home last weekend. It remains to be seen whether the performance can be duplicated in a series that will reveal a lot about the potential of the Irish

squads.

“I hope that after this competition we are seen as a strong team — if not the favorites,” Bednarski said.

The Irish take to the strip Saturday at Northwestern University in Evanston, Ill.

Contact Conor Kelly at ckelly17@nd.edu

Big East

continued from page 16

behind Syracuse.

“I couldn’t be prouder of a group of what we’re becoming,” Brey said after his team’s win at Connecticut last weekend. “The run we’re on right now to beat a really good team here — the key is, with us, we really controlled the tempo and that takes its toll on a team over 40 minutes when the rhythm’s not there.”

The Irish have controlled the game’s tempo for much of their Big East action. In Notre Dame’s six conference wins, only once has an opponent scored 60 or more points, and it took double-overtime for Louisville to do so in Notre Dame’s 67-65 victory at the KFC Yum! Center on Jan. 7.

“I think the tempo, first of all, is a big effect,” Brey said. “[Opponents] don’t get as many shots. There’s not as many possessions, so I think it can really affect talented offensive guys, but our defense was excellent.”

On the offensive end, the

Irish have benefitted from the breakthrough of sophomore guard Jerian Grant, who Brey said continues to grow in confidence.

“He’s been fabulous,” Brey said. “He’s done a really good job on [Connecticut guard Jeremy] Lamb in both games. The key with Jerian now is he really wants the ball at the end and we want him to get fouled. He has no idea how good he can be. I’m thrilled to have three more seasons after this with him.”

For the Golden Eagles, senior guard Darius Johnson-Odom and senior forward Jae Crowder combine for just under 35 points per contest — the only Marquette players to average double-digits in points. Despite the offensive firepower from those two, the Golden Eagles are a deep squad, with eight players averaging five or more points per game.

Notre Dame and Marquette will tip-off Saturday at 1 p.m. at Purcell Pavilion.

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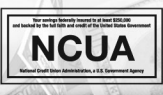
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WILL SHORTZ

- Across**

1 Forcefulness

6 Is a true believer in

14 Moss source

15 Deposit remover?

16 Holder of legends

17 What you might reach for after hearing "Don't go anywhere!"

18 Drug distributors?

19 Entertainment at a luau

20 Look too closely

21 Preparatory time

22 Titled lady

25 By area, the third-largest country in the E.U.

26 Some attorneys' degs.

27 Money in Manila
- 31 Someone to hang with

32 Primitive coat

33 Show for which Jim Dale won the 1980 Tony for Best Actor in a Musical

34 Kind of compound in chemistry

35 Time in an airport

37 Hearing opening?

38 Landscaping plants

40 Big to-do?

41 Shout with cupped hands, maybe

42 Untagged

43 "That's so sad!"

44 Foil part

45 Most chic

47 Auto loan fig.

48 Drug sold under the brand name Retrovir
- 51 Site of an 1815 escape

52 Almost catch

54 Shoots at

57 Coeur d'____, Idaho

58 Going around in circles?

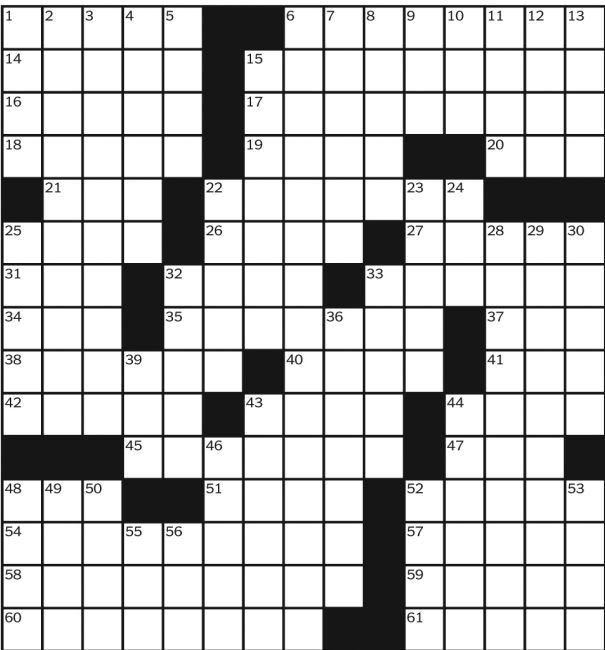
59 Restricted parties

60 Alaska or Hawaii

61 Problems with an argument

Down

- 1 Some health warnings: Abbr.
- 2 Plentifully, in slang
- 3 Enmity
- 4 In a box
- 5 Russian chemist with a law of thermodynamics named after him
- 6 Saturated
- 7 High boots for fishermen
- 8 One of Beethoven's bagatelles is dedicated to her
- 9 Latin 101 word
- 10 ____-X (septic treatment brand)
- 11 Impertinent one
- 12 Arduous challenge
- 13 Annual: Abbr.
- 15 How Simon Cowell often critiques
- 22 Hearing responses
- 23 Little starter
- 24 Spanish 101 verb
- 25 1957 Cy Young Award winner



Puzzle by Mike Nothnagel

- 28 What luxury goods have

29 Nowhere close

30 ____-Hawley Tariff Act of 1930

32 Academy head

33 Cloud the judgment of with alcohol

36 "Good Will Hunting" director, 1997
- 39 Small bird

43 Bottom of a crankcase

44 Start of a presidential march

46 Prefix with chemical

48 Throw ____

49 Tubular pasta

50 Edging
- 52 Humorist who wrote "Progress might have been all right once, but it has gone on too long"

53 One of the Durbeyfields

55 Memphis-to-Nashville dir.

56 Expresses, informally

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EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Shakira, 35; Christie Brinkley, 58; Brent Spiner, 63; Graham Nash, 70.

Happy Birthday: Get your house in order. Make a move or tidy up unfinished personal and financial business. It's up to you to take the initiative. Greater stability will be yours if you strategize and work hard to reach your goals. Your innovative plans will make you a forerunner in your circle of friends. Your numbers are 9, 13, 25, 27, 31, 37, 49.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Contact someone from your past. Calling in a favor will make something you want to achieve much easier. Don't give in to anyone asking for too much or putting demands on you. Call the shots and you'll get things done. ★★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Beware of empty promises and people trying to get something for nothing. You are best to take care of personal matters quietly to avoid meddlers. Use your head and you'll come up with a way to get around someone causing you grief. ★★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Remain calm and focused. Good fortune can be yours if you play to win and set your sights on realistic goals. Don't let anyone cause unwarranted uncertainty. Size up your situation and make your move. Don't waffle under pressure. ★★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Hidden matters must be kept that way. Prematurely revealing what you are trying to accomplish will lead to unfortunate circumstances and added responsibilities. Challenge anyone trying to shake your confidence. Protect your property and plans. ★★★★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Your charm and bravado will light up any group you join. Your ability to network and pull people together will be rewarded with offers that allow you to make some long overdue alterations to your life and your future. ★★★★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Open-mindedness will lead to opportunity. You will learn quickly and excel. Mixing business with pleasure and mingling with people who share your concerns will bring about a new direction that will help subsidize your lifestyle. ★★★★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Strive to gain as much experience as possible. Learning more about different cultures or trying something that will help you better understand your relationships will enrich your life and influence your future choices. ★★★★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Your efforts won't be wasted if you focus on contracts and monies owed. Address situations that you have been avoiding and you will receive the benefits you deserve. Do what's best for you, not everyone else. It's your turn to profit. ★★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Your emotions may get the better of you. Try not to react too quickly when it comes to personal or partnership problems. Take a wait-and-see approach and gauge what's actually at the root of any conflict you face. ★★★

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Empty promises can be expected. Before you agree to any offer or suggestion being made, look at the facts and figures carefully. You are likely to discover a flaw that may not be fixable. Your scrutiny can be a lifesaver. ★★★★★

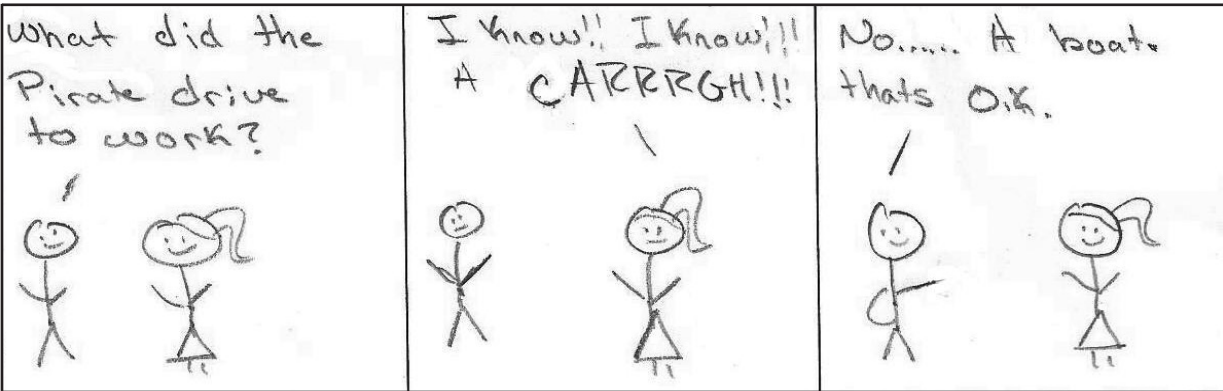
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Time spent at home or fixing up your digs will pay off. Working on something that can bring in extra cash or allow you greater personal freedom is looking good. Express your concerns and plans and you will get the support you need. ★★

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Not everyone will be honest with you regarding what he or she can contribute. Do your due diligence and find out firsthand how capable the people are around you before you make a commitment. Put greater effort into an important partnership. ★★★★★

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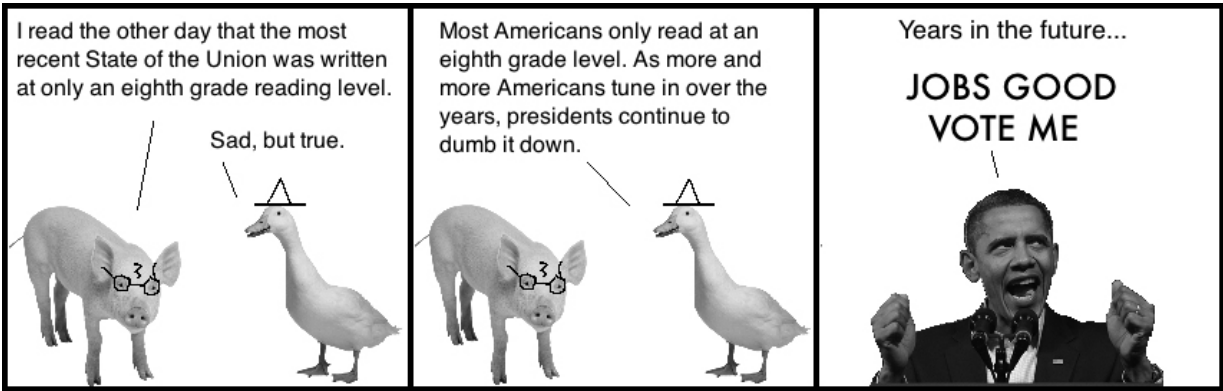
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□ □ □ □ □ □

VURSYE
□ □ □ □ □ □

TNEADT
□ □ □ □ □ □

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Yesterday's Jumbles: BLOOM WATCH STUFFY MIDDAY
Answer: The groundhog made his prediction without a — SHADOW OF A DOUBT



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MEN'S BASKETBALL

Home court advantage

No. 15 Marquette comes to Purcell

By ANDREW OWENS
Associate Sports Editor

After a week off following their 50-48 road defeat of No. 24 Connecticut, the Irish return to Purcell Pavilion to face conference rival No. 15 Marquette.

Notre Dame (14-8, 6-3 Big East) has won its last three games, two of which came against ranked opponents, to climb into the top quarter of the Big East conference standings.

"To be 6-3 halfway through the league [play], if you would've told me that after the Indiana game or after Missouri beat us by 29 ... I'm really proud of this group and it's a lot of fun working with them and you can see them getting more confident every week," Irish coach Mike Brey said.

Marquette (19-14, 8-2) is one of only two teams in the Big East with fewer conference losses than the Irish, as it comes into the weekend a game

see BIG EAST/page 14



DILLON WEISNER/The Observer

Irish sophomore guard Alex Dragicevich shields the ball from James Southerland, left, and Dion Waiters, right, in Notre Dame's 67-58 upset over Syracuse on Jan. 21. Dragicevich scored 9 points in the victory.

SMC BASKETBALL

Belles look to qualify

By NICK BOYLE
Sports Writer

Coming off a conference win against Albion, Saint Mary's hopes to continue its winning ways when it takes on Olivet on Saturday afternoon in Michigan.

The Belles (10-11, 6-6 MIAA) now boast a .500 record in conference play and sit in fourth place in the MIAA. They are currently in line to be one of four qualifying teams in the newly restructured MIAA playoffs.

With only four games left in the season, a win on Saturday would greatly boost Saint Mary's chances for playoff qualification.

"This is a huge game for us, as we are only one game ahead of Olivet in conference

see OLIVET/page 11

HOCKEY

Every game counts as championships come closer

By SAM GANS
Sports Writer

As No. 6 Notre Dame enters the final month of its regular season, the quest for a CCHA championship and a berth in the NCAA tournament field make each series crucial. A two-game series in the Compton Family Ice Arena this weekend against

Bowling Green will play a big part in whether those two goals are met.

The Irish (15-10-3, 10-7-3-0 CCHA) currently sit in sixth place in the CCHA standings, but are just four points behind conference-leader Ferris State with eight games remaining. Although six points in the standings seems a strong

possibility this weekend with the last-place Falcons (8-15-5, 3-14-4-3) coming to town, Irish coach Jeff Jackson is not looking past Bowling Green, who has lost only two of its last six games. During that stretch, the Falcons won at Alaska, beat No. 16 Western Michigan and tied Ohio State twice, picking up the shootout win against the Buck-

eyes in both contests.

"[Falcons coach] Chris [Bergeron] has done a nice job and I think they're starting to come on a little bit," Jackson said. "They play hard and they execute their system well. They're hard to play against and that's a sign of a team that's going in the right direction."

The Irish return home follow-

ing a split at Alaska last weekend.

Sophomore goaltender Steven Summerhays was given last Friday's start after two strong outings the previous weekend against Michigan. The Nanooks shelled Summerhays early, scoring four goals on their first 11

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FENCING

Irish look to repeat undefeated weekend

By CONOR KELLY
Sports Writer

Last weekend, Northwestern's women's team came into the Joyce Center and posted an 8-1 record in action on Notre Dame's home strip. Unfortunately for the Wildcats, the Irish women posted an undefeated 12-0 mark and were matched by the men's squad in a perfect weekend for Notre Dame.

This weekend, Northwestern will get its own chance to play host as the Wildcats will host the Northwestern Duals Saturday and Sunday.

In a season that has been tumultuous in the early going, the duals will be a chance for the Irish to show they can compete with the top teams in the country, and an opportunity to build off a strong performance at

home last weekend.

"This competition which is coming will certainly have another portion of the best teams in the nation," Irish coach Janusz Bednarski said. "There are many teams who we haven't fenced yet, who are still able to beat us."

Not least among these opponents is Princeton, a team Bednarski said will be among the tops in the field.

"Princeton has made a big push in recruiting many of the top fencers in the country recently, and it has a growing program," Bednarski said. "On both the sides, men's and women's, the danger is coming from several teams, including Princeton."

For the Irish women (18-5), the Tigers will present a challenge

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ND WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

ND seeks revenge on Blue Demons

By MATTHEW ROBISON
Sports Writer

Notre Dame will take on DePaul at home Sunday at Purcell Pavilion in what will be a grudge match for Irish coach Muffet McGraw's squad.

The Blue Demons (17-6, 4-2 Big East) beat Notre Dame (22-1, 9-0 Big East) last year in the regular season. The Irish went on to beat DePaul in the Big East tournament, but the Blue Demons are never an easy team to defeat, McGraw said.

"They're a very good team," she said. "They shoot a lot of three's, shoot the ball extremely well, and they have a good center."

DePaul junior center Katherine Harry leads the Big East in rebounding and will challenge Irish senior De-



PAT COVENEY/The Observer

Irish sophomore Kayla McBride goes up for a shot in Notre Dame's 72-44 victory over Tennessee on Jan. 23.

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