

THE OBSERVER

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Professor recognized for service

By KRISTEN DURBIN
News Writer

The Notre Dame faculty recently acquired another academic accolade when Vania Smith-Oka, assistant professor of Anthropology, was honored with the Center for Public Anthropology's Ruth Benedict Global Citizenship Award last week.



Vania Smith-Oka

The national award, which honors 1 percent of introductory Anthropology faculty across the country, recognized Smith-Oka for her continued involvement with the Center's Community Action Project (CAP). Smith-Oka said CAP actively engaged students in ethical issues within the field of Anthropology.

Smith-Oka said she first became involved with CAP when she began teaching at Notre Dame in 2006. The project includes students from Notre Dame

see AWARD/page 5

Making the cut

Families, colleges debate overuse of rankings and SAT scores

Notre Dame ranked:

No.19 No. 19 in 2012 U.S. News & World Report's list of best national universities

No.01 Mendoza College of Business No. 1 in Business according to Bloomberg Businessweek

According to Don Bishop:

TOP 3 Top 3 in graduation rate
Top 3 in percent of alumni giving

No.10 No. 10 in endowment for national private research universities

MARINA KOZAK | Observer Graphic

By SARA FELSENSTEIN
Associate News Editor

As colleges compete for top national rankings and students compete for top SAT scores, some people argue the college admissions process places too much focus on numbers.

Don Bishop, associate vice president for Undergraduate Enrollment, said test scores do not fully reflect the attributes of a school or an applicant, especially at Notre Dame.

"Colleges are accused by families as using the SAT too much to value students in the admissions selection process," Bishop said. "Well, the colleges are concerned that students and their families use the rankings too much to value the colleges. There's kind of a balanced equation, there, of discomfort in the process."

Bishop said an applicant's exam performance is extremely important, but more weight is placed on class performance than on standardized test

scores during the decision process.

"People are concerned we use [test scores] too much, we would disagree with that," he said. "The admissions office would be as poorly served if all we used were SAT scores. If we started being guilty of what the public thinks we do and we overused the numbers, we would have an inferior student body."

Bishop said along with aca-

see SAT/page 5

'Mother of the Huddle' perseveres

By MARISA IATI
News Writer

"Mother of the Huddle" Helen Hiatt has watched over the La-Fortune grocery store's grounds since 1967, working her way from the old cigarette counter to the cash register over the past 44 years.

"I came in on Monday morning and that afternoon I was working," she said. "I sold cigarettes for 11-and-a-half years. And then when they quit selling cigarettes on campus I lost my job there, so I went back to that register [in the Huddle Mart] and I worked there for 25 years."

Hiatt said she became acquainted with many varsity football players as they frequented the Huddle after practice.

"They'd come in and talk to me about their problems and different things, and they started calling me their second mother," Hiatt said. "It continued on and I got to be 'The Mother of the Huddle' after so many years. And [former quarterbacks] Joe Theismann and Joe Montana and ... the football players would come in."

University President Emeri-

see HUDDLE/page 4

Project to tackle vulnerability

By AMANDA GRAY
News Writer

The seventh annual Edith Stein Project will focus on vulnerability in relationships of every type, conference co-chair junior Margaret Kennedy said.

"The theme is 'Encountering Vulnerability: Courage, Hope and Trust in the 21st Century,'" she said. "We chose to focus on vulnerability this year because we often see it in a negative connotation and run away from it. But we also have a positive necessity of vulnerability in relationships."

Co-chair senior Rebecca Roden said 29 speakers will lecture on the many aspects of vulnerability in daily life.

"We thought vulnerability would be a good theme because there is a lot of variation in interpretation and a lot of different ways to go," Roden said.

see STEIN/page 4

EDITH STEIN PROJECT	
EDITH STEIN CONFERENCE	
Friday Feb 10	
12:45	Welcoming Remarks
1-2:00	Keynote Address
2:15-3:15	The Biology of Theology of the Body, Vicki Thorn - Founder of Project Rachel
	Love Conquers Fear - Or does it really? Fr. Wilson Miscamble
3:30-4:30	An Exchange of Gifts: Embracing Vulnerability & Celebrating Adoption; Elizabeth Kirk, visiting scholar
5:15	Mass at the Basilica of the Sacred Heart
6:15	Pizza Dinner
7:00	Film Screening: 'The Human Experience' by Grassroots Films

MARINA KOZAK | Observer Graphic

Conference to address human development

By ANNA BOARINI
News Writer

Students and faculty from around the world will gather at Notre Dame this weekend for the fourth annual Human Development Conference.

The conference, sponsored by the Ford Family Program and Kellogg Institute, will cover everything from the environmental impact of development to information technology.

Publicist Abbie Naus said the conference engages students and faculty in an interdisciplinary session of panels and contests.

"The cool thing about the conference is that it encompasses pretty much every discipline and that is why we encourage students to come,"

she said. "It makes you see how whatever you are doing can have a contribution to development."

Naus said this year's theme, "Faces Behind the Figures: Visions of Prosperity, Progress and Human Potential" was inspired by the poem "Those Little Numbers and People" by Eduardo Galeano. The poem explores how statistical indicators of poverty and development reveal deeper meaning in individual lives, she said.

"With this idea, we as a conference are focusing on human-centric development and ... everyday experiences of the individuals being represented by [statistical] figures," she said. "We want to

see HUMAN/page 5

HIGH	37
LOW	29

SMC workshop to explore strengths

Saint Mary's
Sophomore Parents Weekend
StrengthQuest Workshop

-conference rooms O, E & F in the lower level of the Student Center

-34 possible strengths

-workshop identifies top 5 strengths for each participant

-daughter/parent event

MARINA KOZAK | Observer Graphic

By KEELIN MCGEE
News Writer

Saint Mary's students and parents will get to learn about each other's strengths at the third annual StrengthsQuest workshop tomorrow as part of Sophomore Parent's Weekend.

The workshop, hosted by Saint Mary's Cross Currents program, is based on positive psychology techniques developed by the Gallup Organization.

Stacie Jeffirs, director of the Career Crossings Office (CCO), said the workshop is an enjoyable way for parents and their daughters to discover more about one another.

"We have different activities that they go through such as assessing their own strengths and then sharing their results with their family," Jeffirs said. "We then have a scavenger hunt where participants look for others

with the same strengths as theirs and then learn how others use those similar strengths."

Jeffirs said 34 possible strengths exist and range from "achiever" to "strategic." The strengths are combinations of a participant's talent, knowledge and skills.

"You go through a series of questions and pick words or phrases that best describe you," Jeffirs said. "At the end, you are then given your top five strengths with descriptions and activities to help validate and better understand your results."

Participants also learn how to apply their strengths after the event ends, Jeffirs said.

"StrengthsQuest is great for sophomore students to help them in looking for internships, career planning and networking," Jeffirs said.

Though this weekend's workshop is only offered to sophomores and their par-

ents, Jeffirs encouraged other students to contact the CCO to take the StrengthsQuest assessment.

"Ideally, we would love to get first years and sophomores to take the assessment because learning about yourself early on in your college career is really beneficial," Jeffirs said. "However, I even see seniors who take the assessment more as a validation of the direction they are heading in or when they are beginning to have doubts."

The StrengthsQuest workshop will be held in conference rooms D, E and F in the lower level of the Student Center tomorrow from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m.

Sophomores interested in the StrengthsQuest workshop who did not register can e-mail Sandy Zielinski at zielinski@saintmarys.edu by 4 p.m. today.

Contact Keelin McGee at kmcgee01@saintmarys.edu

Club connects students to alumni on Wall Street

By NICOLE MICHELS
News Writer

The Notre Dame Wall Street Club held an information session Thursday evening to introduce freshmen and sophomores to the club and make the path to Wall Street a little bit easier.

Four senior leaders, Greg Bennett, Anne Lenzi, Tom McMackin and Chris Masoud, who is also one of The Observer's Assistant Managing Editors, led the event.

The event gave students a broad introduction to the activities of the Wall Street Club and demonstrated how the club can facilitate acceptance into a position on the Street.

Caitlin Lynch, a 2011 graduate, employee at J.P. Morgan and Wall Street Club founder, said the club helps Notre Dame students succeed by giving them skills beyond those taught in class.

"What we were trying to do was to create a platform of support to help students get jobs in sales and trading and investment banking," Lynch said. "We wanted to provide a network of guidance and support as they traveled through the recruitment process."

The club was started by seniors last year and just recently gained official recognition from the Student Activities Office. Lenzi said this year's leaders plan to focus on reaching all students, not just upperclassmen searching for internships.

"We want to reach out to freshmen and sophomores more," Lenzi said. "We want to let them know what is available to them earlier."

Notre Dame Vice President and Chief Investment Officer Scott Malpass helped forge an important connection between club members and alumni.

Malpass said he decided to connect the Notre Dame Wall Street Club with the Wall Street Leadership Committee alumni group after James Ingallinera, a 2011 graduate who drafted the club's charter, ap-

proached him about networking opportunities.

"The main charge [of the Committee] is to promote Notre Dame on the Street," Malpass said. "I connected the two, and the combination has been just really fabulous for Notre Dame."

Freshman Pedro Suarez said he attended Thursday's event to obtain more information.

"I'm possibly interested in investment banking and wanted to find out more about it," Suarez said. "I also wanted to learn more about how to prepare myself for that career."

For students like Suarez, leaders of the Wall Street Club wanted to emphasize the increasing attention Wall Street firms are giving Notre Dame students.

"Recruiters are coming more and more to Notre Dame every year ... because our students have been going to all of these big banks and crushing it," Bennett said. "They realize that Notre Dame kids are intelligent, hardworking and humble."

Malpass said this increased attention is due in large part to the Mendoza College of Business's number one ranking and the hard work of Notre Dame alumni on Wall Street.

"Our alumni who have been out there for years have developed a great reputation," he said.

Malpass added the key to continuing this momentum is to increase the amount of information provided to students earlier in their college careers.

"We've had a presence on Wall Street for a long time, but because [Notre Dame] is not located on the East Coast, it's not as natural of a pull," Malpass said. "But that's changed; our students are now much more aware of the opportunities available and how to seek them."

Contact Nicole Michels at nmichels@nd.edu

Shakespeare at Notre Dame Presents
Sonnetfest 2012

Tuesday
February 14
11 am-3 pm

The Great Hall
of O'Shaughnessy

Spend a moment or an hour enjoying readings of Shakespeare's 154 sonnets by members of the Notre Dame and Michiana communities.

Light refreshments will be served.

SHAKESPEARE AT NOTRE DAME
shakespeare.nd.edu

UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME
College of Arts and Letters

"Our Mouths
Full Of Song
Like The Sea"

JEWISH PRAYER

PRAYER AND THANKSGIVING THROUGH SONG

RABBI ERIC J. SIROKA - TEMPLE BETH-EL

Monday, February 13
7:00 - 8:00 pm

Hammes Student Lounge, Coleman-Morse

Prayer From Around The World Series
Sponsored by: Campus Ministry

Huddle

continued from page 1

tus Father Theodore Hesburgh and Executive Vice President Emeritus Father Edmund Joyce used to joke with Hiatt about how long she had worked at the Huddle, she said.

“So I worked 35 hours a week then and ... in my 80s, I went down to 15 hours a week,” she said. “When I had my 85th birthday, the manager ... got me a cake as big as three of those tables out there.”

Hiatt said Notre Dame’s current students seem different than those in years past, but it is difficult to identify how.

“But they’re still nice, they’re still wonderful to me,” she said. “The kids get by with more than they did when I was a kid. The parents are more lenient with them, I think.”

Working at the Huddle has had its challenges, Hiatt said. She said that while most people she encounters have been kind, some managers, students and parents have given her a rough time.

“My motto was, ‘Just keep your mouth shut. You’ll be here longer than they are,’” she said. “And that’s what it’s been like.”

Despite some difficult moments, Hiatt said most people treated her well.

“The people are nice to me,” she said. “I like to be around



PAT COVENEY/The Observer

“Mother of the Huddle” Helen Hiatt restocks the napkins in the LaFortune Student Center on Thursday.

people and I like my work. If I don’t want to work, I can sit down and rest a little bit.”

Retail associate Beverly Fillmore said she has worked with Hiatt on the Huddle staff for 27 years.

“She will do just about everything she can possibly do for you,” Fillmore said. “She’s a wonderful woman and we call her ‘The Mother of the Huddle’ because she takes care of all of us here.”

Hiatt, who is legally blind, said she hoped to continue working at the Huddle for as possible. She works most weekdays from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. stocking condiments and keeping the facilities clean. Hiatt said she will be 90 years old in June, but still loves to work.

“This October, I’ll be here 45 years, if I make it that long, and I started on my 45th birthday,” Hiatt said. “I like the people and I enjoy my work and the bosses have been really nice to me. I don’t think I could have found anything any nicer and I enjoy coming in even now.”

Contact Marisa Iati at miati@nd.edu

“I like to be around people and I like my work.”

Helen Hiatt
“Mother of the Huddle”

Stein

continued from page 1

Professors from several universities, including Notre Dame and Holy Cross, will speak to the audience, as well as individuals in fields related to the conference theme.

Kennedy said Project Rachel founder Vicki Thorn will speak on the body’s physical response to love and relationships. Project Rachel is a ministry and resource for women experiencing grief after abortions, according to the project’s website.

“We always talk about that we can reduce love down to a series of chemical reactions,” Kennedy said. “But what happens after that? Vicki will look at this.”

Popular Notre Dame Philosophy professor David O’Connor will lecture on masculinity and vulnerability, Kennedy said. O’Connor teaches the course “Ancient Wisdom, Modern Love,” which reflects part of the theme of the conference, she said.

“He will be juxtaposing Christ and Socrates as examples of masculinity,” Kennedy said.

Roden said the planning committee aimed to place students on positive life trajectories and encourage acceptance of vulnerability.

“I hope students will have a better sense to answer the question, ‘What does it mean to be vulnerable in relationships with others?’” she said.

“I want them to know that’s a positive thing.”

Kennedy said the conference always intends to echo the teachings of Edith Stein herself. Stein lived in Germany during the Nazi regime and was killed because of her Jewish heritage.

“She’s the patron of our conference because she wrote a lot about dignity of women,” Kennedy said.

Though the conference focuses on women from a Catholic perspective, Roden said she wants attendees to know the planning committee hopes to reach a broader audience.

“Male students, professors, staff — we want everyone to come,” she said. “Come and bring your questions. Even if you end up disagreeing with a talk or presentation, you could add to the question and answer session or still gain something from it.”

Kennedy said 250 students are expected to register.

“It’s really cool to bring together so many undergraduates,” Kennedy said. “To bring in that many is to spark a lot of fruitful dialogue.”

Kennedy said anyone can register for the conference up until it begins either online or at McKenna Hall, where the conference will be held.

The conference begins today at 12:45 p.m. and runs through Saturday.

A full schedule of events is available online at nd.edu/~idnd

Contact Amanda Gray at agray@nd.edu

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Contact Angie Yugo, ayugo@nd.edu, for more information!

Office of Pre-College Programs, 202 Brownson Hall

INSIDE COLUMN

The Affection Survey

Here's a survey question for you. No, it's not a 10-minute long process on SurveyMonkey your friends guilt you into taking to help them with some class project. Just one question. Ready?

Do you kiss your family members on the lips when saying hello or goodbye?

Lisa Hoyenck

Graphics

Last semester, after watching an episode of "Keeping Up With the Kardashians" (yes, please judge me right there) my roommates and I were struck by just how affectionate this reality television family was — cuddling, hugging and, yes, even kissing each other on the lips. Right then and there, gathered around the television together, we decided to conduct "The Affection Survey."

We asked every person who walked through our door (and a few unlucky people we caught off-guard while out and about) this one simple question: "Do you kiss your family members on the lips?" Of course, I'm not talking about a passionate romantic kiss, just simply an outward sign of affection toward a loved one. Although our respondents' initial reactions were quite mixed and puzzled, they eventually started to open up about their own family dynamics.

We began looking for patterns. Was this a regional thing? A friend from Nevada said she doesn't kiss family members. Instead, she described her parents as fans of the "forced hug." Other respondents who hailed from Pennsylvania and Georgia openly admitted their tendency to smooch their mothers and grandmothers right on the kisser.

Over Christmas break, I started to pay close attention to showings of affection when I hung out with my boyfriend and his family. One day as we were leaving IHOP, I observed the very act that my roommates and I had been talking about all semester. Lo and behold, he kissed his mom goodbye!

If you answered yes to the Affection Survey question, you're not the only one. And if you didn't, you're not alone either. That's what my friends and I found so fascinating. Throughout the course of conducting our survey, we realized that there was no single answer. For some families, affection isn't a big deal. It really doesn't mean much. For others, snuggling up by the fire to watch a movie is all they know. Whether it's a physical act or an abstract thought, every family has their unique way of showing each other they care. Or at least we hope they do ... care, that is.

As Valentine's Day quickly approaches, I ask you to think about the people you love in your life and how they express themselves. Perhaps you can conduct your own survey. At the end of the day, just as Starbuck's Valentine's Day cups say, "Celebrate Every Love" — new love, friendly love and, of course, family love.

P.S. If you feel like sharing, don't you worry. Our roommate survey has not ceased. Feel free to drop us a comment!

Contact Lisa Hoyenck at lhoyenck@nd.edu
The views expressed in the Inside Column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.

Gay-Straight Alliance

As Notre Dame's election season gradually makes its way through every pore of student government, students will head to the polls to determine next year's leadership. Like Wednesday's election of future student body president and vice president Brett Rocheleau and Katie Rose, the ballot will be simple — no special referendums, no initiatives and no propositions.

Why should it be any different? As a student body led by a representative government, we trust our elected leaders to make decisions that speak for the entire student community. We may not agree with all of them, but senators, class presidents and council representatives have been mandated to act with our best interests in mind.

On Wednesday, Student Senate discussed the formation of a gay-straight alliance (GSA) on campus, a conversation advocates of GLBTQ rights have repeatedly asked for. The conversation came a day after a federal appeals court overturned California's voter-approved ban on same-sex marriage, arguing the ban discriminates against gays and lesbians.

Senators and administrators have considered extending Notre Dame's current non-discrimination clause to include sexual orientation in the past, but the sides remain far apart.

Through the Core Council for GLBTQ students, Notre Dame recognizes the need for a forum to address the concerns of gay and lesbian students, but it doesn't go far enough.

A GSA on Notre Dame's campus would give both gay and straight students an avenue to show solidarity without having to explicitly declare their sexuality. The Alliance would also participate in service opportunities with local high schools and fellow universities to prevent bullying.

The Student Activities Office has previously said GSA was unnecessary because of the existence of Core Council. However, the Council only seats eight student members, the majority of which must be openly gay, lesbian or bisexual. That leaves three seats or less for straight students to lend their support, furthering the stereotype that straight students don't share the same conviction as the GLBTQ community for change.

Clearly that isn't the case. The 4-to-5 Movement, organized on campus in October 2011, was established on the premise that four out of five college-educated people between the ages

of 18 and 30 in the United States currently support a general package of gay civil rights. The organization wants to bring that ratio to five out of five.

But the movement lacks the recognition to fully advertise its mission, the resources to program much-needed events and the clout to advance its widely-accepted goals.

A GSA could change all that.

As an officially recognized club by the Student Activities Office, a GSA could immediately mobilize support for its cause, beginning with open membership for the entire student body, less restrictions on number and sexual orientation. Surely the voices and commitment of an entire

organization of students will resonate louder than those of eight.

You've never seen an advertisement for a GLBTQ group in The Observer. No one has. As a publication distributed across campus, The Observer cannot accept advertisements from student-run organizations not recognized by the University. But a GSA could easily place an ad, extending its reach to the entire campus and exposing the community to its mission.

A GSA could fundraise, program campus-advertised events and, perhaps most importantly, receive a mailbox on the third floor of LaFortune, right next to every other University-recognized club. The movement for extended GLBTQ rights would finally have the same access to resources awarded to any other student organization.

This campus has leaders, from student-athletes, to exceptional intellectuals, to student government policy makers. They can inspire classmates to demand quarter-priced hotdogs and advocate for men against violence. But they lack organization. The physics professor, the lab partner and the All-American share more than you might think. The formation of a GSA would centralize the efforts of the entire campus for GLBTQ rights, raising the whispers to voices that couldn't be ignored.

Rocheleau and Rose have been given a great gift: the opportunity to lead. In their platform, they have included a push for the extension of the non-discrimination clause and the establishment of a GSA.

We believe they can and trust they will; if students truly consider themselves one of the four out of the five, they should show their support for this initiative.

THE OBSERVER Editorial

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Calling all to the HDC

Dear Editor,

Why should engineering majors attend the 4th Annual Human Development Conference? Why should Biology majors, English majors or Graphic Design majors show up? Because all of you — scientists, writers, artists — are the reason for this event. You are presenting your research on the relationship between the spread of Emerging Infectious Diseases and freedom of the press. You are explaining your project to develop sustainable housing designs in an earthquake-ravaged Haiti. You are showing us how photography has the power to loosen the brutal grip of xenophobia in South Africa.

No matter what's printed on our official transcripts, we are all students of international development. Experts in every discipline use their gifts to study life in developing nations and provide solutions for its many difficulties, from poverty to corruption to pollution. Whether "homework" means slaying a problem set or devouring the last 300 pages of Don Quixote, we share the same lifelong assignment: ensuring that every individual may enjoy a fulfilling, dignified existence.

This weekend, the HDC Committee invites you to attend the presentations of fellow undergraduates hailing from universities around the nation and world. This year's conference theme, "Faces Behind the Figures," reveals the individual stories that define life in developing nations. Through documentaries, photographs and lectures, presenters will delve into the truth that hides behind generalities and first impressions.

The 4th Annual Human Development Conference, sponsored by the Ford Family Program in Human Development Studies and Solidarity and the Kellogg Institute and cosponsored by SIT Study Abroad and the Center for Social Concerns, will take place on Feb. 10 to 11 at the Hesburgh Center for International Studies. Registration begins at 1:30 p.m. on Feb. 10, with panel sessions through the following evening. Please see <http://nd.edu/~hdc> for a complete schedule of speakers and events.

We hope that you will join the conversation as we seek to understand and aid the developing world. Together, we possess the ability to see the human faces printed on the pages of our textbooks, to hear the hope echoing in quiet places where we least expect to find it.

Sincerely,
The 2012 HDC Committee

Katie Buetow
senior
off campus
Feb. 8

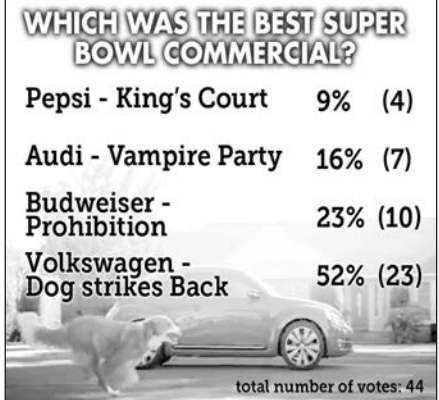
QUOTE OF THE DAY

"All you need in this life is ignorance and confidence; then success is sure."

Mark Twain
U.S. humorist, author & wit

Submit a
Letter to
the Editor

Email obsviewpoint@gmail.com



Catholic “mandate” already exists

Brilliant constitutional lawyer David Boies has a stellar reputation for presenting savvy arguments before the Supreme Court. Boies contends the Obama administration’s recent so-called “mandate” contains no constitutional conflict that exempts churches

Gary Caruso

but requires religious-affiliated employers to provide contraception at no cost to their female employees. He notes that in fact, nearly two-thirds of the states already require such a mandate or do not provide any specific exemptions even for employers such as churches and other places of worship whose primary purpose is imparting religious beliefs.

Capitol
Comments

According to Boies, the issue is merely another component of labor law that applies universally to all employers, like adhering to the minimum wage or safety standards.

Obama’s not the only one concerned this election year — GOP presidential front-runner Mitt Romney reversed himself while Governor of Massachusetts to create just such a mandate. On Dec. 16, 2005, the official newspaper of the Boston Archdiocese, the Boston Pilot, reported online that then Governor Romney instructed the state Department of Public Health that Catholic and other private hospitals were not exempt from Emergency Contraception Access Act law, requiring them to dispense emergency contraception to all rape victims.

“In doing so, Romney overruled the department’s finding that privately run hospitals do not have to provide contraception or abortions” after he had “previously taken the position that the new law requirements were superseded by a 1975 law that provided privately owned hospitals with conscience exemptions for abortion and contraception services,” Daniel Avila, associate director of Public Policy for the Massachusetts Catholic Conference (MCC), said.

“They’ve taken the position now that the preexisting statute somehow does not shield Catholic and other private hospitals from this new mandate.”

Maria Parker, then interim executive director of MCC, said unequivocally that the provision encouraged Catholic hospitals to do something other than what they already were practicing, which would cause them to go against their religious beliefs.

“This is a serious interference with conscience and religion,” she said in a 2005 testimony before the state legislature’s Joint Committee on Public Health.

While Romney muddles the waters and skates around his “mandate” past, the legislature never rescinded the 1975 law. NARAL Massachusetts, a pro-abortion group, found in 2008 that “St. Elizabeth’s Medical Center in Brighton and Holy Family Hospital in Methuen told NARAL Pro-Choice researchers posing as rape counselors that they in fact refuse to offer emergency contraception, according to a NARAL report.”

The NARAL report found that five out of nine Catholic hospitals in Boston

“make emergency contraception readily available, compared to 95 percent of the 61 secular hospitals.”

According to William D’Antonio, a sociologist at the Catholic University of America, only about one-third of 50 million U.S. Roman Catholics — more than 15 million — attend Mass once a week. Similar to Europeans, D’Antonio cites recent polls showing 95 percent of American Catholics have said they use contraceptives, while 89 percent said the decision to use contraceptives should be their own, not from the Church.

A nonpartisan February tracking poll shows that a majority (55 percent) of Americans agree “employers should be required to provide their employees with health care plans that cover contraception and birth control at no cost.” Nearly 60 percent of Catholic respondents support the birth control rule.

One come-to-Mass-every-week Eucharistic Minister last Sunday at St. Matthew’s Cathedral snidely commented, “How out of touch do the old men in our Church hierarchy need to be before they move from the Middle Ages into the 21st Century? This is about no co-pays for women’s health access, not paying for or sponsoring abortion.”

He continued his tirade, “They cling to ridiculously outdated dogma but nibble at the edges of trivia. Somehow saying ‘with your spirit’ rather than ‘and also with you’ is a prioritized change to better praise God. Forget that Directive 36 allows for day-after contraception as well. Give me a break!”

Directive 36 refers to the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ Ethical and Religious Directives for Catholic Health Care Services. It states “Church teaching supports providing emergency contraceptives to rape victims who are not pregnant since it can be considered a form of defense against an unjust aggression.” It further references the specific provision, “A female who has been raped should be able to defend herself against a potential conception from the sexual assault.”

The wording continues quite specifically, “If, after appropriate testing, there is no evidence that conception has occurred already, she may be treated with medications that would prevent ovulation, sperm capacitation or fertilization.”

Susan Wood, a health professor at George Washington University’s Jacobs Institute of Women’s Health sums it up. “This is an employee benefit issue. This is not the Catholic Church having to provide a service directly. No Catholic hospital is going to be required to write a prescription or provide a pack of pills.”

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

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Some positive news for once

Just finished my daily reading of TMZ. Looks like Gary Busey’s still crazy. Demi Moore might have fled rehab. Kim Kardashian wants to televise her divorce trial. And guess what? I’m sick of all this depressing celebrity news. (Except for the part about Kim’s divorce trial on live television. That just sounds awesome. P.S. Kim — call me at 508-320-0847. I’m single and ready to mingle.)

You know what I really want to read about? People helping people. More stories about Girl Scouts rescuing puppies. Israeli women taking Palestinian women to the ocean in Tel Aviv and showing them how to swim. Americans giving nearly \$347 billion to charity in 2011. Speaking of charity, know how you can help bump up that number for 2012? By making sure you bring all your loose change next Wednesday, Feb. 15, to donate to the South Bend Center for the Homeless. Siegfried guys will once again be out in highlighter-yellow t-shirts and shorts collecting money to benefit the homeless for the annual Day of Man. There might not be two feet of snow on the ground this year, but there’s no better way to get sick than standing outside in the freezing rain. Maybe you can even bribe them to start up a slip-n-slide.

“So hide yo’ kids, hide yo’ wife,” and just bring your change while we try to make the nightly news a little more positive on Wednesday. Besides, what could be better than seeing the hottest bods on Mod Quad parading around in minimal clothing for a day?

And while we’re changing the world, can someone please get on that Greek default problem?

Kevin Strickland
sophomore
Siegfried
Feb. 9

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Women’s health

We are reminded this week there is ongoing debate in Washington over the Obama administration’s mandate to require most employers to provide coverage of prescription contraceptives. As a member of the Notre Dame community and as a woman, I cannot help but feel personally drawn to this debate.

First, as a graduate student at Notre Dame, I have a deep respect for the Catholic Church and do not view it in a negative light. However, as a woman who believes in gender equality, I feel strongly women have the right to affordable health care, including contraceptives. The event of an unplanned pregnancy, even in marriage, has lasting consequences on the health and time of the mother, especially since women are traditionally the primary caregivers of their children. It is naive to argue there is no link between gender equality and access to affordable and safe contraceptive methods.

Of course, I understand contraceptives violate the teachings of the Catholic Church. I was also aware of this when I decided to begin my graduate studies here four years ago. Many people would point out I could have attended another educational institution, one which provides this coverage to their employees. Of course, at the time I was not thinking about this at all. I choose to be a student at Notre Dame because of its high academic standards and strong sense of community.

If we use the line of reasoning above, women who are exercising their right to take contraceptives would not have access to an education at this University without having to seek out alternative health care — simply because they are female. Isn’t this blatant sexism?

Martha Precup
graduate student
off campus
Feb. 9

Fashion

VALENTINE'S DAY FASHION

by Felicia

Oh, Valentine's Day. The holiday when everything is coming up roses, lovers are passionately embracing and romance is in the air.

Or, the day when you wear all black, celebrate your single fabulousity with multiple cosmopolitans and find yourself crashing a celebrity party to outrageously flirt with an actor who's clearly the right vintage for you (a fashionista never tells).

What does this day even mean? Why are we so intent on validating our inner emotional life with outward tokens of affection from others? Why not instead personally celebrate the precious vulnerability inherent in the courage to take those emotional risks in the first place?

Because that's really what love is all about — embracing the vulnerability inherent to gambling with your heart. Embracing fashion is a stop on the road to the acceptance of vulnerability.

Every time you pick out an ensemble or a new accessory, whether you try an adventurous trend or not, you are embracing your own vulnerabilities and



Felicia Caponigri

Scene Writer

taking the risk to prove beauty isn't in the eye of the beholder. It resides within yourself. You are the true token of affection. You are the real Valentine.

The card variety is lovely, but nothing compares to you. You've taken the risks, you've fought the passionate battles and you know the hidden secrets of your heart that can't be boiled down to a nice turn of a phrase.

Now, the only task left is to find an outfit that visually communicates this strength in vulnerability to your audience, so that they too never underestimate the power of you. Ladies, let's do it — in red.

Red has for centuries been the color of passion, seduction and love. However, did you know that it originally came into fashion in the 17th century thanks to King Louis the XIV and his pride in his gorgeous legs?

Apparently the man thought he was quite a dish, so he dyed his high heels scarlet (and they say only women are fashion obsessed).

The color was even more prized due to the rarity of the Mexican bug that produced it, the cochineal. As the centuries progressed, red became associated with the provocative and the dangerous (no surprise Mary Magdalene is always depicted in scarlet).

However, anyone who has watched Bette Davis defy the power of debutante white in "Jezebel" knows that no mat-

ter what perception red is associated with in any culture, it always gives its wearer power. It proclaims a fearless commitment to stand out in the face of any vulnerability.

To work red, make the occasion your starting point. For a formal event, go floor length with a red gown and add black accessories.

A concert requires a more other-worldly feel, so invest in a full skirt with peek-a-boo lace. Dancing on the town? Nothing says flirty and fabulous like a red and black mesh dress. The color wheel of red can be quite specific.

The best color for you resides within conventional wisdoms for red lipstick. For pale skin tones, try blue-based reds.

Orange-based reds make the more tan among us radiant, while deep skin tones are absolutely delectable in berry reds.

In the words of Cary Grant to Katharine Hepburn in "The Philadelphia Story," "You're fascinated, Red. You're far and away your favorite person in the world."

Yes, Cary, in red, we are.

Contact Felicia Caponigri at fcapognig@nd.edu.

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



Photo Courtesy of www.charlotterusse.com



Photo Courtesy of www.kohls.com

Clutch at Kohls, \$40.60



Felicia Caponigri/The Observer



Photo Courtesy of www.edressme.com

edressme.com, \$92.00



Photo Courtesy of www.mango.com

Red skirt at Mango, \$39.99

Senior Justine Ward models different styles of red to show off her Valentine's day versatility and fashion sense.

DOING VALENTINE'S DAY RIGHT

Brenna Williams

Scene Writer

Valentine's Day is rapidly approaching, and whether you enjoy it or love complaining about "Hallmark making it up," it's hard to avoid. If you're going to have a girls' (or boys') night, you want to impress a new fling or you need something new to do for your fourth year of Notre Dating, we've got a few ideas to make those you care about feel loved:

Friends

Who says Valentine's Day needs to be about romance and sappiness? It's a perfect excuse to spend quality time with friends. It's not what you do on Valentine's Day that matters; it's the company you keep.

-**Classic:** Ice Cream and Movie. Go to the Huddle, get your favorite Ben & Jerry's ice cream and head straight to the dorm with the biggest TV and comfiest couch. Hook your computer up to Netflix or bring your favorite DVD, and enjoy. Since your friends are likely the funniest people you know, this occasion calls for an awful horror film or an equally horrible romantic comedy. For instance, "Valentine's Day" is a laugh a second (and not in the way they intended).

-**Something New:** Baked Goods. Get inventive for this. If someone has a car, take a trip to the grocery store and get supplies to make baked goods from scratch or borrow some from dorm-mates. It's easy to get break-and-bake from the Huddle, but the point of this activity is to get creative. Decorate homemade cupcakes or make a cookie dough base and add different candies and mix-ins to change up the batches. It's a fun group activity, plus you can bring some of the leftovers to that friend who inevitably gets stuck working on a project all night.

-**Creative:** Scrapbooking.

Remember the time before Facebook when we printed out pictures? Bring it back! Making a collage or a mini-scrapbook is a fun way while making new memories together. You don't need to be very crafty, just have fun with it! Want to take your creation with you everywhere? Go to Starbucks and pick up a customizable tumbler. For about 12 Flex Points you can get one that you can keep for yourself or give to a friend.

New Fling

Maybe you're in a new relationship, so it's a little early to go with the full-on fancy dinner/flowers/candy thing. Maybe you're just a laid back couple. These ideas will show you care without the formality of the traditional Valentine's Day date.

-**Classic:** Flowers. Who doesn't like flowers? Except for those who are allergic, basically everyone. Here's the trick for a new relationship: make sure to get your significant other their favorite flowers. How do you find out without blowing the surprise? Ask their roommate. If the roommate doesn't know, they can find out in casual conversation. Believe me, the espionage will be well worth the work. Can't make it off campus? Don't forget that Irish Gardens is in the basement of LaFortune, so there's no excuse not to show some initiative.

-**Something New:** Tickets. In a new relationship, it's important to build memories together. There's no better way to do that than by going to a sporting event or concert together. Surprise your significant other with tickets to a basketball game (home or close by) or a concert in Chicago. They'll be happy that you know what they like and it might just expand your own horizons.

-**Creative:** Go Local. South Bend isn't exactly a thriving metropolis, but it does have some hidden gems. Dinner on Valentine's Day can not only be a nightmarish experience, but it can also seem really formal. Instead, explore one of the Bend's other local businesses. Get coffee at Quincy's or Main Street Café. Let your sweetie know they're sweet by getting fondue at

South Bend Chocolate Factory, something tasty at Indulgence or fro-yo at Let's Spoon.

Long-Term Significant Other

Do you struggle to think of creative, romantic date ideas? Let's face it; South Bend is not the Paris of the Midwest. If you're looking to do something with your sweetheart, here are some ways to avoid a Valentine's Day rut.

-**Classic:** Dinner. If there's any night to go big, it's Valentine's Day. Ditch the chain restaurants though — you want to show your sweetheart they're special by taking them somewhere as one-of-a-kind as they are. You can try to get a reservation at one of the better restaurants in town like LaSalle's downtown, Uptown Kitchen or The Mark. For the campus-bound, try out Sorin's in the Morris Inn, which is always surprisingly delicious.

-**Something New:** Cooking Together. Don't feel like going out and fighting the crowd? Stay in! Get supplies for your favorite meal together and get creative in your apartment or dorm. For the campus-bound, I would suggest making dessert since it might be difficult to get dinner supplies at the Huddle.

-**Creative Gift:** Show off your skills! There's nothing better than a handmade gift, something that utilizes your talents to make your significant other happy. Hate the corporate nature of Valentine's Day? Make a card yourself! Draw a picture. Write a poem. If you have a playful relationship, make a "Stuff You Say" video or make it more serious with a "Things That I Love About You" letter. Decorate a cake. Try something new. It's the effort that counts!

Contact Brenna Williams at bwillia9@nd.edu.

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

SCENE GRAMMY PREDICTIONS

By MARIA FERNANDEZ
Scene Writer

The Oscars of the music industry are just around the corner, and after last year's surprising results (Arcade Fire winning Album of the Year and Esperanza Spalding winning Best New Artist), everyone is asking the same question: Who will win this year's Grammys?

This year's ceremony will be a bit shorter and different than those of previous years. The National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences (NARAS) has reduced the number of categories from 109 to 78, eliminating the distinction between male and female categories. However, it still promises to be an exciting night.

Anxiously waiting for Sunday's awards, I prepared a list of predictions. There are some artists and music groups that

are definitely taking at least one Grammy home this weekend — or at least I hope so.

Rihanna

Turn on the radio and you're bound to hear a Rihanna song or collaboration with another artist. From clubs to iPods, everyone is listening to her music.

This year, her new album, "Loud" is nominated for Album of the Year and Pop Vocal Album. However, these are probably not the only categories Rihanna will win Sunday.

The "We Found Love" singer also has two nominations in the category of Best Rap/Sung Collaboration for "What's My Name" with Drake and "All of the Lights" with Kanye West, Kid Cudi and Fergie.

Her biggest competition: multiple time Grammy-winner and "Love the Way You Lie" partner, Eminem, with "I Need a Doctor." Nevertheless, Rihanna's two

collaborations still have a great chance of winning the Grammy in this category, proving she continues to influence the music scene around the world.

Bon Iver

Although he has been part of the music world since 2007, Bon Iver has taken a different musical direction with his new self-titled album released last summer.

With songs such as "Calagary" and "Holocene," he has made an incredible comeback and become one of the most popular musicians of the year.

As a Grammy rookie, Bon Iver is surprisingly nominated for Grammys in four different categories this year. And, although he will not win all of them, he is, without a doubt, my pick for Best New Artist.

He faces tough competition from Nicki Minaj, Skrillex, The Band Perry and J. Cole, who are

also contenders in the same category. However, his alternative music brings a new, innovative feel — a quality the NARAS will be looking at when choosing a winner.

Kanye West

After interrupting Taylor Swift while she accepted an award for Best Female Video in 2009's VMA's, there was only one question we could ask ourselves: WWKDN? (What Would Kanye Do Next?)

Although criticized by many after the incident, Kanye's recent albums and collaborations show he still rules the rap world.

This year, he leads the Grammy-nominee pack with seven nominations. He's nominated for Song of the Year category and four other rap awards, and will probably go home with at least two or three Grammys.

This artist is currently at a

great place in his musical career. His Grammy nominations and probable wins are proof of his worldwide popularity and success.

Adele

Last but not least, Adele has been all over 2011. If there is someone that will take this year's music awards over by storm, it is she.

Her amazing voice and powerful lyrics have earned her a total of six Grammy nominations, three of them in the most important categories (Song of the Year, Album of the Year and Record of the Year). I am sure Adele and her album, "21," will dominate this year's Grammys, proving she can have it all.

Watch the 54th Grammy Awards Sunday, Feb. 12 at 8 p.m. on CBS.

contact Maria Fernandez at mfernan5@nd.edu

MARINA KOZAK | Observer Graphic

SPORTS AUTHORITY

NHL, NCAA need rules overhaul

Well, we’ve finally reached the finish line. For the past two weeks, each of us here at the Sports Authority has provided the scoop on what we would change if we were the King of Sports.

Some of the suggestions have been serious, others light-hearted. Some have been in-line with the opinions of most fans, others against what’s popular. And some are practical in real life — perhaps even imminent — while others have about as much a chance of happening as me dating a Victoria’s Secret supermodel.

Yes, my fellow comrades have proposed some interesting suggestions up to this point. And now, for the final installment, it’s my turn.

I’ll begin with changes I considered making, but decided not to, due to the mass uprisings they would cause: making the NCAA tournament 16 teams with a best-of-three series throughout and abolishing the three-point line. While I think both of these would be much better and fairer for a few different reasons, I understand the entertainment value and popularity March Madness and baskets from downtown provide.

Though I am King, I am not a tyrant. I am a man of the people and will give my peasants what they wish (I also intend to avoid a fate similar to that of Louis XVI).

The first actual change I will make is one floating around in real life at the moment, and that is a four-team playoff in college football with the top two seeds getting home, not neutral-site, semifinal games. It is not too small. It is not too large. It continues to keep college football’s regular season by far the greatest in all of sports. It avoids the controversy. It keeps the bowl system intact. It is perfect.

Moving to an issue that isn’t as debated as a college football playoff, I’d enforce icing on the penalty kill in hockey. This is one thing I’ve never understood. A rule that hurts you when you’re even strength or on the power play

is now taken away when you are penalized? How does that make sense? If you want to keep the puck out of your zone or want a line change on the penalty kill, get the puck across center ice and then dump it in, as you would any other point in the game.

Staying with hockey — more specifically the NHL now — I like most of the post-lockout rules. No clutch-and-grab, smaller goalie pads, eliminating the two-line pass rule, delayed offside and no line change allowed after a team commits icing are all great.

But I’m getting rid of the trapezoid. And the shootout. Especially the shootout. It is not hockey. Play four-on-four overtime for 10 minutes, then three-on-three until there’s a winner. That’s not exactly “real” hockey either, but it’s closer than a shootout. MLB doesn’t decide extra innings with a home run derby. The NBA doesn’t use a free-throw contest for overtime. As King, the shootout is no more (same with soccer penalty kicks to decide games).

I will go back to two divisions in MLB in each league and have the division winners advance straight to the LCS. I will also cut the number of NBA playoff teams from 16 to eight.

I will punish any defender who dances like he won the Super Bowl after a tackle made two yards past the first-down marker while his team’s down 17 points. Sorry, entire NFL.

And now it’s time for my final two resolutions. Both of these are extremely selfish, but hey, I’m the King.

I will award the Columbus Blue Jackets the No. 1 draft pick for each of the next 10 years no matter where they finish in the standings. Not that it really matters, because all of the picks will probably just bust and the Jackets will always finish last in the standings anyway.

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



Sam Gans
Sports Writer

NHL

Winter Classic site announced

Associated Press

ANN ARBOR, Mich. — The Detroit Red Wings and Toronto Maple Leafs will begin 2013 by renewing their rivalry at one of North America’s most iconic stadiums.

The two Original Six foes will play in the Winter Classic on Jan. 1 at Michigan Stadium, part of an outdoor showcase that will also include minor league and college hockey games at Detroit’s Comerica Park.

Toronto will become the first Canadian team to play in the Winter Classic when the Maple Leafs and Red Wings face off in Ann Arbor, about 45 miles west of Detroit.

“It’s Hockeytown versus the center of the hockey universe,” Toronto general manager Brian Burke said.

The NHL announced its plan at a news conference Thursday at Comerica, the home of the Detroit Tigers. Later, there was an additional event for media on the field at Michigan Stadium, the football venue that also hosted a college hockey game in 2010 between Michigan and Michigan State. That game set a Guinness World Record for most fans at a hockey game with 104,173.

The league is already talking about setting a new mark when the pros take the ice.

“Even with 115,000 or more tickets available, we still won’t have enough to satisfy the demand,” NHL Commissioner Gary Bettman said.

The Detroit-Toronto rivalry dates to 1927. Although they’re in different conferences right now, the franchises have played 117 playoff games against each other, second only to the 170 meetings between Boston and Montreal.

Buffalo, Chicago, Boston, Pittsburgh and Philadelphia have all hosted the Winter Classic. With the Detroit area hosting next year, Bettman felt the time was right to include a team from Canada.

“We thought that we had built this event to a level where it made sense to do it, and that even from a U.S. network television standpoint, we were comfortable that it would work well,” Bettman said.

There have been two outdoor Heritage Classics north of the border: Montreal at Edmonton in 2003, and Montreal at Calgary last year. The game at Edmonton was the league’s first outdoor regular-season game.

Although Detroit hasn’t hosted the Winter Classic, the Red Wings played in it in 2009, beating the Chicago Blackhawks 6-4 at Wrigley Field, home of base-



AP

Detroit Red Wings’ Niklas Kronwall, left, and Henrik Zetterberg, right, stand on the field at Michigan Stadium Feb. 9.

ball’s Chicago Cubs.

While the centerpiece game next January will take place in a college town, the league is making sure to include Detroit, scheduling what it calls the Hockeytown Winter Festival at Comerica. The rink at the ballpark will host college hockey’s Great Lakes Invitational, as well as AHL and OHL games. Youth and high school games are also expected, along with the Red Wings-Maple Leafs alumni game.

The Comerica rink will also be open for public skating.

Michigan Stadium has undergone changes recently, such as the addition of permanent lights. Michigan hosted its first primetime football game last season, beating Notre Dame in dramatic fashion.

“This is just an incredible facility,” Michigan athletic director Dave Brandon said. “We spent \$226 million expanding and renovating it, and we use it eight days a year. To the extent we can come up occasionally with an opportunity — and

that’s why we’re doing weddings and we’re doing corporate parties. We’re doing a lot of things to try to say, ‘You know what, let’s use this, let people enjoy it, take advantage of it.’”

The possibility of the NHL breaking attendance records brought out Brandon’s competitive side. Michigan’s night football game at the Big House drew an NCAA-record crowd of 114,804.

“If they can figure out a way to do better than that, then they will set the record not only for the largest crowd to ever watch a hockey game, but the largest crowd to ever watch anything in this stadium,” Brandon said. “And then my job will be to figure out a way to beat it.”

Veteran Detroit defenseman Nicklas Lidstrom was at the Big House to promote the Winter Classic. That raised an obvious question: Does it mean he’s definitely planning on coming back for a 21st season in 2012-13?

“We’ll have to wait and see,” Lidstrom said. “It’s only one game, but it’s an intriguing one.”

CLASSIFIEDS

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

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PERSONAL

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<http://pregnancysupport@nd.edu>

On This Day in History

1763-Treaty of Paris signed

1840-Queen Victoria marries Prince Albert

1863-The fire extinguisher was patented

1950-9-time Olympian Mark Spitz born

1955-Australian golfer Greg Norman born

=1961-Journalist George Stephanopoulos born

1966-Daryl Johnston, NFL running back for the Dallas Cowboys born

1967The 25th Amendment to the Constitution was ratified

1968-Peter Popovic, Sweidsh NHL defenseman of Montreal Canadiens born

1969-Rockies catcher Jayhawk Owens born

1969 -Tim Clark, U.S. baseball outfielder for the Florida Marlins born

1970-Olympic speed skater Brendan Eppert born

1974-NFL cornerback Ty Law born

1978 - Van Halen's debut album was released

1985-Foreigner's hit "I Want to Know What Love is" topped the charts

2004-Kanye West's Album "College Dropout

2005-Author and Pulitzer Prize winner Arthur Miller dies

NBA

Nowitzki headlines All-Star reserves



AP
Mavericks forward Dirk Nowitzki knocks the ball away from Nuggets center Nene during Dallas' 105-95 win Wednesday.

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Dirk Nowitzki's streak survives, despite one of the worst seasons of his career.

Two other old stars are no longer All-Stars.

Nowitzki was chosen Thursday to his 11th straight All-Star game, with coaches overlooking the lowest scoring average since his second NBA season in favor of his long-term excellence.

"It was a tough road back to full health for me, but I am honored that the coaches thought enough of me to make me an All-Star," Nowitzki said in a statement. "It has been a privilege to represent the Mavericks organization over the last decade and I look forward to doing it again in Orlando."

Paul Pierce will join him despite his own slow start caused by a foot injury and was picked for the 10th time.

But Kevin Garnett wasn't chosen after 14 consecutive selections, and Tim Duncan was left out after 13 in a row. Other All-Star regulars such as Ray Allen and Amare Stoudemire will be home, giving way to five first-timers among the reserves: Portland's LaMarcus Aldridge, Marc Gasol of Memphis, Andre Iguodala of Philadelphia, Indiana's Roy Hibbert, and Chicago's Luol Deng.

Also headed to the Feb. 26 game are NBA assists leader Steve Nash of Phoenix, Tony Parker of San Antonio, Russell Westbrook of Oklahoma City, Kevin Love of Minnesota, Chris Bosh of Miami, Atlanta's Joe Johnson and Deron Williams of New Jersey.

Already voted to start by fans in the Eastern Conference were Orlando's Dwight Howard, LeBron James and Dwyane Wade of Miami, Chicago's Derrick Rose and New York's Carmelo Anthony. The West starters are the Lakers' Kobe Bryant and Andrew Bynum, Chris Paul and Blake Griffin of the Clippers, and Oklahoma City's Kevin Durant.

Coaches voted for the reserves, and they had a tough task in this lockout-shortened season, when they were given only about 25 games to evaluate players.

That threatened to make it tough for Nowitzki and Pierce, whose bodies weren't ready to go after the lengthy offseason and brief training camps, and have played below their usual standards.

"I think it's too early. I'm sitting on my couch when they announced the rosters and I'm floored. I didn't even know they had started the voting," Celtics coach Doc Rivers said.

But the coaches picked Nowitzki, the NBA finals MVP, even though his average of 17.6 points is his worst since he scored 17.5 per game in the 1999-00 season. The Mavericks shut him down for a few games to work on his conditioning, and even he wondered recently whether his streak would continue, given the depth of players in his position in the West.

Pierce has been a little better, winning last week's East player of the week award and hiking his average to 18.4 per game, but acknowledged during an interview on TNT before the Celtics played the Lakers that he was a little surprised to be picked.

But he'll go alone from Boston, a year after Garnett, Allen and Rajon Rondo went with him. Duncan was there last year, too, having never missed an All-Star game since entering the league in the 1997-98 season.

"They're getting older," Rivers said. "It's just, you know, change. It happens."

Age didn't stop Nash, averaging 10 assists and shooting 56 percent from the field. He became just the fourth player to earn an All-Star spot at 38 or older, joining Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, Michael Jordan and Karl Malone.

Coaches had to pick two forwards, two guards, a center, and two players regardless of position. They couldn't vote for one of their own players.

They favored team success, with only Nash, Williams and Gasol getting picked from teams with losing records.

That left out All-Star hopefuls such as Milwaukee's Brandon Jennings, the Knicks' Stoudemire — who misses a chance to play near his Florida home — the Grizzlies' Rudy Gay, and Golden State's Monta Ellis. Houston's Kyle Lowry also fell short in the West, where coaches picked three other point guards.

Minnesota's awful record last season nearly cost Love, though he eventually made it as an injury replacement. Putting up big numbers again and this time with the Timberwolves on the right side of .500, he was an easy pick.

"It's a lot of joy," Love said. "It's really a respect thing. I've had a great season thus far and we've had some success as a team. For me, it's definitely a big deal. I put in a lot of work these last three and a half seasons and I don't intend on stopping."

The snubbed players still have a chance if there is an injury. Commissioner David Stern chooses the injury replacements.

MLB

Cruz signs two-year deal with Texas

Associated Press

ARLINGTON, Texas — The Texas Rangers agreed to a \$16 million, two-year contract with Nelson Cruz on Thursday, keeping the American League Championship Series MVP around as the team chases a third-straight AL pennant.

"Nelson is a cornerstone of our team for what really marks the whole turnaround of the franchise. He been part of the winning core, he's a huge part of that," assistant general manager Thad Levine said. "He's been big-time performer in the postseason. He's part of the personality of this team, he plays the game with a ton of energy, a very dynamic player, true five-tool athlete."

The deal came eight days before a scheduled arbitration hearing. It includes another potential \$500,000 in performance bonuses and takes the 31-year-old slugging outfielder through his final two seasons of salary-arbitration eligibility.

Cruz and Levine both said there were talks of a longer deal going into his first seasons of potential free agency. They said there could be further conversations, but that the two-year agreement was the best way to settle things at this point.

"This was the priority right now," Cruz said. "Like I've said before, I would like to stay with the Rangers."

The deal for Cruz came a day after slick-fielding shortstop Elvis Andrus completed a \$14.4 million, three-year contract on the eve of his scheduled arbitration hearing.

In last year's six-game AL championship series against Detroit, Cruz had six home runs and 13 RBIs, both major league records for a postseason series. That included the first game-ending grand slam in postseason history. Cruz became the first player with extra-inning homers in two games of one series.

In 33 career playoff games, all over the last two years when the Rangers made their first two World Series appearances, Cruz has hit .270 with 14 homers and

27 RBIs.

Cruz is also a .270 career hitter over seven major league seasons and has hit 84 of his 106 career homers over the past three years despite six stays on the disabled list during that span. Most of the DL stints have been because of leg issues, but he said he is feeling good after changes in his offseason routine, including his workouts and diet.

"I've been working a lot in the offseason to ensure I stay healthy the whole season," said Cruz, who missed 29 games last season because of a left hamstring strain and a strained right quadriceps muscle.

That was after he missed 51 games in 2010 because of problems with both hamstrings. Even though he played only 108 games in 2010, he matched a major league record with five extra-innings homers, three being game-ending shots. In the playoffs that year, he had 13 extra-base hits (six homers), a record for a single postseason.

Texas, which hasn't had an arbitration hearing since winning its case against Lee Stevens in 2000, still is in talks with Napoli.

INTERNATIONAL SOCCER

Zambia to face Ivory Coast in finals

Associated Press

LIBREVILLE, Gabon — Zambia prepared for the African Cup of Nations final by traveling to a rubbish-strewn beach Thursday to sing songs and lay flowers in honor of players who died in a plane crash nearly two decades ago.

The current players, some without shoes, walked down the nondescript stretch of sand in Libreville not far from where a Zambian military plane crashed into the ocean soon after takeoff in 1993, killing 25 players and officials on board as well as five crew.

It robbed the country of one of its best teams and a group favored to win the following year's African Cup.

This squad walked silently at first as players held their flowers, some too young to remember the disaster. Then players started singing as they approached the water and laid their flowers on the edge of the surf. Some waded in knee-deep. They huddled to pray for Zambia's previous soccer stars.

On Sunday, they will try to honor them again by beating pre-tournament favorite Ivory Coast, Africa's top-ranked team, for Zambia's first continental title.

The site for the small, informal ceremony was chosen as the part of the beach the plane flew over 19 years ago before plunging into the water 500 yards out to suddenly and tragically snatch away nearly an entire squad.

At the head of the 22 players Thursday was Kalusha Bwalya, probably Zambia's greatest player and a member of the '93 team who escaped the accident because he played for a club in Europe and was to meet the rest of the squad for a World Cup qualifier at their final destination: Dakar, Senegal.

Bwalya's teammates never



AP
Zambia striker Emmanuel Mayuka heads the ball in Zambia's 1-0 win over Ghana in the semis of the African Cup on Wednesday.

made it.

Zambia and Bwalya returned to the Gabonese capital for the first time since the tragedy. The Zambians will be in the African Cup final for the third time. And they've returned to try and finally win it in the city where Zambia suffered its lowest, saddest soccer moment.

Zambia made the '94 final with a makeshift squad that was inspired by Bwalya and the tragedy, only to lose to Nigeria.

The team has surprised many again by making the final, and a victory in Libreville this weekend would undoubtedly be dedicated to the 18 players and seven federation officials who died a few miles from the stadium.

"It's been a long journey," Bwalya said, remembering his late teammates as the current players stood behind him, some ankle-deep in the ocean. "I'm just pleased that God has given me enough days to see this day."

Some of the players, dressed in their team tracksuits, took photos of the beach. Others just looked out to sea.

Captain Christopher Katongo, the joint-leading goalscorer in this year's African Cup, led them in prayer as they formed a tight huddle.

"It's no coincidence that we are here today," Bwalya, now the Zambia Football Association president, said as he read from a short speech he prepared. "We've worked hard as a team. In 1993 the Chipolopolo (Copper Bullets) came here to fulfill a promise. They did not succeed and instead gave up their lives in a bid to bring glory to our country."

"It's the same cause that brings us here today, the only difference is that we are alive and our former teammates are no longer here. Their dreams are our dreams."

Earlier at Leon Mba Airport, where the ill-fated plane took off years ago, the players smiled and posed for photos for fans.

Hours later on the beach they were somber but relaxed. Bwalya also invited a retired Gabonese soldier who was on the beach and saw the plane go down on that April day in 1993 and tried to help.

Zambia arrived just hours earlier from Bata, Equatorial Guinea, where it beat 26th-ranked Ghana in Wednesday's semifinal to set up the poignant return to Libreville. The Copper Bullets, tied for 71st in the FIFA rankings, face No. 18 Ivory Coast, with well-known stars Didier Drogba, Salomon Kalou and brothers Yaya and Kolo Toure.

MEN’S SWIMMING AND DIVING

Divers to kick off championship action

By MEGAN FINNERAN
Sports Writer

Notre Dame will kick off an important week of competition this weekend. The swimmers have a few more days of preparation before the Big East championships, but for the divers, today marks the beginning of the postseason. “In preparing for this meet, the team has gradually shifted our practices toward specific meet performance, including a focus on consistency, emphasizing the importance of mental preparation, and a greater concentration on details,” senior Sean Rademaker said. Pittsburgh’s Trees Pool will host the championships, where all six Irish divers will compete against some of their closest rivals. Rademaker and junior Ryan Koter carry the team in terms of experience, but Rademaker said the freshmen foursome of Ted Wagner, Nick Nemetz, Michael Kreft and John Andrade have

certainly proven themselves. “This is a great meet for the team because our four freshmen have had the opportunity to develop throughout the year,” Rademaker said. “It will be exciting to watch their performance under pressure in their first Big East championships.” In order to qualify for this weekend’s meet, each athlete had a standard to reach. For the 1-meter dive, a 240-point minimum requirement stood as the entry mark, while the 3-meter dive required 250 points. Unlike the swimming competition where lower “B” standards also exist for entry, only one level exists for diving. The men participated in the Shamrock Invitational on Saturday, hosted by Notre Dame. The Irish took six of the top eight spots in the 1-meter dive, led by Nemetz in second with 290.40 points. Koter and Kreft followed close behind in third and fourth with 280.73 and 279.15 points, re-

spectively. Similar results held true for the 3-meter dives, where Nemetz also took the top mark for the team with 332.63 points. This time Kreft took third and Koter took fourth, with 320.03 and 312.83 points, respectively. Last year the Irish claimed a first-place finish in both events under then-seniors Eric Lex in the 1-meter dive and Nathan Geary in the 3-meter. This year’s team looks to maintain that same success, as Rademaker especially looks forward to the meet, knowing it marks his last with the Irish. “It’s amazing to think about how much I’ve been able to improve with the help of my teammates and coaches. This has been an incredible opportunity,” he said. The Big East championships begin this afternoon in Pittsburgh.

Contact Megan Finneran at
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MEN’S TENNIS

Irish to host top competition

By SAM GANS
Sports Writer

Coming off a strong 5-2 win at No. 64 Northwestern on Tuesday, the No. 30 Irish will continue a busy stretch this weekend. Notre Dame will play three matches at the Eck Tennis Pavilion, as they face Wisconsin today and No. 6 Kentucky and IUPUI in separate matches Sunday. The match against Notre Dame (6-3) is only the third match of the season for the Badgers (2-0), who haven’t played since Jan. 28. “I’m not sure why [the Badgers] chose to schedule things that way, but you’d think that we’d be certainly more match ready, but I don’t know if that translates into anything,” Irish coach Bobby Bayliss said. “They’ve won the two matches they’ve played very easily, so they should be very confident. We’ve had a pretty spirited rivalry with Wisconsin over the years and generally pretty hard-fought amongst some matches, and I would anticipate more of the same this year.” After today’s match against Wisconsin, the Irish will not

have much time to rest with the Wildcats (8-0) and Jaguars (1-4) coming to town Sunday. Kentucky in particular will pose a strong test for the Irish. “I think [Kentucky is] one of the top three or four teams in the country and we’ll have to play well, but we’ve had good matches with them in the past and we’ve had our share of success here when they’ve been highly-ranked,” Bayliss said. “There’s no reason to think it won’t be a pretty competitive match. “They’re pretty deep. Their No. 6 [singles player] is ranked No. 45 in the country, so that kind of gives you an idea of their depth, but we’ve beaten some of their guys in the past and I expect it to be a highly-contested match.” After the elite Wildcats, however, comes a struggling IUPUI. Despite the lack of success the Jaguars have shown this season, IUPUI assistant coach Pat Nickell’s past interaction with the Irish could help the Jaguars strategically. “[IUPUI hasn’t] done as well this year and it might provide an opportunity for some of our guys to get some match experi-

ence that haven’t received it,” Bayliss said. “They’re very well-coached. Pat Nickell is one of their coaches and he works in our camp and I know he’ll do a great job. He knows our guys backwards and forwards so they’ll come ready to play.” Despite the potential fatigue that could come from playing two matches in one day, Bayliss thinks the doubleheader will be beneficial to the Irish. “We think we have pretty good depth, and any time you play a doubleheader it means you’re going to need to rely on it, so I think that’s a plus for us,” he said. “It doesn’t have to hurt us that we’re playing two matches in one day. I think we’ve got a couple of guys who haven’t gotten in many matches that are capable of playing as well as the starters. And so I’m not afraid of the two [matches] in one day.” The Irish square off with the Badgers today at 4 p.m. before facing the Wildcats and Jaguars on Sunday at 12 p.m. and 6 p.m., respectively. All three matches will be played at the Eck Tennis Pavilion.

Contact Sam Gans at sgans@nd.edu



JAMES DOAN/The Observer

Freshman Michael Fredericka prepares to return a volley during a match in the Tom Fallon Invitational at the Courtney Tennis Center on Sep. 24, 2011.

ND WOMEN’S SWIMMING AND DIVING

Program sets sights on 15th conference title

Observer Staff Report

The Irish will travel to Pittsburgh this weekend for the Big East championships in the hopes of securing their 15th championship in their 17-year history in the Big East. The one-week meet will kickoff on Friday with the diving portion of the championships. Junior diver Jenny Chiang is seeking her third Big East title in the 3-meter dive. The swimming portion of the meet will begin on Wednesday and will run through Saturday evening. The Irish (6-6) have had great success in the last fifteen years at the Big East meet. They finished second last year behind only Louisville. The second place finish snapped a Big East record of 14 consecutive titles. The Irish have a number of key members returning from last year’s team, including three individual champions and four members of winning relay teams. Junior Kim Holden and sophomore Kelly Ryan lead the Irish with a combined eleven Big East in-

dividual titles. Holden is a seven-time Big East champion who won the 100-meter and 200-meter backstroke and was a member of the 400-medley relay that won the conference title last season. Ryan, meanwhile, is a four-time Big East champion who won the 100-meter and 200-meter freestyle as a freshman. Ryan also goes into the meet with the top times in the 50-freestyle (23.17), 100-freestyle (49.62), 100-backstroke (53.60) and 200-backstroke (1:55.66). Led by Emma Reaney, the freshmen have been a key spark for the Irish all season. Reaney has earned three Big East Women’s Swimming and Diving Athlete of the Week awards — a new conference record for most honors in a season. She looks to finish among the top of the conference in the 200-individual medley after notching a new school record and the best time in the conference this season at 1:57.67. With anticipation and pressure mounting prior to the championships, the Irish look to bring home a conference title when they take to the pool in Pittsburgh on Friday.

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Depart	Harrison Red Line - Downtown Chicago (on Harrison between State and Wabash)	6:50am CT
Depart	Stony Island & 60th Street on Stony Island at the CTA Bus Shelter (located directly in front of the University Park & Ride Lot)	7:15am CT
Arrive	Notre Dame - Library Circle & Main Gate	10:00am ET
Depart	Notre Dame - Library Circle	5:15pm ET
Depart	Notre Dame - Main Gate	5:30pm ET
Arrive	Stony Island & 60th Street on Stony Island at the CTA Bus Shelter (located directly in front of the University Park & Ride Lot)	6:15pm CT
Arrive	Harrison Red Line - Downtown Chicago (on Harrison between State and Wabash)	6:35pm CT
Depart	Harrison Red Line - Downtown Chicago (on Harrison between State and Wabash)	6:40pm CT
Arrive	Notre Dame - Library Circle & Main Gate	9:45pm ET

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The Observer ♦ SPORTS

Friday, February 10, 2012

DePaul

continued from page 6

came from, we will never be overconfident,” Brey said. “We were so poor in November and December, I have a hard time feeling us being overconfident.”

DePaul (11-12, 2-9), who currently sits in 15th place in the 16-team Big East, comes into Saturday’s game having lost eight of their previous nine contests.

“[The DePaul game is] very important,” Atkins said. “To get another win in the league is huge for us. It’s a huge game for us and we’re going to approach it like that.”

The Blue Demons employ an up-tempo style of play, drastically contrasting the burn-of-fense Irish.

“Their style of play worries me,” Brey said. “They are going to press and make it chaotic. There’s no style of play in the league like this.”

DePaul ranks third in the

conference with 74.6 points per game, led by sophomore forward Cleveland Melvin. However, the Blue Demons are last in the league in scoring defense.

“They’re going to be a team that tries to speed us up as much as possible,” Atkins said. “We’re going to have some fast break opportunities because of their pressure. We still want to play our pace and make sure they play our pace.”

The Irish have won six straight meetings against the Blue Demons, including last year’s 83-58 drubbing in Chicago.

“[The rivalry] runs deep,” Brey said. “I know we’ve had a pretty good run on DePaul but we don’t take anything for granted.”

Tip-off between Notre Dame and DePaul is slated for noon Saturday at the Purcell Pavilion.

Contact Matthew DeFranks at mdfrank@nd.edu

Ewingleben

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games, Saturday’s match-up will be the ultimate test of whether the Irish can close out a series.

“[Saturday’s game] is not going to be easy, that’s for sure,” Lee said. “Ferris State has got a great crowd at home, and they’ve got that small little rink, so they play well at home, but we want to go in there and try to take three points.”

This weekend’s games take on even more importance with the current state of the CCHA standings. Notre Dame sits in a tie for fourth in the conference, but just six points separate the top eight teams. With the season drawing to a close, each

game will be crucial as the Irish aim to lock in a high seed and first-round bye at the conference tournament.

“This is the time of the year when you’ve got to be playing your best hockey, and hopefully we’ll be nearing our peak in the next few weeks,” Lee said. “These are big huge games that are basically playoffs at this point, and are going to decide a lot later on. We’re approaching every one like a must-win.”

Notre Dame and Ferris St. will face off Friday night at the Compton Family Ice Arena, and Saturday at Ewingleben Arena in Big Rapids, Mich. The puck will drop both nights at 7:05 p.m.

Contact Jack Hefferon at whheffero@nd.edu

TRACK AND FIELD

Five to compete at ‘Big Meet’

By BRIAN HARTNETT
Sports Writer

While most of the Irish squad will spend the weekend resting on campus, five Notre Dame runners will travel to Allendale, Mich. on Friday to compete in the Grand Valley State University Big Meet.

The majority of the Irish team will take this weekend off in order to rest before the Big East Championships, which will be held Feb. 18 and Feb. 19 in New York. Irish coach Joe Piane made the decision to send a handful of runners who need further preparation for next week’s meet.

“Historically, we take this weekend off, but we’re going to Grand Valley this year because there are a couple of kids who need to race,” Piane said.

On the men’s side, Notre Dame will look for contributions from three athletes who are currently in transition from the gridiron to the track. Sophomore cornerback Bennett Jackson, freshman running back George Atkinson III and freshman cornerback Josh Atkinson will all compete in the invitational, with Jackson running in the 60-meter hurdles and both Atkinsons running in the 60- and 200-meter events.

Sophomore hurdler Bryce Wood will also travel with the team and compete in the 60-meter hurdles.

The four men’s runners traveling to the meet have shown considerable progress, but have a rather limited body of work. Jackson and the Atkinsons all ran Big East qualifying times last week, with Wood having qualified for the Big East Championships earlier this season.

Piane said his primary motivation behind sending the run-



ALEX PARTAK/The Observer

Junior middle distance runner Jeremy Rae approaches the finish line of the Mayo Mile on Feb. 4. Rae won the mile race in under four minutes.

ners was to give them additional experience, as Jackson and the Atkinsons recently joined the team in late January.

“Jackson has only been over a couple of flights of hurdles in the last few years, so we need him to get over a few more flights this week,” Piane said. “The same goes for Bryce Wood, who has only gone over one flight of hurdles this year.”

Freshman hurdler Jade Barber will be the sole representative for the Irish women’s team, competing in the 60-meter hurdles this weekend. Barber has already met the Big East qualifying times in the event, but has not competed in the 60-meter hurdles since the Notre Dame Invitational in December.

With the Big East Championships on the horizon, Piane said he is pleased with the team’s progress throughout the season. “The women’s team was av-

erage at the Big East meet last year, but I think they can come home with a trophy this year,” Piane said. “We have some very good freshmen that are going to contribute, and some of the older kids have made wonderful improvements. On the men’s side, we have a lot of really talented kids and have had some great performances.”

With the Irish putting together strong performances in the last few meets, Piane is confident the team will be a legitimate contender for the championships.

“We’re going to be a team that people will have to worry about in the Big East meet because we will be in the hunt,” Piane said.

The Grand Valley State University Big Meet begins at 10 a.m. Friday and continues all day Saturday.

Contact Brian Hartnett at bhartnet@nd.edu

Bouts

continued from page 16

Such strength and courage is needed to make it through the grueling season, which begins in October, when the novices head out to Stepan Field for the first practice, and goes through the beginning of March. At first, the emphasis is on conditioning, but as the season progresses, the focus shifts toward technique and skill.

“We still work [conditioning] in, but basically as tourney time gets closer and closer we want to make sure that people are getting quality ring-time experience,” junior captain Jack Lally said. “So we have two sparring rings going [during practice] and guys need to start thinking about the actual fights themselves.”

Whether it’s conditioning or sparring, Bengal Bouts is far from the easiest extracurricular activity you’ll find around campus. Boxers are required to attend four practices a week, but many students make it to five or six. The practices are predictably exhausting and making it through the whole season is a testament to a boxer’s commitment, according to senior captain and co-president Kevin Ortenzio.

“The athletic side, as you can tell, is no easy pushover,” Ortenzio said. “Through the workouts, you’ve put in your own commitments and therefore your own sufferings and whether it’s blood, sweat or tears, all of that goes into these practices in prepara-

tion for what could be only four minutes of actual boxing action.”

When tournament time rolls around, boxers are grouped by weight into 13 or 14 brackets of 16 with each bracket making up one weight class. All boxers will fight in the preliminary round Sunday, with the winners advancing to the quarterfinals on Feb. 22. The quarterfinal winners then move onto the semifinals, where the best of the best square off with the hope of making it to the final round.

Lally said the increased competitiveness leads to better fights.

“The better guys usually win [each round] so the competition gets stiffer and stiffer and the fights get better and better,” Lally said. “[It culminates] with the final round in Purcell Pavilion, which is really great. [Those bouts] are always a lot of fun because that’s where we get huge crowds and really pack that facility.”

The large crowds lead to revenue, all of which gets sent to the Holy Cross Missions in Bangladesh. The Boxing Club donated around \$140,000 last year and hopes to top that mark with this year’s bouts. Each of the roughly 200 boxers is required to raise a minimum of \$500 by selling tickets and ad space for the program.

After getting sent to Bangladesh, the money is distributed between 13 different parishes that decide how to use the donations. Ortenzio had the opportunity to see firsthand where the proceeds go when he traveled to Bangladesh over the summer on a trip organized through the International Summer Service

Learning Program. One visit to northern Bangladesh, during which he met the Garo people, particularly struck a chord with Ortenzio.

“When they accepted us into their home, they had these ritual dances and all these cultural events and activities to welcome us,” Ortenzio said. “But the funny thing was those cultural events and the ceremonies they had were held in this multipurpose building that they use for these ceremonies, as well as for classes. Essentially, it was one of the buildings that was used on a regular, day-to-day basis by the community and it was pretty much funded by the Bengal Bouts.

“It was sort of the thing what goes around comes around. The exact building that the celebration is in on our behalf is the actual building that we helped contribute to.”

Seeing the effect Bengal Bouts has had on those less fortunate has certainly been a life-changing experience, Ortenzio said.

“I’ll certainly look back on this as an honor and a blessing to be a part of this program,” Ortenzio said. “Without it, I think I would be a whole different person and I have the whole Notre Dame community to thank for this opportunity. It’s only a university like Notre Dame that can put this together and make it run so that it’s a benefit for all of society.”

The bell to kick off the preliminary round rings Sunday at 1 p.m. in the Joyce Center.

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McGraw

continued from page 16

Devereaux Peters and sophomore forward Natalie Achonwa, to match up with their conference opponent in the post.

“Devereaux Peters has been playing extremely well, Natalie Achonwa has been really coming on lately and is rebounding well, [sophomore guard] Kayla McBride is rebounding well, so I think we’ll be looking to our post to really step up in this game,” McGraw said.

Despite its undefeated record in conference play, Notre Dame expects the Mountaineers to enter the game hungry as they look to improve on their fifth-place ranking in the Big East. West Virginia has won five of their last six games, including an upset of No.

12 Louisville on Feb. 4.

“They are on a roll,” McGraw said of the Mountaineers. “They’ve won three in a row, [and] they are in good position in the conference. They are coming down the stretch here looking at a pretty high seed in the tournament and an NCAA bid, so they have a lot to play for right now.”

Both teams will have plenty to play for on Sunday, with the Play 4 Kay and Pink Zone events both taking place in South Bend this weekend.

“We are trying to raise money for Saint Joseph’s County and keep the money here for ... all the women in this area,” McGraw said. “So what can we do to help them, and to help fund mammograms and cancer research and trying to make it touch the lives of people right here. It is a national occasion. Kay Yow was sort of the Jim Valvano for women’s basketball, and Play 4 Kay is a big part

of ESPN and what they are doing. “We will be wearing pink, we are having an auction and we are doing a lot of things to raise money ... so we are definitely doing a lot to help the cause.”

After raising roughly \$120,000 to support cancer research through the event last year, the Irish aim to raise \$130,000 this time around.

Notre Dame will host West Vir-

ginia on Sunday, with the tip-off scheduled for 3:30 p.m. at the Purcell Pavilion.

Contact Joseph Monardo at jmonardo@nd.edu



Sophomore forward Natalie Achonwa goes up for a rebound during Notre Dame’s 90-70 win over DePaul on Feb. 5.

Lacrosse

continued from page 16

Halfpenny said the Irish will switch up styles on both offense and defense, a result of the new coaching staff on campus.

“We’ll play a very, very different style of defense,” Halfpenny said. “Offensively, we’re running some different looks too. It’ll be fun because the change has been welcomed by the girls.”

The Irish lost six starters to graduation, including two All-Americans in defender Jackie Doherty and midfielder Shaylyn Blaney. Halfpenny said replacing the former stars was tough in the fall, but has gotten easier this spring.

“In the fall, it was daunting for the team [to replace the past starters],” Halfpenny said. “Now that we’ve got through the fall, the kids grew up. The seniors became seniors.”

The Irish, however, do return preseason All-Big East selections senior attack Maggie Tamasitis and sophomore midfielder Kaitlyn Brosco. Tamasitis — who joins senior midfielders Jordy Shoemaker and Megan Sullivan as team captains — carries a 37-game point streak into this season.

“We’re going to be a little bit youthful on the field,” Halfpenny said. “We will be continuing to develop players during the season and during the course of a game. We’re excited about that because our leadership has really stepped up.”

The Irish open their season with an exhibition game against Johns Hopkins on Saturday in Baltimore.

“We’re very excited to finally play someone other than ourselves,” Halfpenny said. “We’re excited to see what we look like against someone that doesn’t know us. [Johns Hopkins] plays a very physical and aggressive game. They’re athletic. They finished off strong last year and they return quite a few players.”

While the game against the Blue Jays is marked as an exhibition, Halfpenny said they will play the match as though it is a real game.

“We’re going to play it as much as we can like a game and see where we’re at so we know what we need to fix before we host Stanford,” Halfpenny said.

The Irish play Johns Hopkins at 11 a.m. Saturday in Baltimore before opening their season Feb. 19 against Stanford at home.

Contact Matthew DeFranks at mdfrank@nd.edu

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CROSSWORD

WILL SHORTZ

- Across**

1 Company whose jobs are often changing?

10 Working group

15 Got to the bottom of

16 It takes a bow at a musical performance

17 1958 Buddy Holly hit

18 "Guaranteed relief every time" sloganeer

19 Historic leader?

20 "Dove ____" (Mozart aria)

21 Thing

22 Poetic contraction

23 Kind of strip

25 Workers' org. founded by Samuel Gompers

26 Farriers' tools

29 Letters signifying quality brandy

30 Grant-giving org.

31 Musical with the song "Written in the Stars"

33 Said "There, there" to, say

36 It makes the Statue of Liberty green

39 Guarantee

40 Very excited

42 The so-called Island of the Gods

43 Head for the hills

44 One can be tall

46 Jerry or Jerry Lee

50 Seine sight

51 Rappers' covers

53 Sign

54 Lane on Broadway
- Down**

1 18-footer, maybe

2 Measured two-dimensionally

3 Chickens for dinner

4 "Marvy!"

5 Surrealist Tanguy

6 Simon of Duran Duran

7 Russian ballerina Galina

8 Gets into Monk music

9 Eponym of a frozen food

10 It may be picked up in the woods

11 Do a driver's no-no

12 Axis, e.g.

13 Condition known medically as pes planus

14 1967 hit with the lyric "You know you're a cute little heartbreaker"

56 Attack

58 Telephone trio

59 Against a thing, at law

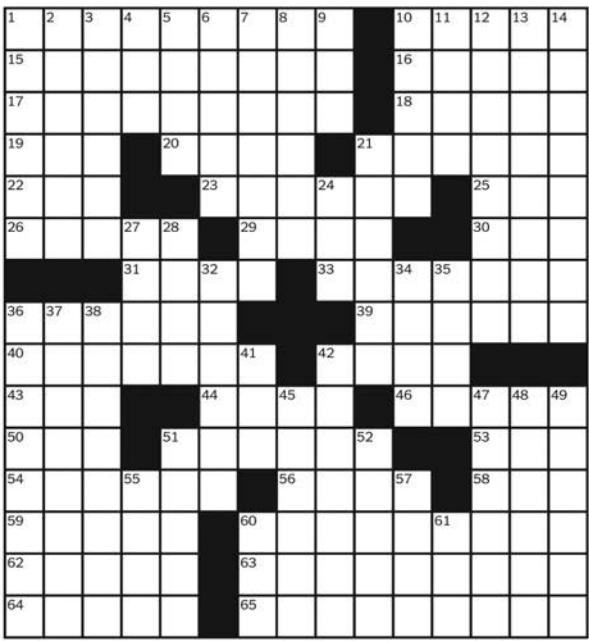
60 2010 Ke\$ha chart-topper with a creatively spelled five-word title

62 Clichéd

63 Series of Nintendo games

64 Certain 49-Down

65 Watersheds



Puzzle by David Steinberg

- 21 Wife, in Juárez

24 Sister of Helios

27 Sibling, at times?

28 Sound really good

32 007 player

34 Put to sleep

35 Auto racer Luyendyk

36 "Refudiate," e.g.
- 37 Mythical runner

38 1990s series initially set in the year 2193

41 Place for a plug

42 Mild Irish oath

45 Nike competitor

47 Move to and fro

48 Belong

49 Women's wear
- 51 Women

52 2005 horror sequel

55 Prefix with port

57 Fund-raising suffix

60 Iraq war subject, briefly

61 Volga tributary

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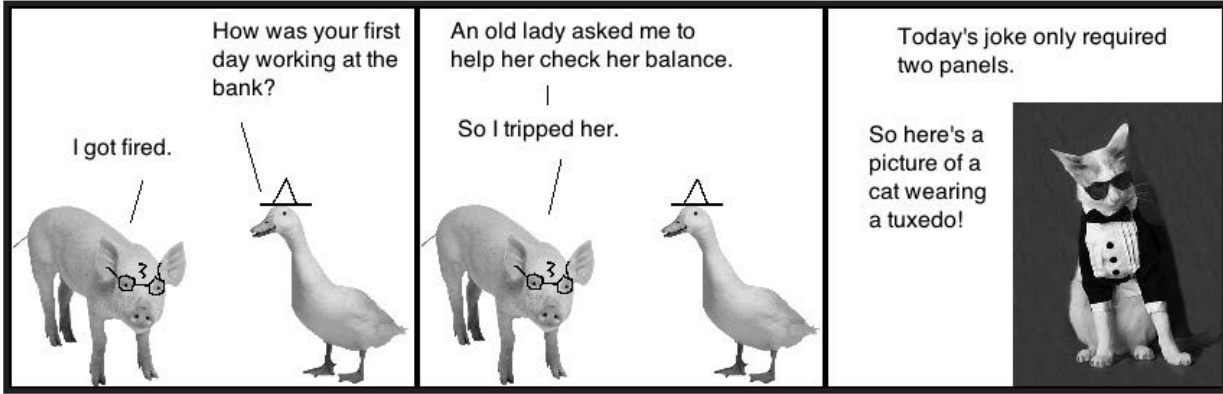
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JOE MILLER and KELLY LYNCH



THE LONDON EXPRESS

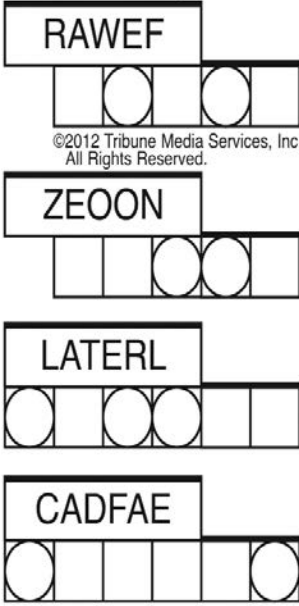
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Answer: The concert in Death Valley had — LOW ATTENDANCE



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HOCKY

Ferris State to present challenge

By JACK HEFFERON
Sports Writer

The journey has not been easy for No. 9/9 Notre Dame this season, as they've fought through the grind of playing a brutal CCHA schedule. The road doesn't get any easier this weekend, as the Irish will take on conference leader No. 5/6 Ferris State in a crucial home-and-home series with serious playoff implications.

Notre Dame (16-11-3, 11-8-3-0 CCHA) will hope to rebound against the Bulldogs (18-8-4, 12-6-4-1) after a disappointing end to last weekend's series against the CCHA cellar dwellers, Bowling Green. After beating the Falcons on Friday night, the Irish surrendered a third-period lead on Saturday and lost 3-2.

With only six games left in conference play, Irish coach Jeff Jackson said his players are focused on finishing each game strong, and ensuring the team doesn't let any more points slip away.

"Finishing out games has been [a point of emphasis with Jackson], absolutely," sophomore winger Anders Lee said. "Bowling Green came in in the third period and they beat us. I don't know if it was a mental lapse, or maybe [we] just stopped bearing down a little bit, but right now the most important thing is Ferris State, and we'll learn from that mistake."

The Bulldogs will challenge the Irish in every facet of the game, particularly with their defense. Notorious for its physical play, Ferris St. drops their wingers down low on defense, which clogs the zone and forces teams to shoot from the point. The scheme has puzzled offenses all year, and the Bulldogs 2.30 goals against average puts their defense in the top 10 nationally.

"They're a high energy team, and they play really well defensively," Lee said. "It's hard to move the puck on them, so we just have to get the puck to the net and out-work them. You have to do a combination of both playing and taking what they give you, and get in there and hammer and cycle the puck and work it out to our defensemen."

The job will be even tougher for the Irish on Saturday night, when they travel to the hostile environment of Ewigleben Arena, one of the toughest venues in the country. The bandbox building packs the fans close to the ice, and its small ice surface makes scoring on the Bulldogs nearly impossible. Combined with the challenges of travel and playing two straight physical

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ND WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Scaling the mountain

Squad looks to remain undefeated in Big East while raising money for cancer awareness

By JOSEPH MONARDO
Sports Writer

Their next time out, the Irish can take another step toward securing the longest winning streak in school history, while also contributing to the fight against cancer. No. 2 Notre Dame will put its 21-game winning streak on the line against surging Big East foe West Virginia for the annual Pink Zone game Sunday.

The Irish (24-1, 11-0 Big East) defeated Syracuse 74-55 on Wednesday despite shooting just 12.5 percent from the three-point range in a subpar performance. As her team prepares to return to action on its home court, Irish coach Muffet McGraw said she hopes her team can improve on its most recent outing.

"We will shoot the ball better because we are playing at home and I think we will play at a faster pace," McGraw said. "That was one of the things that we didn't do against Syracuse, we played a little bit slower to match their tempo. So we will work on those things."

One bright spot for Notre Dame in the victory over Syracuse (15-10, 4-7) was the ability to out-rebound the Orange, who entered the game averaging 47.7 rebounds per game, by 10. In their

last 19 games, the Irish have a rebounding margin of plus 14.6 per game.

"I was really pleased with our rebounding ... so that was a really big positive that we are going to need to carry into this game, because West Virginia is another great rebounding team," McGraw said.

Sophomore guard Taylor Palmer leads West Virginia (17-6, 7-3) with 12.6 points per game, but the Mountaineers' strong post presence is most threatening to the Irish, McGraw said. West Virginia junior center Aysa Bussie enters the game averaging 11.7 points and 6.7 rebounds per game. Redshirt junior center Ayana Dunning adds 7.3 points and 8.1 rebounds per game. Bussie and Dunning stand at 6'3" and 6'4", respectively, and combine to form an intimidating front-court.

"They've got great post play and a lethal combination," McGraw said. "They will be very difficult for us to match up with, so that is definitely going to be a big concern of ours."

The Irish will rely on an inside duo of their own, composed of graduate student forward

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DILLON WEISNER/The Observer

Graduate student forward Devereaux Peters grabs a rebound during Notre Dame's 90-70 win over DePaul on Feb. 5.

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Streaking Irish look to continue winning ways

By MATTHEW DeFRANKS
Sports Writer

After defeating West Virginia on Wednesday, the Irish return to Purcell Pavilion with hopes of extending their season-long five-game winning streak against a struggling DePaul squad.

During the streak, Notre Dame (16-8, 8-3 Big East) has held each opponent under 60 points while knocking off three ranked conference foes.

"I feel like everybody's clicking, everybody's playing really good basketball at this point," sophomore guard Eric Atkins said. "We're doing a great job on the defensive side of the ball. It's

making it easy."

In Wednesday's 55-51 win, the Irish held the Mountaineers (16-9, 6-6) to just two-for-16 shooting from behind the three-point line, while holding senior guard Darryl Bryant to zero points.

"Even with us winning now, I still feel like people think it's just a little hot streak that's going to fall off sometime," Atkins said. "In our minds, we're still trying to prove people wrong and keep climbing the Big East."

Irish coach Mike Brey said he does not think the Irish will have to deal with an overconfidence issue.

"I think because of where we

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JULIE HERDER/The Observer

Irish senior guard Scott Martin celebrates a basket during Notre Dame's 76-59 win over Marquette on Feb. 4.

ND WOMEN'S LACROSSE

Halfpenny shakes up style as new coach

By MATTHEW DeFRANKS
Sports Writer

A year after the Irish missed the NCAA tournament for the first time since 2007, No. 20 Notre Dame aims to bounce back under new Irish coach Christine Halfpenny.

Halfpenny, who comes to Notre Dame after leading William & Mary's program, said the transition has been a smooth

one so far.

"It's really been a wonderful preseason where I feel like our development has taken on a quicker uptake than I had anticipated coming off the fall," Halfpenny said. "We had a really nice break. I think winter break was good for everybody to take a step away from all the work we had done."

see LACROSSE/page 14

BENGAL BOUTS

Boxers take the ring in preliminary round

By MIKE MONACO
Sports Writer

Shakti. Shahosh.

At the conclusion of every practice, the captains shout out the Bengali word for strength and the rest of the boxers echo with the word for courage. And therein lies the essence of Bengals Bouts, which begins Sunday at 1 p.m. in the JACC with the preliminaries.

This post-practice ritual is symbolic of the Boxing Club as a whole. There is a group of boxers, sweaty and tired after a hard day's work, shouting motivational words in a foreign language. Yet the people who speak that foreign language, some 7,900 miles away, will receive the benefits of the strength and courage of these boxers.

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