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GSA asks University for official recognition

ND denies LGBTQ groups club status multiple times since 1986, seeks to serve community through other resources

SARAH MERVOSH
Managing Editor

Editor's note: This is the first installment in a three-part series about the experience of LGBTQ students at Notre Dame in light of recent requests that the University grant club status to a gay-straight alliance.

For more than 25 years, Notre Dame students have asked the University to formally recognize a student organization that addresses the needs of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning (LGBTQ) community on campus.

The requests have come in many forms, including student government resolutions, a report to the Board of Trustees and applications from student organizations requesting to be officially recognized as a club by the Student Activities Office (SAO).

Each time, the University rejected the request, but also affirmed its commitment to meeting the needs of LGBTQ students in ways other than a student-to-student group, according to rejection letters. The University has historically cited a conflict with Catholic teaching as a rea-

son for rejecting the clubs.

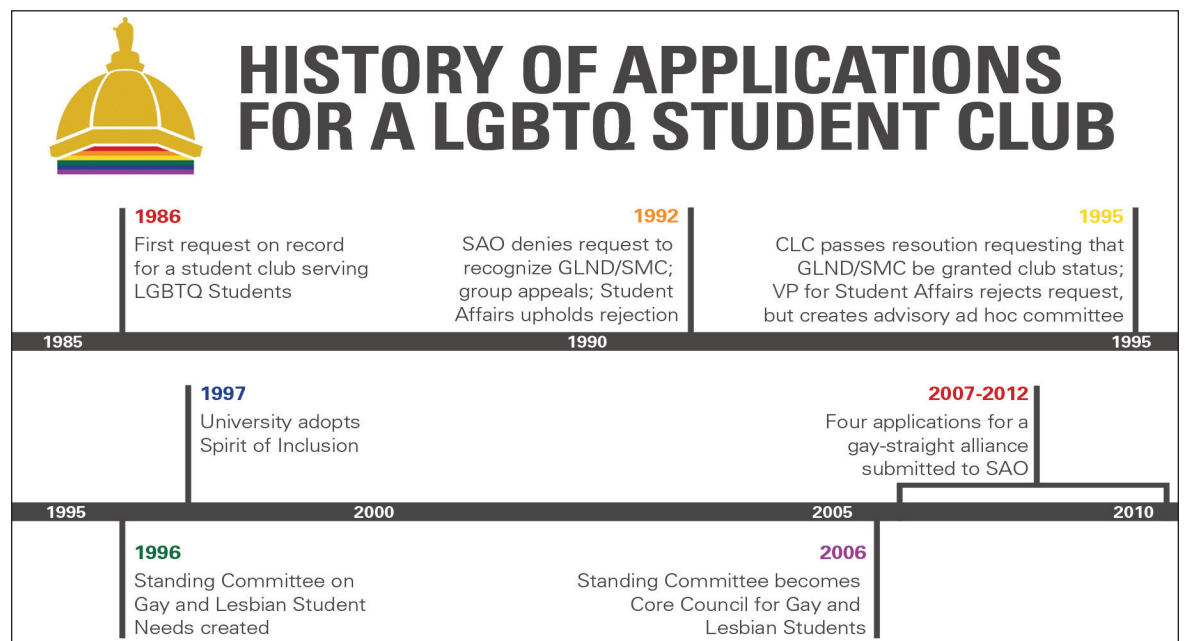
Last week, students submitted the most recent application asking that SAO recognize a gay-straight alliance (GSA). It was the fourth application for a GSA in the last six years, Peggy Hnatusko, director of student activities for programming, said.

Hnatusko said the proposed GSA is under review, but also said the current structures the University offers best meet the needs of LGBTQ students.

"It remains the viewpoint of the Student Activities Office that due to the sufficiently complex nature of the issue, the needs of gay, lesbian, bisexual and questioning students can best be met through the structures that are currently in place," she said.

Student body president Pat McCormick said the University has made significant progress on addressing the needs of LGBTQ students over the years, but students have come to him asking for the next step.

"Students are asking and seeking a peer-to-peer kind of group where gay and straight students can come together and have their own kind of independent group," he said. "The core element that we're trying to seek is whether we can make some kind of progress in trying to ad-



DAN AZIC | Observer Graphic

vance the spirit of inclusion further in ways that are consistent with Catholic teaching."

A long history

The names and specific objectives of the groups have changed over the years, but since the 1980s, unofficial student groups for LGBTQ students have sought official University recognition.

"There have been a number

of applications received by the Student Activities Office whose purposes cover a wide array of gay and lesbian student issues," Hnatusko said. "These proposals have ranged from providing a support group to establishing a gay-straight alliance."

Hnatusko and representatives from Student Affairs were unable to provide the exact number of times a student group

serving the needs of LGBTQ students has requested club status and been denied.

Based on interviews and copies of rejection letters obtained through student government records, The Observer verified seven requests. Senior Sam Costanzo, who submitted this year's application for a GSA,

see GSA/page 7

Police alert ND campus of assault

Observer Staff Report

Notre Dame Security Police (NDSP) alerted students in an email Saturday night of a reported sexual assault that occurred in the early morning hours of March 3. NDSP is investigating the reported incident.

Police said the reported assault was committed by a non-stranger in a residence hall.

They advised students to be conscious of the environment they are in and look out for friends to reduce the risk of sexual assault.

"College students are more likely to be assaulted by an acquaintance than a stranger. This means that the person perpetrating the assault could be part of the campus community. Being aware of your own safety and watching out for your friends are important steps you can take to reduce the risk of sexual assault," the email stated.

MAN'S BEST FRIEND



MAGGIE O'BRIEN/ The Observer

Senior Rachel Krejchi hugs a dog during Friday's "Puppy Days" outside the Knights of Columbus Building. The event was held to relieve student stress before midterms week.

SMC elects new student body leaders

By JILLIAN BARWICK
News Writer

Saint Mary's Student Government Association (SGA) tallied the votes of this year's election Friday morning and announced juniors Maureen Parsons and Meghan Casey as president and vice president, respectively.

"When we first heard the news of winning the elections, we were beyond excited," Casey said. "We were grateful that the student body elected us to represent them and put into action our goals that we wish to achieve."

Parsons said the win was a result of hard work and active support.

"With our determination and the help of our friends, we were able to reach out to as many students as possible to con-

see ELECTION/page 4

The Mar. 1 edition of *The Observer* featured an article about Alta Gracia that was in error as to the following: Alta Gracia is only 2 years old; Alta Gracia is an initiative of Knights Apparel which is the largest supplier of collegiate apparel; Alta Gracia currently does not supply blanks to Notre Dame; and the reported 30 cents more per shirt is an estimate rather than an exact figure — the figure depends on the piece being produced. The *Observer* regrets these errors.

HIGH
LOW

SMC to host Sammy Adams

By MEAGHAN DALY
News Writer

The Student Activities Board (SAB) of Saint Mary's College welcomes students of the tri-campus area to buy tickets to this year's SMC Tostal performance—rapper Sam Adams.

SAB president Allie Courtney said the group worked hard to find a performer that would match the popularity of last year's performer, Sean Kingston.

"Sammy Adams music is fun, upbeat and very geared towards the college population," she said. "We had a great turnout last year with Sean Kingston, so it is a challenge to improve the event year to year, but we are optimistic and working hard to do so. The most important part of Tostal, for me, is to ultimately bring the communities together by providing an event that people really want to go to ... most of all, it is all about the students. We just want to put on a great event for students to enjoy."

Although Courtney and SAB vice president Caitlyn Wonski knew which performer was hired before winter break, they kept the performer a secret from the general student body until Midnight Madness on Wednesday night.

"It is difficult to keep a secret when you go to such a small school and people know your role on campus and constantly ask you questions, but it is much more rewarding to see student's reactions when the surprise is revealed," Courtney said.

SMC Tostal

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DAN AZIC | Observer Graphic

SAB secretary Elizabeth Craig said the Saint Mary's Tostal performer is chosen to meet the needs of the campus community.

"We're really hoping it will bring a good energy and good vibe to all three campuses," she said. "It is a great way to get everyone excited for spring. Plus, it's an inexpensive event with a great performer."

Junior Caroline Keep said she is very excited for the performance.

"I absolutely cannot wait to see Sam Adams perform," she said. "It's about time the

Boston boy came to South Bend. Sean Kingston was amazing last year and I can only imagine that this year's Tostal will be even better. March 22 cannot come soon enough."

Tickets are \$7 for students and can be purchased at the O'Laughlin Auditorium on Saint Mary's campus or by calling (574) 284-4626. Limit is one ticket per student ID, but students may call or visit the box office with up to five student IDs.

Contact Meaghan Daly at mdaly01@saintmarys.edu

Basketball band to travel to NYC tournament

By AUBREY BUTTS
News Writer

Members of the Notre Dame men's basketball band will travel to Madison Square Garden on Tuesday to rally Notre Dame's men's basketball team in the Big East tournament games.

"I have been to New York City many times, but I am still really excited," junior Kathryn Murphy said. "Madison Square Garden is one of the most iconic places in the world, and I am excited to be representing the band and to show my support for the team."

Since the mean's team secured a bye for the first round of play, senior Jonathan Miller said he will use the spare time to sight-see.

"We get to spend an extra day in New York City, and a few band members and myself hope to see a Broadway show or do some other sight-seeing," he said.

Having already experienced the tournament atmosphere his freshman year, senior trumpet player Joel Graczyk said he is excited to play at a major game again and to watch the team play at the tournament.

"As a freshman, I played in the band when the men's basketball team played against Penn State in the National Invitation Tournament semifinal at the Garden, so I'm excited for the chance to go back," he said. "I'm excited to watch our team compete as one of the best teams in college basketball right now."

Graczyk said the band will

play a key role in fostering support and enthusiasm for the team.

"With the games beyond the travel capacity of most students, the band and cheerleaders play a key role in showing student support for the team," he said.

Miller said this enthusiasm and support is especially vital in an away-game atmosphere.

"Tournaments have a very different atmosphere than regular season games," Miller said. "The pressure is higher because every game is a must-win and not having the advantage of a home crowd makes winning even harder."

Despite the raised stakes and added pressure, Miller said he thinks the Irish will have a successful tournament run.

"I have full confidence our basketball team will do well in the tournament," he said. "They have proven that they have what it takes to win the big games when it counts. I just hope they can feel out those rims in the Garden. The Big East is a tough conference."

After analyzing the bracket, Graczyk said he is confident that the Irish have the opportunity to advance to the final game.

"Looking at the bracket, we have demonstrated that we have the ability to beat every team that potentially stands between us and the championship game," he said. "If we can play tough through a couple of games, there is a real possibility that we can play for the championship."

Contact Aubrey Butts at abutts@nd.edu

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Election

continued from page 1

vey our platform through signs, posters, and attending events throughout the week,” Parsons said. “It was great to know that our hard work during the week finally paid off!”

Post-election, Parsons and Casey said they will appoint the remaining members of SGA and put together a list of goals while working with SGA adviser Karen Johnson.

“Our goal is to have all appointed positions selected by April 1st so that we can begin working with the current SGA members to have a smooth transition into the new SGA structure,” Casey said. “We will meet as a group to create goals and lay out a timeline of what we would like to see happen as a whole in the next school year for the student body. Also, we will sit down with each position to create goals and a timeline specific to their title.”

In addition, Parsons said she hopes to launch a student mentor program as soon as possible.

“We want to begin the mentor program this spring so that it is developed and ready to launch in the fall of 2012,” Parsons said. “Once the program has been approved, we will begin recruiting interested rising seniors and rising juniors who would like to be a part of this new program. A rising senior will be paired with a rising sophomore, and a rising junior will be paired with a first year student at Saint Mary’s.”

The mentor program will help fulfill a platform goal of unifying campus, Casey said.

“This will allow relationships to develop among students and build a strong sense of unity around our campus, a top priority for us as student body representatives,” she said.

Parsons and Casey said they will begin working with the administration at Saint Mary’s to look at options for a master calendar they hope to create for the campus.

“This calendar will have each day’s meetings and events that are occurring on campus, and hopefully eliminate the large amounts of emails that students receive each day, Parsons said. “We hope that this calendar will help unify campus and keep students informed and aware of campus life activities.”

During the SGA retreat at the beginning of next fall semester, Parsons and Casey will begin brainstorming ways to carry out their goals in the best way to represent the student body, Casey said.

“We are excited to implement the new SGA structure this next school year and look forward to the positive changes that it will bring for the student body of Saint Mary’s,” Parsons said.

Joining Parsons and Casey are eight new campus senators. Juniors Kristen Rice, Brittani Hradsky, Alyssa Vinluan and Amanda Stukel will join the SGA team in addition to sophomores Jennifer Bandedeen and Abby Burgan and freshmen Meghan Talpash and Christie Hutch.

Contact Jillian Barwick at jbarwi01@saintmarys.edu



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“When we consider that woman are treated as property, it is degrading to women that we should treat our children as property to be disposed of as we see fit.”

‘Bluegrass Mass’ impresses audience at Saint Mary’s

By COURTNEY ECKERLE
News Writer

Monroe Crossings Band and the South Bend Chamber Singers performed a unique Mass at Saint Mary’s College on Sunday, merging voices, strings and the twang of bluegrass.

The groups performed composer Carol Barnett’s “The World Beloved: A Bluegrass Mass” in O’Laughlin Auditorium as part of the Shaheen/Duggan Performing Arts Series.

“‘A Bluegrass Mass’ combines the text of a traditional Catholic Mass, contemporary choral music, poetry and bluegrass instruments into a unique musical experience,” Barnett said in a College press release. “To bring the solemnity of the classical choir-based Mass together with the down home sparkle of bluegrass — now there’s an assignment for a composer.”

Monroe Crossing began the night by performing with the South Bend Chamber Children’s Choir.

Dressed in plaid shirts, jeans and suspenders, the children sang “Oh! Susanna”, “The Merry, Merry Heart” and “Cripple Creek”.

“We’re bluegrass with a Scandinavian attitude,” Matt Thompson, mandolin, fiddle and vocalist for the Minnesota-based group, said.

According to Nancy Menk, professor of music at Saint Mary’s College, in a College press release, Monroe Crossings was the best band for the job.

“‘A Bluegrass Mass’ is an outstanding musical piece,” Menk said. “It is tough and the rhythm is complicated. Monroe Crossing played the premiere of this unique Mass; it was written for them. The group knows the piece better than anyone. It was in our best interest to bring them here.”

Despite being the best band for the job, Thompson confessed that he and his fellow band members actually forget about the performance after they agreed to it.

“[We] completely forgot



COURTNEY ECKERLE/ The Observer

Members of the Monroe Crossings Band joyfully play their instruments during Mass in the O’Laughlin Auditorium at Saint Mary’s College on Sunday, playing the piece “A Bluegrass Mass.”

about it,” he said. “A year and a half later, [Barnett] came over and dropped this big stack of music in front of us.”

This was an unusual encounter, Thompson said.

“Bluegrass players are used to playing by ear, so most people in bluegrass don’t read music,” he said, “And some people in the band don’t even read!”

After a version was recorded for the band to orally

hear their parts, “A Bluegrass Mass” was born, and the band will perform it 10 times this year alone, Thompson said.

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Muslim student group teaches the art of Quranic recitation

MARISA IATI
News Writer

Notre Dame’s Muslim Student Association (MSA) invites students to engage in prayer around the world Tuesday with the Art of Qur’an Recitation.

Priscilla Wong, associate director of cross-cultural ministry for Campus Ministry, said the event is part of the Prayer Around the World series — a program started approximately eight years ago to promote inter-faith understanding and dialogue.

“We thought that we need to bring people together, and sharing how we pray is welcoming people into our faith and culture,” Wong said. “We work with people from

that faith community and it’s a way that they can hold discussions and also have questions and answers.”

Wong said in the past, Campus Ministry’s Muslim prayer services featured PowerPoint presentations that explained prayer posture and the basic pillars of the faith. This year, Wong said the MSA chose to focus on the art of recitation.

First-year graduate student Aamir Ahmed Khan, coordinator of the event, said recitation of the Qur’an is a fundamental part of prayer. Muslims believe the Qur’an is the word of God to the prophet Muhammad.

“Muslim prayer is five times a day and they recite some part of the Qur’an in each of the prayers, and they

want to do so in the most beautiful voices,” Khan said. “If somebody wants to become successful or skillful in this art, he has to train also, and there are many very famous reciters in the world that are excelling in this field ... It basically requires the mastery of the up and down of the voice, also using several of your muscles in the mouth or throat to correctly pronounce Arabic.”

Khan said Rasoul Rasoulipour, a post-doctoral research associate in the Department of Theology, will discuss the significance of the prayer form and recite part of the Qur’an. Rasoulipour will also share examples of other people’s recitations.

Khan said the Art of

Qur’an Recitation will feature another speaker, Abdul Rashied Omar, and a review of the book “The Art of Reciting the Qur’an” by Kristina Nelson. There will also be a question and answer session.

“The book review we are doing [is] just to highlight the scholarship that is going into researching and learning about reciting Qur’an,” Khan said. “There are books about it and we chose this book especially because it is by an American professor, so the general audience can connect to it.”

Wong said interfaith understanding and dialogue helps to connect cultures.

“The more we can invite other people into our prayer, into our faith, not convert-

ing people, but just [inviting] them into it, it really helps us understand each other or embrace each other,” she said. “And I personally believe that is how we, as humanity, are tied together.”

Learning about other faiths makes a person think and feel about his or her own religion, Wong said.

“They’re entering this way of communicating with God and they make their faith life better,” she said. “So the intention is not to try to convert people, but to help learning by [comparing] and [contrasting] so that we embrace our own [faith] more dearly.”

Khan said MSA consists of 20 to 30 graduate students and slightly more undergraduates. He said most of the graduate students are from other countries, whereas most of the undergraduates are American citizens.

MSA celebrates Muslim festivals and helps new Muslim students adjust to attending a Catholic university, Khan said.

“Because Muslims have to pray five times a day, we also gather occasionally for afternoon prayer at [the Coleman-Morse Center],” he said. “So these services are basically for Muslim students on campus, but the event like this ... is [a] kind of outreach.”

Khan said Campus Ministry and MSA are hosting the Art of Qur’an Recitation to expose students to other forms of prayer.

“I think this will be very helpful for people of the Catholic community and also other religions that don’t have an idea about how Muslims go about their prayers,” he said.

The prayer service will take place Tuesday at 7 p.m. in the Coleman-Morse Center.

Contact Marisa Iati at miasi@nd.edu

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Students meet with residents

By TORI ROECK
News Writer

Members of the Notre Dame student government and the South Bend area met last week at the annual Student Government Community Summit to brainstorm ways to improve communication between the campus and surrounding community.

Student body president Pat McCormick said the annual Summit gives student government the opportunity to engage with South Bend residents.

“In recent years, student government has worked quite aggressively to deepen partnership between community members and students at Notre Dame,” he said. “There has been an effort to really solidify our relations with the community on the basis of mutuality.”

McCormick said the summit involved student government representatives from Notre Dame, Saint Mary’s, Holy Cross and Ivy Tech, advocates for local businesses, officers from the South Bend Police Department and Notre Dame Security Police and other delegates from the South Bend community.

Senior Erika Hansen, director of community relations, said engaging all these people in discussion provides a basis for incoming student government’s policies on community relations.

“It is a high level opportunity for students and members of the community to more broadly deepen partnerships as well as introduce incoming administration to community leaders,” Hansen said. “It sparks ideas for how to get students more motivated and more involved

to go downtown and patronize local stores and restaurants.”

Student body president-elect and current vice president Brett Rocheleau said incoming student government representatives listened closely to community concerns.

One way student government can be of assistance to the community is spreading the word regarding student safety off-campus, Rocheleau said.

“The police force mentioned that there are a lot of students walking around at night alone,” he said. “They want to make sure that students know to be safe when they’re out in the neighborhood.”

Rocheleau also said student government hopes to participate in more community-wide events next year, including a possible special celebration the weekend of the Notre Dame football game in Dublin.

“There was an idea floating around at the community summit to throw an Irish celebration that weekend ... [and to hold] a Taste of South Bend where it would be all about local South Bend eateries,” Rocheleau said. “They talked about mimicking Chicago during St. Patty’s Day and dying the river green.”

Summit attendees also discussed marketing strategies for the annual Freshman Bus Tour, an event sponsored by the mayor’s office to introduce new students to what South Bend has to offer, McCormick said.

In addition, Hansen said another topic discussed was how to integrate the new housing development opening on Eddy Street into the South Bend community in the future.

Each year’s summit influences the work student government does during the year, McCormick said.

“One of our platform ideas had been to try to integrate the arts community more fully in advocacy in student government,” McCormick said. “Last year’s summit was an early chance to ... bring the art community together at Notre Dame to advance the arts on campus and beyond”

McCormick said this year’s summit also allowed him to thank those in the South Bend community who were influential in helping student government.

“We are grateful for the attendance and contributions made by community members and to come together to thank community leaders who played such an important role in efforts of the student government team this year,” he said.

McCormick said Notre Dame students continue to become more involved with the South Bend community and that meetings like the summit are important.

“Students increasingly think of themselves as members of a shared South Bend community,” he said. “There is no longer a bubble mentality.”

Rocheleau said he hopes to continue this trend by pursuing the ideas put forth at this year’s Summit.

“Our main goal is to try to deepen our roots in South Bend so that we’re more than just four-year visitors, rather that we’re part of the community,” he said.

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Professor lectures on ethics of HHS mandate



TOM LA/ The Observer

Law professor Carter Snead delivers the 27th annual Clarke Family Lecture on Friday.

By CAROLINA WILSON
News Writer

In a lecture about medical ethics Friday, law professor Carter Snead addressed why a non-Catholic or non-religious person without moral objections to contraception should be concerned about the recent Health and Human Services (HHS) mandate.

“The past several years have seen a concerning array of challenges for religious liberty in particular and [for] freedom of conscience,” Snead, the recently appointed director of Notre Dame’s Center for Ethics and Culture, said.

Snead began his discussion at the 27th annual Clarke Family Lecture with an outline of events corresponding to the current conflicts in religious liberty. These included the 2009 rhetorical shift of the terms “freedom of worship” to “religious liberty” in the 2011 non-renewal of a grant to the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (U.S.C.C.B.) for a sex trafficking victim’s program and the 2011 threat of withholding Medicaid funds to states.

“[These events] have raised grave concerns in the minds of people who value religious freedom, and value rights to conscience,” Snead said.

Another section of Snead’s speech addressed concerns raised by those from a pro-life perspective regarding religious liberty in the “contraceptive” mandate, a subset of the Affordable Care Act passed in 2010.

“[The religious liberty concern] was that mandates would force some employers, such as Catholic institutions, to facilitate behavior that they hold to be gravely immoral, thus severely diminishing the efficacy of their public witness to the truths of their faith,” he said.

Snead said there are “costs” to religious liberty and conscience under the mandate.

He said the mandate acted in violation of some people’s most deeply held beliefs.

Snead referenced the letter University President Fr. John Jenkins wrote to HHS in September, which said accepting this regulation would be “an impossible position.”

“The [regulation] would compel Notre Dame to either pay for contraception and sterilization in violation of the Church’s moral teaching, or to discontinue our employee and student health care plans in violation of the Church’s social teaching,” Jenkins wrote.

Snead said President Obama’s speech on Feb. 10 attempted to address religious liberty concerns and promised to find accommodations where employers “will not have to pay” for objectionable services. But Snead said the final rule remained unchanged.

Additionally, Snead said the mandate was in violation of broader issues of religious liberty and conscience.

“Are there reasons for those who don’t have ‘a dog in the fight’ to be concerned about this issue?” he said.

Snead said he had serious concern regarding abortive drugs, an unprecedented violation of religious liberty, a flawed form of governance, irresponsible social engineering, coercion and erosion of civil society.

More specifically, Snead said the HHS mandate was a radical imposition of religious liberty and conscience.

“[The mandate] conscripts institutions and individuals into facilitating the provision of goods and services anathema to their deeply held religious beliefs,” he said.

Carter concluded his lecture by providing the audience with a plan for the future.

He said a case needs to be made for the richness of religious liberty and conscience. Additionally, society needs to pursue rights under federal law and U.S. Constitution, he said.

“We need to make our voices heard,” he said.

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Telenovela star claims to be victim of abuse

Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — Months after moving to the United States, Latin America telenovela star Eliana Lopez blogged about her hopes and aspirations for her new, simpler life as a wife and mother, far from the bright lights of TV and movies.

The Venezuelan actress was excited about living in San Francisco— “a beautiful and avant-garde city where millions of interesting people make things happen every day” —raising her son with then-Supervisor Ross Mirkarimi, and teaching bilingual mother-and-baby dance classes.

“To try to be conscious of my life whenever possible, of what scares me, of what I love and what moves me,” Lopez wrote in 2010. “To try to ask questions of myself and what surrounds me, to question myself and not wake up one day and see my son as a stranger, thinking that life passed me by ... That is my goal.”

Today, Lopez is back in the spotlight. This time as an alleged victim of domestic violence as her husband, Mirkarimi — now the embattled San Francisco sheriff — faces trial this week on misdemeanor criminal charges that he grabbed and bruised her arm in front of their toddler son on New Year’s Eve.

Lopez has become a sym-

bol, willing or not, for anti-domestic violence advocates and the central figure in a case that has already separated her family and threatens her husband’s political career. A video purportedly showing her discussing what happened has emerged as key evidence.

On Feb. 27, Judge Garrett Wong ruled the video could be used as evidence as Mirkarimi’s attorneys sought a mistrial. Then Lopez’s lawyers argued two days later that the video be inadmissible to no avail, after prosecutors released photo images from the video showing an emotional Lopez with a noticeable bruise on her arm.

Lopez’s lawyers appealed, and on Friday a judge put on hold using the video until he could rule on its admissibility.

Lopez probably did not want this type of celebrity and Mirkarimi can’t afford anything less than an acquittal, said Rory Little, a professor at the University of California Hastings School of Law in San Francisco.

“It’s an unfortunate cycle for some victims in that they may regret calling attention to their partner’s apparent brief loss of control,” said Little, a former federal prosecutor. “But then again, we don’t know what happened. That’s what makes these domestic violence cases difficult to prosecute because there are

usually no witnesses, except for the victim and the defendant.”

Both Lopez and Mirkarimi have repeatedly denied the allegations. She went on Venezuelan radio in January declaring that prosecutors are out to get her husband.

She also stood by Mirkarimi as he was sworn in as sheriff, just days before he was booked at his own jail. And she later tearfully told a judge that that she is not some “poor little immigrant,” adding, “I’m not afraid of my husband at all.”

While the judge found Lopez to be strong and “quite charming,” he said there was still a “volatile situation” at play. The sheriff is under a court order to stay away from Lopez, although he recently has been allowed to see his son.

Lopez is dejected that the case is proceeding, said Paula Canny, one of her lawyers.

“She feels disrespected by the government,” Canny said. “She has repeatedly advised them that there was no act of domestic violence, it was an argument. As a family, they’re a wreck. This isn’t supposed to happen in America.”

Lopez, 36, has appeared in numerous TV shows and films in Latin America. She is perhaps best known as Oriana Ponce De León, a villain-turned-heroine on the Venezuelan telenovela, “Amor a Palos.”

GSA

continued from page 1

puts it at around 15 times. University representatives could not confirm or deny this number,

The first request on record dates back to 1986, when a group called Gays and Lesbians at Notre Dame/Saint Mary's College (GLND/SMC) asked for club status. Student Affairs denied the request, according to rejection letters.

"It is our judgment that formal recognition of GLND/SMC carries with it an implicit sanction for a homosexual lifestyle which is not in keeping with the values of the University or the teachings of the Church," according to an excerpt from the 1986 letter.

The next request came in 1992, when SAO denied GLND/SMC club status based on the 1986 decision, according to a copy of the rejection letter. That decision was appealed, and then-Vice President for Student Affairs Patricia O'Hara upheld the rejection.

"And then it blew up," Costanzo said. "In 1993 and 1994 this became like the Viewpoint war. And then 1995 was when it really reached fever pitch."

In 1995, student government's Campus Life Council (CLC) passed a resolution asking the University to recognize GLND/SMC. The by-laws of CLC required O'Hara to publicly respond to its request.

In an open letter to the Notre Dame community, O'Hara denied the request because the University did not think granting GLND/SMC club status was the "appropriate means to the agreed upon end of building a supportive environment for our gay and lesbian students."

Instead, O'Hara created an ad hoc committee to advise

her on how, apart from recognizing a student organization, the University could do a better job serving LGBTQ students. In 1996, this committee's recommendations led to a standing committee comprised of faculty, administration members and students to advise the Vice President of Student Affairs on how to address LGBTQ student needs.

In 1997, the University added a Spirit of Inclusion to its student handbook, du Lac. It states that Notre Dame welcomes LGBTQ students and seeks to create an environment of "in which none are strangers and all may flourish."

"We value gay and lesbian members of this community as we value all members of this community," it states. "We condemn harassment of any kind, and University policies proscribe it."

By 2006, the standing committee morphed into the Core Council, which is the University sanctioned structure in place today, Hnatusko said.

Most recently, applications for club status have been for a GSA, rather than a group for LGBTQ students alone. Hnatusko said since she took her position in 2007, there have been four applications for a GSA.

Room to work together

Over the years, the University has expressed a desire to meet the needs of LGBTQ students, but in a way that is consistent with Church teaching. Core Council has become the University's primary resource to do so.

As an advisory board for the Vice President of Student Affairs, Core Council is comprised of four administrators and eight students, the majority of whom must identify as LGTBQ, said co-chair Sr. Sue Dunn.

"We're not a club, and that's a great distinction to make, because we answer directly to, as an advisory group if you

will, to the vice president for Student Affairs," Dunn said.

Core Council works with organizations across campus to raise awareness and educate the community about LGBTQ issues. It also hosts a monthly coffee where students can get together to be social and monthly discussion groups regarding LGBTQ issues, Dunn said.

This year, Core Council was given its own space in LaFortune, and it now hosts Safe Space hours several nights a week, where students can come in to talk or simply hang out.

"We're definitely in a good position of growth phase now," Dunn said.

Dunn said Core Council differs from a GSA in its composition and nature.

"Some of the more pastoral needs are met by the Core Council's structure," she said. "Sometimes there is an ebb and flow to student groups that are only run by students ... Part of the reasoning in coming up with this sort of structure is that there would be some stability."

Senior Jason G'Sell, who serves as co-chair with Dunn, said from the perspective of a gay student, the Core Council does not eliminate the need for a GSA.

"Frequently, they say the Core Council is doing what the GSA is doing. We could have a thousand Core Councils and that wouldn't be enough," he said. "There will never be enough [safe] space."

G'Sell said a GSA could provide an option for students who do not like Core Council events, as well as appeal to students who are less comfortable with their sexuality.

"There's a conception that if you walk into our events, it's like you're going to have a rainbow flag stamped onto your forehead, [that] you're outing yourself to the world and everyone's going to know, and that's scary for people who aren't really comfort-

able with their identity," he said. "[In a GSA], identity is less important because it's for LGBT people, and questioning people and allies. You can perhaps choose which one you want to identify as."

"And I would say at Notre Dame, that is particularly important."

AllianceND

This year's application for a GSA comes from an unofficial club, AllianceND, which meets biweekly, Costanzo said.

The application comes after Student Senate passed a resolution last month asking the University to give club status to a GSA and in the wake of a video released last week by the 4 to 5 Movement, which advocates for an improved environment of inclusion for LGBTQ students, faculty and staff.

"There is just a lot of energy and excitement in how we can continue the remarkable progress that's been made in expanding inclusion at Notre Dame," McCormick, student body president, said.

Costanzo said the current proposal strived to work within the standards of the University and Church teaching.

"There's been this long standing perception or misunderstanding that we are a certain type of group of students and that we are seeking to get this approved for it to be like a locus of sinful interaction between students," he said. "We're going to be subject to the same standards and scrutiny as every other student club if we're approved ... We're trying to make it clear that we'll work within the boundaries [of Church teaching.]"

Costanzo said if approved, AllianceND would not seek to usurp the responsibilities of Core Council. Rather, it would complement the structures already in place.

He said Core Council is "a static hub of support," whereas a GSA would be "peer to

peer, not tied down to an institutionalized office."

Hnatusko, who is responsible for making the final decision regarding prospective clubs, said the GSA application is one of 22 applications for new clubs SAO received by the deadline last week.

As the first step in the approval process, Hnatusko said she will review each proposed club and look at a number of factors related to the club's purpose, proposed activities and feasibility. The club must also be consistent with the University's mission and Catholic teaching, according to du Lac.

"That's usually where it's been killed," Costanzo said.

Hnatusko said this process can take several weeks, but if the club meets University standards for recognition, it is sent to a branch of student government for approval.

She said SAO will send letters regarding the status of proposed student clubs after all 22 have been reviewed, which must be finished by the end of next semester.

If approved, Costanzo said AllianceND would be like any other student club.

"We could flier. We could have our own events ... We were kind of thinking of having a service component to the GSA too," he said. "We could get out into the campus to change the culture. So in that sense, it's proactive, but it's not activist-y."

McCormick said the time is right to approve a GSA.

"There is no better time. We've had progress for so many years now," he said. "Why not continue that? Why not continue this march forward?"

The second installment of this series will examine students' experiences coming out at Notre Dame. It will run in Tuesday's Observer.

Contact Sarah Mervosh at smervosh@nd.edu

Severe weather wounds Midwest

Associated Press

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — An Indiana toddler found in a field after violent tornadoes died Sunday after being taken off life support, ending a hopeful tale for survivors in the Midwest and South picking through the storms' devastation.

Fifteen-month-old Angel Babcock of New Pekin, Ind., was found after her family's mobile home was destroyed in Friday's storms. Her father, mother and two siblings were killed.

When Angel arrived at Kosair Children's Hospital in Louisville Friday night, she was opening her eyes — a hopeful sign, chief nursing officer Cis Gruebbel said.

Things turned on Saturday, when the swelling in her brain didn't decrease, he said. As the day went on, her eyes ceased to move and she continued to deteriorate. There was no sign of brain activity.

Medical staff told the family there wasn't anything more they could do. With extended family gathered to say goodbye, the family made the decision to end life support on Sunday.

"Angel has been reunited



AP

Church-goers at Francis Xavier Church in Huntsville, Ind., hug before a service Sunday. A tornado passed through the church's path.

with her parents," her grandfather, Jack Brough, said in a statement. "We want to thank God for all of you and for your thoughts and prayers. God will bring you and all of us out of this. This is what it will take. All should look to God."

The girl's death brings the overall toll from Friday's storms to 39 across five states. Rescuers were still going door-to-door in rural areas to rule out more victims. Another round of storms earlier last week killed 13 people in the Midwest and South, the latest in a string of severe-weather episodes ravaging the American heartland

in the past year.

On Sunday, people gathered to worship, comb through piles of debris and learn what happened to loved ones and friends, often without modern technology to help.

Cellphone signals were hard to find, Internet was out and electricity indefinitely interrupted. In many cases, word-of-mouth conversations replaced text messages, Facebook status updates and phone calls.

"It's horrible. It's things you take for granted that aren't there anymore," said Jack Cleveland, 50, a Census Bureau worker from Henryville, Ind.

Company ends support for Limbaugh's show

Associated Press

NEW YORK — A flower company is the seventh advertiser to pull its ads from conservative talk show host Rush Limbaugh's radio program in reaction to his derogatory comments about a law student who testified about birth control policy.

ProFlowers said Sunday on its Facebook page that it has suspended advertising on Limbaugh's program because his comments about Georgetown University student Sandra Fluke "went beyond political discourse to a personal attack and do not reflect our values as a company."

The six other advertisers that say they have pulled ads from his show are mortgage lender Quicken Loans, mattress retailers Sleep Train and Sleep Number, software maker Citrix Systems Inc., online data backup service provider Carbonite and online legal document services company LegalZoom.

ProFlowers had said on Twitter that posts it received about Limbaugh's remarks affected its advertising strategy. ProFlowers is an online flower de-

livery service.

Limbaugh called the 30-year-old Fluke a "slut" and "prostitute" last week after she testified to congressional Democrats in support of national health care policies that would compel employers and other organizations, including her university, to offer group health insurance that covers birth control for women.

He apologized to Fluke on Saturday after being criticized by Republican and Democratic politicians and after several advertisers left the show.

Clear Channel's Premiere Radio Networks Inc. hosts Limbaugh's program, one of the country's most popular talk radio shows. The company is supporting Limbaugh, whose on-air contract with Premiere runs through 2016.

"The contraception debate is one that sparks strong emotion and opinions on both sides of the issue," Premiere Networks said in a statement emailed Sunday by spokeswoman Rachel Nelson. "We respect the right of Mr. Limbaugh, as well as the rights of those who disagree with him, to express those opinions."

INSIDE COLUMN

We do this for you

Every year on the last Monday before spring break, you read a column from the new Editor-in-Chief expressing how much he or she cares about you, the reader.

That column usually expresses the idea that the readers are really why we spend so many hours at The Observer sacrificing our social lives, sleep schedules and grades.

This is that column, and it's going to say the same thing — because we mean it. In all honesty, what we do doesn't matter if it wasn't for you. We don't stay up till 6:30 a.m. perfecting the last Irish Insider of the football season — a 32-page behemoth — because we enjoy it. Far from it, in fact. We do it because we know you appreciate the stories of each senior on the football team, from the senior captain to the hardworking walk-on. We don't wait till midnight to get student-body-president election results (and then write an article on them) because we don't have anything better to do. We do it because we think you should know what's happening on campus.

We don't spend weeks unraveling the effect of national policy on Notre Dame or exploring Fr. Jenkins's relationship with the White House because that will help us get good grades. We do it because we feel no one deserves to understand Notre Dame's unique role in the national conversation more than the students who live here every day.

So yes, we in the basement of South Dining Hall really do work for you, our readers. That's why I'm so excited to serve as Editor-in-Chief for the next 12 months. I get to work with an extremely talented and dedicated staff who understands what we're all about. Nothing could motivate me more.

While we love what we do, we also recognize there's always room for improvement. We're constantly looking for ways to bring you the news that matters to you in convenient ways. Over the last year, we've launched a mobile app for iPhone and Android and we've redesigned our website to be cleaner and more user-friendly.

But we won't stop there. Over the next year, we'll be making more changes to the way we do things. Some of them will be major and some will be little tweaks. Some will be highly visible to you and some you won't ever see. All of those changes, however, will be made with one goal in mind: to bring you the best possible coverage we can bring you.

In return, I just ask one thing: let us know how we're doing. If you love a story we publish, let us know. Email the writer, post it on Facebook or retweet it. If you didn't like a story, let us know. Email me. If you've got suggestions to improve anything we do — really, anything at all — let us know. Pick up the phone and call, or just write us a letter. We thrive on your feedback, whether positive or negative.

There's a reason my contact information will be listed on page 2 of this newspaper for the next 12 months. Don't ever hesitate to contact me. Calls and emails are preferred, as I suspect carrier pigeons will have trouble finding our subterranean offices. I'd love to hear from you, and I'm going to love making The Observer better for you.

Contact Allan Joseph at ajoseph2@nd.edu
The views expressed in the Inside Column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.



Allan Joseph
Editor-in-Chief

Cheers to a sustainable spring break

While some of you have been planning spring break since October, when the winter weather set in, others of you I'm sure are scrambling to throw something together in the next four days.

Well, luckily for you, I have two fantastic ideas: ecotourism and voluntourism.

Ecotourism focuses on low-impact travel and activity in a natural environment, while voluntourism is more about traveling to a destination and volunteering for a cause.

I promise you it's much more exciting than it might initially sound. As a type of ecotourism, you could take off to Belize and kayak among deserted coral islands or dive with whale sharks.

For voluntourism, you could travel to Cambodia and teach English to children. These ideas may seem extreme, but really, why not?

Even for those of you who already have plans, there are still plenty of opportunities to go eco-friendly. If you haven't picked your hotel yet, look online at greenhotels.com for a list of registered eco-friendly lodgings by state.

Travelocity actually has a whole website dedicated to green travel. As part of their Travel for Good campaign, they offer tips on green transport, suggestions for voluntourism, and a green hotel directory of their own.

These are just two of the big names that pop up when you search Google; there are a dozen others as well!

If you can't find a registered green hotel, don't be too upset, there are still many things you can do on your own to make a difference.

For instance, request paperless billing. Or you could always reuse your towels and sheets instead of asking for new each day.

Every little bit helps when it comes to energy and water, and honestly, if you're getting your sheets that dirty after one night, I'm a little bit concerned for you.

If neither of those options seems particularly appealing, you could try exercising outdoors instead of using their gym, or opting out of a morning paper.

Turning off the lights when you leave the room is always classy, as is keeping the heat and AC within reason.

The list of the little things you can

do to reduce your footprint is really unending.

Eat at local restaurants that source their food nearby, use public transport or rent a hybrid car. It really doesn't take much work to celebrate your break sustainably.

Also, before you leave campus, don't forget to turn off your lights and unplug your appliances. The Quad Energy Competition is starting up and those are quick and easy ways to put your team ahead.

Keep in mind it's actually a national competition, and we want Notre Dame to look good.

So, in summary, wherever you are or wherever you're going this spring break, go green, stay green, be green.

Cheers!

Email your predicaments to The GreenMan at askthegreenman@gmail.com and let him answer you with a sustainable twist. The GreenMan will be here every other week to provide you with insights you never knew you were missing out on until now.

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

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

A call for respectful dialogue

For several weeks now, I've sat by and quietly read the ongoing debate over the HHS regulation requiring employers to provide preventative services for women. Both sides have been engaged in spirited dialogue, however, the last article written, "Notre Dame and the Catholic conscience," Feb. 28, represents the dangerous kind of digression we see in politics all too often.

The recent compromise President Obama announced doesn't exactly solve the problem for Notre Dame since the University self-insures, but the critics at this point seem unwilling to accept any compromise unless the legislation is tailored precisely at Notre Dame's convenience.

Yet, Notre Dame is not the center of the universe.

We are unincorporated Notre Dame, Ind., located in the United States of America, a democracy where compromise is the essence of getting anything accomplished.

Ms. Ratiu's article is not an attempt at compromise, but an example of the "angry screaming" she claims to reject. While changes may have to be made as to how preventive services for women are to be provided, the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, which will aim to reduce the amount of uninsured and increase the insurance coverage for those with pre-existing conditions, is hardly fostering a "culture of death."

Yet, more troubling is the author's overstated insinuation that the future of Roman Catholicism somehow hangs in the balance with Fr. Jenkins's decision.

If anything, Fr. Jenkins demonstrates the need to address our grievances with the government with a willingness to engage in respectful dialogue.

University spokesman Dennis Brown talked about Fr. Jenkins's approach in a recent Observer story, saying Fr. Jenkins believes "you can't change society unless you persuade people, and you can't persuade them unless you engage them in a respectful way."

In paraphrasing Aristotle, Ms. Ratiu should have noted that Aristotle considered politics a balance of competing interests in which people with diverse opinions are forced to understand viewpoints different from their own.

Thus, politics is more than simply overpowering the other side and attempts at exploiting overstated language to demonize the other side does not play into this vision.

Matthew Mleczo
freshman
Dillon Hall
March 4

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"I hate quotations.
Tell me what you know."

Ralph Waldo Emerson
U.S. essayist and poet

Submit a
Letter to
the Editor

Email obsviewpoint@gmail.com

WEEKLY POLL

What are you doing
for spring break?

Visiting friends
Going home
Celebrating St. Patrick's Day
Going on a cruise

Vote by 5 p.m. Wednesday at
ndsmcobserver.com

VIEWPOINT

Bringing out the best of me

I turned 22 this weekend and unfortunately it was only slightly less the hot mess that was my 21st birthday. However, as I look back on this weekend, the best times didn't involve vodka or tequila. The best times were when I came home from class to find that my roommates had decorated the house and my room with streamers and balloons.

It was when I received gifts of huge collages containing photos from the past year. It was when I went out to dinner for hibachi with 15 of my closest friends. It was when my best guy friends performed a song they wrote for me like they do every year. These were the moments that I was happiest. And even more important than feeling happy, I felt fulfilled.

Similarly, as I look back at my four years at Notre Dame, my most fulfilling memories don't involve partying or drinking. They involve the kindness and

Dee Tian
*Confessions
of a Christian
Party Girl*

generosity my friends and family have extended to me and the times when I was able to give to others without expecting anything in return.

I believe we feel the most fulfilled and joyful when either we are being our best selves, or those around us are being their best selves. So, I often wonder, what brings out the best in me? Is it when I'm wasted singing "Call Me, Maybe" at Finny's? Is it when I'm spending late nights in the library doing Formal Logic homework?

No. What brings out the best in me is when I am feeling and expressing God's love. I can do this by listening to friends when they just need to vent, or discussing with others how God's been present in our lives, or by performing small acts of random kindness for strangers. In the past, during breaks, I would go to clubs or bars with my friends from home. However, with working from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and doing a rigorous workout regime named Insanity (Sean T baby), I literally had no energy for anything else.

So, I sat on the couch with my little brother and played Sonic and Mario London Olympics on the Wii every night. Lame, you might think. But I absolutely loved it. Each break, I vow to spend more time with my family, yet I get so caught up in the excitement of reuniting with my friends, I rarely follow through.

Yet, this break, I hung out with my 12-year-old brother more than I hung out with any of my friends combined. I actually looked forward to our couch time together. Our relationship improved tremendously and I feel closer to him than I ever have in the past. I was being my best self by not getting angry when he beat me at every other Wii game (which may not seem like a big deal, but I am potentially the sorest loser in the entire world). These are the times I cherish. It was much more fulfilling finding that connection with my brother than in going out and getting wasted every other night.

These past few weekends, I have found myself thinking, "What's the point?" It's not that I have stopped enjoying drinking

or partying, but sometimes, the act seems shallow.

I remember a ResLife employee once asked me the same thing. I looked at her like she had five heads. The point? Well, to have fun, of course. Yet recently I've been craving something more than that. Something deeper, more fulfilling.

Of course, I still love playing drinking games, tailgating and going to bars, but I'm finally beginning to understand that these activities are not what define college.

The friendships I've made, the challenges I've overcome, and most importantly, the faith I've rediscovered and strengthened is what has defined my college experience. What has defined yours?

Dee Tian is a senior marketing major with minors in philosophy and anthropology. She can be reached at ytian1@nd.edu

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Everything's in a meme

Dear Bill Shields ("What's in a meme?" March 1),

Memes should not be looked at as just rehashing of ideas, of "dehumanizing and impersonal" pictures that become one common theme for people. While memes of a certain image macro are similar in content, each individual picture shows a complaint on society that that person has.

Imagine a world where the verbal complaint of one person is squashed because it is too similar to the views of thousands, even millions, of other people. What would come of that world? How would the voice of a person be heard? Each person of those thousands, because their view is similar to a multitude of others, shall be quashed and looked at as repetitive. People will be too afraid to speak out against the common evils inherent in so much of our world.

In the same manner, memes are a useful way to express the views of those who are too afraid to speak out. If I could get my voice out there as a meme, I might feel that my voice mattered more than other means. People understand that there are others like them, while they can say what needs to be said in an individualistic manner. Sometimes, readers need to follow the advice of Courage Wolf, "Find the line, and cross it." I believe that this quote sums up all that is good in memes. People able to get their views out to the people, despite being thought of as over the line by some critics.

These memes also contribute to a discussion. It opens people to others' views and gives others the chance to respond by creating their own response meme. Memes are a cultural icon for the Internet generation. It is our way of showing that people have a voice, and we will use it. Any age, race, creed or nationality can create these memes, creating a better dialogue among all people. Bill Shields, I urge you to go to any meme site and go through the memes. It would be very enlightening.

Chris Mathew
senior
Stanford Hall
March 2

Dining hall double standard

It is a recurring event every spring when students begin to gripe about the lack of meat options being served by the dining halls. In all fairness, the University is a Catholic institution. As such, it is reasonable to consider that it may be the University's vocation to uphold the Catholic teachings pertaining to the observation of Lent. From this standpoint, the University has every right not to offer meat at the dining halls on Fridays during the Lenten season.

Yet, something does not sit right with me; my athlete friends are able to eat a University-subsidized meal on Fridays that contains meat products. Set against the context of the dining halls taking proactive steps to refrain from serving meat to all students regardless of religious background, the fact that my athlete friends have access to meat on Fridays during the Lenten season, on behalf of the University, appears sacrilegious.

Why should student-athletes be exempt from observing the Lenten obligations the University relentlessly imposes on the rest of the student body? I propose that if it is the stance of the University to provide meals containing meat to the student athletes regardless of Lent, then every student at the University of Notre Dame should have the option to eat meat at the dining halls during Lent.

Equality between students and athletes is something that I feel merits attention. The fact that student athletes are allowed to eat meat and are provided meals containing meat during Lent that are subsidized by the University, while the remainder of the student body is actively restricted from doing so on the grounds of upholding Catholic teaching is utterly ridiculous. To me, this double standard is unacceptable. If student-athletes can have access to meat, then so should the rest of the student body.

Jia Hua Juszczak
senior
off campus
March 2

Alumni solidarity

In the ten years since I have been a part of the Notre Dame family, I have been outraged and embarrassed by the lack of inclusion of the GLBTQ community. As a student, I had many ways to productively voice that discontent, but as an alumna I have found it challenging to find a forum to be an ally. Still, I cannot just watch from the sidelines and hope things change. Alumni, we need to help make it better because it is our moral obligation to do so.

To show my solidarity with GLBTQ students, staff and faculty, I will not donate to the University until a GSA is recognized and until sexual-orientation is included in the non-discrimination clause. I will simply write "It needs to get better" on the mailings I receive and send them back. I know my refusal to donate will make little impact by itself. My hope is that others might do the same and as a whole we can have a voice and support those on campus working towards these goals. I hope other alumni out there will join me.

Aislinn Doyle
Class of '06
Burlington, Vt.
March 4

Removing temptation

I would like to thank Ms. Ryan for her letter, "A Lenten proposal," Feb. 22. She correctly points out meat is missing from Notre Dame's dining halls on Lenten Fridays, but remains available at other sites on campus. In addition, unhealthy foods many students gave up for Lent are still offered in the dining halls. How are students supposed to uphold their Lenten promises when bombarded by these temptations?

I, like the most disciplined Notre Dame students, have zero capacity to make good moral decisions on my own without the guidance of a higher institution. Instant gratification governs our choices, with little consideration of the consequences. I second Ms. Ryan's proposal for all unhealthy foods removed from campus for the duration of Lent, so that students may have a chance in upholding Lenten promises. It should be eliminated from campus year-round so that students might lead healthier lives.

That being said, it would be unfair to dwell exclusively on the University's shortcomings in supporting good choices. Fortunately, Notre Dame has been quite thorough in controlling key facets of dorm life that would otherwise present dangerous temptations. Without parietals, students would be overwhelmed by sexual temptation. That students of opposite sexes would want to do anything after 2 a.m. besides hook up is so remote, it's not even worth considering. If not for the bans on hard liquor and drinking games, students would be vomiting from overconsumption several times a week. Luckily, Notre Dame has our backs.

Some students bristle at all of the restrictions, but I feel nothing but gratitude. I am optimistic our University will reform its Lenten food policy to shield students from their own weakness.

Deferring my own moral decisions to a larger institution's wisdom has proven beneficial for me. For this reason, I am puzzled as to why Notre Dame is opposed to the regulations regarding contraceptive insurance coverage. Our University blesses us with its caring yet forceful guidance.

Why wouldn't it want to enjoy the same benefits thanks to the government?

Brad Wright
senior
St. Edward's Hall
March 4



FLAT TOP BREAKFAST



Breakfast is the most important meal of the day. Luckily, Flat Top Grill is here to help you start a weekend morning off on the right foot. The Chicago-based chain offers a create-your-own omelet, pancake and French toast bar every Saturday and Sunday from 9 to 11 a.m.



Mary Claire O'Donnell

Scene Writer

Irish Guard members decorate the walls.

Flat Top, for those who have never eaten at this fantastic restaurant, is an Asian-inspired, create-your-own stir-fry grill. You pick the ingredients in your stir-fry, from the meat to the vegetables to the sauce. The chefs then cook it up for you and serve it with delicious roti bread. You can go up as many times as you want for more food.

Breakfast at Flat Top is a similar affair. You choose from an omelet, egg-white omelet, scramble, French toast and pancakes. And then you choose your toppings. For example, you could make a scramble with spinach, black beans, sausage and tomatoes. Or top your pancakes with chocolate chips, strawberries and almonds. Gummy bears are also available for the very adventurous.

While Flat Top breakfast may just sound like a slightly classier version of dining hall brunch, it's much more than that. The options are



more varied and the portions are larger. The omelets at Flat Top are bursting with cheese, meat, vegetables and anything else you want in it. The pancakes are the size of a large plate and deliciously fluffy. And Flat Top has strawberries every morning, not just select mornings before 8 a.m.

Flat Top is also a great way to break a dining hall rut. While the dining hall is an easy option, it's even easier to get bored and lose interest in trying new things. In the dining hall, you usually make the same sandwich or get the same omelet for breakfast. Flat Top is a fun experience for you and your friends and a great way to experiment with your breakfast.

And the best part? Breakfast at Flat Top is unlimited. You can go up as many times as you want for more delicious eggs or fluffy pancakes. And if you don't eat all of it, you can take it home, free of charge. Usually, Flat Top charges extra for to-go boxes, but not for breakfast. So you can turn your breakfast into leftovers for lunch or breakfast the next day. You can't do that at the dining hall.

So when you get back from spring break, put Flat Top breakfast on your weekend to-do list. Find a friend with a car and set your alarm a little earlier than usual. It



MAIJA GUSTIN/The Observer

will be worth it. A tip for those who choose the French toast option: Sprinkle a little brown sugar on it for a little extra sweet deliciousness.

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

Contact Mary Claire O'Donnell at modonne5@nd.edu

Flat Top Grill

Address: 6501 Grape Rd. Mishawaka, IN 46545

Phone: (574) 307-7442

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NOTRE DAME *style spotter*



MARIA FERNANDEZ / The Observer

By MARIA FERNANDEZ
Scene Writer

Spotted: Hannah Ziegler

Where: The Huddle

Hannah is embracing midterms with style! Her sheer beige blouse with black details combines perfectly with her dark-washed jeans and gray ankle boots. She looks chic yet relaxed to study in LaFortune with friends. Hannah also made a great choice of accessories. Her flower-shaped earrings, simple necklace and trendy bracelets definitely complete the outfit.

Contact Maria Fernandez at mfernan5@nd.edu

Student Stand-ups entertain and delight

By BRENNA WILLIAMS
Scene Writer

For the last five years, the Notre Dame Student Stand-ups Club has been giving students a stage on which to joke about relationships, childhood, annoyances and every other aspect of their lives. While sacrilege and misogyny are not things we often find fit to laugh at, it sometimes takes a comedic perspective to paint an accurate picture of the way these issues play out in front of us.

Student Stand-ups President senior Tommy Maranges, said the club was a welcome addition.

"Before we were an official club, Legends had student stand-up nights where they invited students to perform. After a few years of that gig, several of the regulars decided to make an official club," Maranges said.

The club has grown from several original members to about 20. To prepare for a show, they hold workshops to develop material and decide who will perform. The workshops are an important place for the members to get feedback from their peers.

Sophomore member Shelly Kim sees tremendous value in the workshop process.

"If it were not the workshops, my comedy would have hardly developed from freshman year. I'm not sure what comedians do without a community as supportive and helpful as Student Stand-ups," she said.

The workshop process varies depending on the venue in which they perform. Some venues, like Legends, offer the club a limited amount of time. In those cases, based on each comedian's level of comfort and preparedness at the final workshop, Maranges and club Vice President junior Bobby Reichle sometimes have to make tough decisions about who will perform one of the seven-minute sets.

Student Stand-ups is a safe place for students looking to strengthen their funny bone. After sitting in on several workshops and seeing how the members interact and support each other, it becomes evident that when you walk into a workshop, it's safe to leave your fears at the door.

"The club has a very relaxed culture, and it's very important for me to preserve that. I don't want the club to become a sort of 'comic mill' that focuses entirely on getting as many people through as possible, or a clique that rejects

anyone who isn't good enough or the right type of funny," Maranges said.

The comedians themselves are extremely diverse, coming from a variety of experience levels, majors, and years. Maranges enjoys the diversity.

"It definitely opens up the possibilities for any particular workshop. I think we're a better group and the members are all better comics because of that diversity — at workshops we get to have genuinely interesting conversations about boundaries and culture that I'm really grateful for."

Inspiration for each performer comes from a variety of places. Alex Dragicevich, a sophomore who is new to the club, has quite an involved writing process.

"When I write jokes, I write for an hour or so," he said. "Then I re-read them. After that, I bang my head against a wall and continue to self-loath for an hour or two, perform for my friends and then the club to see what I should keep."

Even though the Student Stand-ups often perform with and are mistaken for the Humor Artists, the improvisational comedy group on campus, the art of stand-up flexes different comedic muscles. There's something intimate about preparing stories ahead of time and being the only person in the spotlight for a chance at seven minutes of fame.

Doing stand-up comedy has been an extremely rewarding experience for the students involved. "The best feeling on stage is when you can't continue onto your next joke just yet because you have to wait for your audience to finish laughing at the one you just told," Kim said.

If you've ever wanted to try your hand at comedy, but never knew where to begin, Student Stand-ups is a great place to start, Maranges said.

"People who start fresh with us improve in leaps and bounds. Having a group of experienced, really funny people giving you feedback on how to become better is really helpful," he said. "All you really need are some ideas you think are funny and the willingness to take feedback and practice."

The Student Stand-ups of Notre Dame can be reached at standup@nd.edu for those interested in joining or attending an upcoming show.

Contact Brenna Williams at bwillia9@nd.edu

SPORTS AUTHORITY

NCAA tournament is new beginning for sports

It's that time of year again — finally. February is sports winter. After the Super Bowl, there's little to tide us over, as Andrew Owens astutely pointed out in his column last week. Sure, there's the occasional college basketball thriller, but we're more likely to watch conference races spiral to their inevitable conclusions. Yeah, the NBA is on, but when Jeremy Lin sparks two weeks of rabid conversation, we're a little bored. Baseball is just waking up from its dormant winter, and football is so far away we're talking about NASCAR. I mean, seriously. NASCAR.



Allan Joseph
Editor-in-Chief

March Madness is about to hit us. First, we have the ever-entertaining conference championships as a nice appetizer, highlighted by the ever-unpredictable Big East tournament from Madison Square Garden. For five days, the world's most famous basketball arena is home to high drama, as bubble teams fight for the right to keep playing, while struggling teams try to seize their opportunity to be remembered.

But all that is about to change, because it's that time of year again. March Madness is about to hit us. First, we have the ever-entertaining conference championships as a nice appetizer, highlighted by the ever-unpredictable Big East tournament from Madison Square Garden. For five days, the world's most famous basketball arena is home to high drama, as bubble teams fight for the right to keep playing, while struggling teams try to seize their opportunity to be remembered. After that wild end to the season — and many sleepless nights for ESPN 'bracketologist' Joe Lunardi — Selection Sunday hits, and 65 (oops, make that 68) teams begin dreaming of cutting down nets. We fill out our brackets, then tear them up and start all over right before our bracket pool's deadline — then tear them up when teams like Northern Iowa, VCU and George Mason blow them to smithereens anyway. We root for Cinderella, unless she's playing our favorite team. We have the TV tuned to

one game, the computer tuned to another and the iPad to a third. And yet, we seem to miss at least one shining moment — though never "One Shining Moment" — each year. It's a lot of fun, yet it's not the only reason this time of year is great. In one of the most under-appreciated postseasons in sports, college hockey begins its mad sprint to the Frozen Four. All it takes is a hot goalie for a struggling team to reach the pinnacle, while even the slightest unlucky bounce to knock the heavy favorite out of contention. Let's not even get started on overtime hockey, which is one of the most suspenseful events in sports — especially when entire seasons are on the line. Yet, there's more. College football players around the country head to spring practice, and while it isn't quite the same as the fall,

spring offers a tease of the season ahead, awakening dormant memories with each crack of the pads. Plus, spring game tailgates mean we all get an excuse to shake the rust off our grilling skills before the summer ahead. And let's not forget perhaps the most important part of

March: baseball is back. Sunbirds in Florida and Arizona get to see their favorite teams all in one place, as the Grapefruit and Cactus Leagues get underway, accompanied by the sound of bat meeting ball, the smell of freshly cut grass and the promise of a new season and pennant race ahead. The NBA playoffs are around the corner, and the Masters loom for Tiger Woods and golf fans while Jim Nantz practices his hushed voice. Yes, it's that time of year again. Soak it up and enjoy it. It doesn't get much better than this. Contact Allan Joseph at ajoseph2@nd.edu. The views expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.

SMC TENNIS

Belles dominate on the road

By AARON SANT-MILLER
Sports Writer

The Belles topped Olivet College 8-1 on Sunday to record their first win of the season. The Belles (1-1) defeated Olivet (1-1) handedly behind a sweep of all three of their doubles matchups. Sophomore Margaret Boden and freshman Jackie Kjolhede swept their doubles match, while the doubles teams of sophomore Mary Catherine Faller and freshman Audrey Kiefer and freshmen Shannon Elliot and Kayle Sexton also brought home wins. The Belles' dominance continued to the singles matches, as they won all but the No. 4 singles match. Boden and Kjolhede led the singles victories as well, as they both managed to sweep their individual matches. Faller, the Belles top singles player,

won in a straight set, while Sexton and Elliot managed to pull out wins in super tiebreakers. "Overall, it was a good performance in our first conference match," Belles coach Dale Campbell said. "It was a match we were really hoping to win. It's nice to have that first conference match in the win column." Two weeks ago, the Belles suffered a tough loss in their season opener to Case Western, 9-0, yet, the Belles bounced back Sunday, showing their mental toughness. This toughness was also visible on a smaller scale throughout the day. According to Campbell, the wins by Sexton and Elliot impressed him. "[Sunday] there were some tight matches, and those tight matches came through," Campbell said. "It showed me that we have a team that will fight in a close situation and hang tough."

Despite its youth, Saint Mary's showed a competitive drive and toughness representative of athletes mature beyond their years, Campbell said. "It was good to see that toughness and how well we fared," he said. The confidence from getting their first win goes beyond the coaching staff, Campbell said. "They are excited after starting off with such a tough opening match," Campbell said. "They're excited just to play a reasonable game in a conference match and to get that first conference win." The Belles don't have much time to soak in this dominant victory as they host Indiana Tech at 6 p.m. Tuesday at Notre Dame's Eck Tennis Pavilion.

Contact Aaron Sant-Miller at asantmil@nd.edu

ND WOMEN'S TENNIS

Irish struggle against Blue Devils

By KATIE HEIT
Sports Writer

After a dominating 7-0 win over Iowa on Friday, the Irish lost a tough matchup against Duke on Saturday, falling to the Blue Devils 6-1. The No. 17 Irish (9-4) started off the day strongly against No. 3 Duke (10-1), securing the doubles point with victories from No. 2 seniors Kristy Frilling and Shannon Mathews and sophomores Britney Sanders and Julie Sabacinski. Both doubles pairings defeated ranked opponents.



ALEX PARTAK/The Observer

Notre Dame was unable to keep its momentum up heading into singles play. All six Irish competitors lost their matches, though the scores were close. "Duke has a very strong singles lineup and we knew that going into singles," Sabacinski said. "All of our matches were tight with them and many of them could have gone either way." Mathews fell 7-6 (7-4), 6-2 to Duke's Beatrice Capra, ranked second in the nation in singles. Frilling dropped her match to Hanna Mar 6-4, 6-2, and three other members of the Irish team fell to similarly ranked opponents. The loss to Duke marked an end to the four-game winning streak the Irish had extended against Iowa (4-3) the day before. Notre Dame was flawed

for the fourth time this season, winning every match in both singles and doubles throughout the day. Each game was won in straight sets, with the exception of Mathew's contest against Sonja Molnar, which Mathews won 6-1, 6-7 (5-6), 1-0 (10-6). Sabacinski and Sanders were highlights of the weekend, bringing their doubles record to 5-1. Sabacinski, who played with Sanders before to coming to Notre Dame, said the success the pairing has found is not surprising. "Our game styles complement each other well," Sabacinski said. "We have confidence in one another and really enjoy playing together." Notre Dame will use the break to take on four opponents in Honolulu. Sabacinski said she and her team will look to put their match against Duke behind him in favor of the competition ahead. "We need to look at everything positive that came out of the matches this weekend and use it to build our confidence for our upcoming matches," she said. The Irish will take the court in Honolulu on March 12 against Texas Tech at 5 p.m. Contact Katie Heit at kheit@nd.edu

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.

PERSONAL

UNPLANNED PREGNANCY? Don't go it alone. Notre Dame has many resources in place to assist you. If you or someone you love needs confidential support or assistance, please call Sr. Sue Dunn at 1-7819. For more information, visit ND's website at: <http://pregnancysupport@nd.edu>

Top 24 Scorers in NHL History

1	Wayne Gretzky	1487 gms	2857 pts	1.92 pts/gm
2	Mark Messier	1756 gms	1887 pts	1.07 pts/gm
3	Gordie Howe	1767 gms	1850 pts	1.05 pts/gm
4	Ron Francis	1731 gms	1798 pts	1.04 pts/gm

5	Marcel Dionne	1348 gms	1771 pts	1.31 pts/gm
6	Steve Yzerman	1514 gms	1755 pts	1.16 pts/gm
7	Mario Lemieux	915 gms	1723 pts	1.88 pts/gm
8	Joe Sakic	1378 gms	1641 pts	1.19 pts/gm
9	Jaromir Jagr	1273 gms	1599 pts	1.26 pts/gm

10	Phil Esposito	1282 gms	1590 pts	1.24 pts/gm
11	Ray Bourque	1612 gms	1579 pts	0.98 pts/gm
12	Mark Recchi	1652 gms	1533 pts	0.93 pts/gm
13	Paul Coffey	1409 gms	1531 pts	1.09 pts/gm
14	Stan Mikita	1394 gms	1467 pts	1.05pts/gm

15	Bryan Trottier	1279 gms	1425 pts	1.11 pts/gm
16	Adam Oates	1337 gms	1420 pts	1.06 pts/gm
17	Doug Gilmour	1474 gms	1414 pts	0.96 pts/gm
18	Dale Hawerchuk	1188 gms	1409 pts	1.19 pts/gm
19	Jari Kurri	1251 gms	1398 pts	1.12 pts/gm

20	Luc Robitaille	1431 gms	1394 pts	0.97 pts/gm
21	Brett Hull	1269 gms	1391 pts	1.10 pts/gm
22	Mike Modano	1499 gms	1374 pts	0.92 pts/gm
23	Johnny Bucyk	1540 gms	1369 pts	0.89 pts/gm
24	Brendan Shanahan	1524 gms	1354 pts	0.89 pts/gm

MEN’S TENNIS

ND defeats Maryland after loss to Ohio St.

By MEGAN FINNERAN
Sports Writer

Notre Dame ended the week-end with many individual successes in the Eck Tennis Pavilion, closing with a 5-2 loss to No. 2 Ohio State and a 5-2 win over Maryland, bringing the Irish to 12-6 overall, boasting a record of 8-2 at home.

The Buckeyes proved their status as second best in the country Saturday morning, but the Irish did not go down without a fight. With six ranked members in the singles position — No. 6 Blaz Rola and two ranked doubles teams — including No. 1 Blaz Rola and Chase Buchanan, the Buckeyes came in carrying a powerful rank. This did not stop the Irish, however, from taking two points in the match.

The No. 2 pair of seniors Casey Watt and Niall Fitzgerald marked an exciting start to the day, taking down No. 28 ranked Devin McCarthy and Ille Van Engelen, 8-5. The 8-6 victory in the No. 3 slot from senior Sam Keeton and sophomore Billy Pecor clinched the doubles point for Notre Dame.

Pecor walked away from the match with a memorable win, triumphing over No. 44 Devin McCarthy in the No. 4 singles spot 4-6, 6-3, 1-0. The win marked Pecor’s first one over a top-50 opponent in his career.

“I’ve been playing better and better over the course of the season. I’m glad to see things are coming together,” Pecor said.

Ohio State took each of the remaining five singles matches to close out the day.

“We knew they were a really good team and if we were going to win we would have to play our best. We bounced back well Sunday,” Watt said.

The Irish met the Terrapins on Sunday for the first time since 1978, when Maryland won 8-1. This time around, Notre Dame turned the tables

with a 5-2 win.

“We started off shaky against Maryland in the doubles but came back and had some very strong singles performances,” Pecor said.

The morning began with a rough start when Notre Dame could only put together one win in doubles play. The No. 2 pair of sophomore Greg Andrews and junior Spencer Talmadge put away Maryland’s Tommy Laine and Vlad Stefan 8-5, but the combination of close matches in the No. 1 slot for Watt and Fitzgerald and the No. 3 team of Keeton and Pecor ended in a 9-7 and 9-8 loss, respectively, costing the Irish the doubles point.

“We had a slow start with doubles but we toughed out a couple singles matches,” Watt said.

Following the doubles loss, the team showed no signs of hesitation to turn the match around. The Irish took five consecutive points in singles play to clinch the win. On the No. 3 court, Keeton wasted no time putting away his opponent 6-3, 6-3. Pecor and junior Blas Moros followed suit, beating Maryland’s Tommy Laine 7-5, 6-1 and Jesse Kiuru 6-3, 7-6. In the No. 1 slot, Watt recovered from a difficult first set against No. 91 Maros Horny to finish 2-6, 6-4, 7-6, bringing the Irish to an overall score of 4-1 to seal the victory.

Andrews further progressed the Irish lead with his 6-3, 3-6, 6-4 sets in the No. 2 position. Junior Michael Moore concluded the weekend in a head-to-head three sets, going 4-6, 7-5, 4-6.

“It’s a good feeling to go into our spring break trip with a win,” Watt said.

The Irish take a recess from competition before reconvening in Tampa, Fla. to face South Florida on March 17 at 1 p.m.

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TRACK AND FIELD

Notre Dame wins three events

By BRIAN HARTNETT
Sports Writer

Competing in their final home meet of the season, the Irish put up a strong showing in a record-breaking Alex Wilson Invitational at Loftus Sports Center this weekend, winning three events and notching top finishes in several others.

The Irish men’s and women’s distance medley relay teams provided the highlight for the squad, as the men’s team placed first and the women’s team placed second in the event. Breaking the school record with a time of 9:29.72, the men’s team of senior middle distance runner Johnathan Shawel, freshman sprinter Chris Geisting, senior middle distance runner Randall Babb and junior middle distance runner Jeremy Rae punched its ticket to the NCAA Indoor championships, which will be held next weekend in Nampa, Idaho. With a time of 11:04.45, the women’s team of sophomore middle distance runner Kelly Curran, senior sprinter Natalie Geiger, junior middle distance runner Rebecca Tracy and sophomore middle distance runner Alexa Aragon also shattered the school record in the event and will find out Monday whether their time met NCAA qualifying standards.

“This is something the distance medley relay teams look forward to all year long, and they did exceptionally well,” Irish coach Joe Piane said. “In the indoor season, one of our goals is to get to NAAs, and we knew out best ticket would be through the distance medley.”

Senior multi-event athlete Maddie Buttinger and senior pole vaulter Kevin Schipper continued their strong season for the Irish, as they both claimed first-place finishes. Buttinger took first place in the high jump with a leap of 1.74 meters and followed it up with a second-place finish in the long jump. Schipper won the pole vault competition, break-



GRANT TOBIN/The Observer

Sophomore thrower Andrew Brock prepares to release the weight during the Blue-Gold Invitational on Dec. 2.

ing his personal record with a vault of 5.40 meters.

“Maddie and Kevin have meant a great deal to this team,” Piane said. “Maddie’s really done exceptionally well for the team this year, and Kevin has been so consistent over his four years here.”

Buttinger and Schipper will look to take their success to the national level next, as they have both qualified for the indoor championships. Buttinger will be competing in the pentathlon, her signature event, while Schipper will look to earn a victory in the pole vault competition.

The invitational, which featured dozens of top college teams from across the nation, saw 10 meet records and six track records fall over its two days of competition. In addition to the record-breaking men’s and women’s distance medley relay times, the Irish also broke school records in the 60-meter hurdles and the 400-meter event. Freshman hurdler Kaila Barber broke the record in the 60-meter hurdles with a time of 8.27 seconds on her way to finishing fifth in the

event, while sophomore sprinter Patrick Feeney topped the school record in the 400-meter event by a full six seconds en route to a third-place finish.

Another top finisher for the Irish in the invitational was sophomore sprinter Aijah Urssery, who was the runner-up in the 200-meter dash event and took fifth place in the 60-meter dash.

With the indoor season now concluded for the majority of the team, Piane said he feels confident in the team’s progress heading into the outdoor season, which begins in late March.

“I think that our progress has been great, and both teams should do exceptionally well during the outdoor season,” Piane said. “But it sure is nice for most of those kids to have a break now.”

Buttinger, Schipper and the men’s distance medley relay team will return to the track next weekend when they compete at the NCAA Indoor championships in Nampa, Idaho.

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FENCING

Irish finish second in Midwest Fencing Conference tournament

By MIKE MONACO
Sports Writer

The Irish narrowly missed out on winning their third consecutive Midwest Fencing Conference championship as they finished second to Ohio State by a score of 1,305-1,270 over the weekend.

“As a team we didn’t lose by many points for first place overall,” Irish coach Janusz Bednarski said. “There was even a moment when we were leading ... I’m happy with the results but I’m not satisfied fully. That is the situation we are in: We are not the best team in the country at this moment. We are trying to be the best or at least a top team and will continue to try.”

The Irish took to the mats Saturday morning for the individual competition and came away with some top results, highlighted by three podium finishes.

In a group of 54 fencers, a

quartet of female sabreuses finished in the top-10. Junior Abigail Nichols, junior Lian Osier, senior Beatriz Almeida and junior Kathryn Palazzoto took fifth, sixth, seventh and ninth place, respectively.

Freshman Ashley Severson continued her stellar rookie campaign by finishing in second place in the women’s epee competition. The result marks another top performance for Severson, who claimed a bronze medal at last month’s United States Fencing Association’s National Junior Olympics.

Fellow freshman Madison Zeiss won the female foil competition in a group of 60 fencers. Bednarski said he was satisfied with the performance of his freshmen, highlighted by the top finishes from Zeiss and Severson.

“I would say that it’s a good situation that freshmen are coming on strong,” Bednarski said. “They are showing talent,

showing devotion and showing they want to be seriously taken as starters. They want to be full members of the fighting team as we get close to the NCAA championships.”

In addition to Zeiss, the Notre Dame women continued their dominance with the foil, as five other Irish fencers came away with top-15 finishes. Sophomores Adriana Camacho and Rachel Beck, seniors Darsie Malynn and Radmila Sarkisova and junior Grace Hartman finished fifth, eighth, 10th, 12th and 15th, respectively.

On the men’s side, three Irish fencers finished in the top three of their respective groups. Senior Enzo Castellani won the gold medal in the men’s foil, edging out a trio of fencers from rival Ohio State. The win was a breakthrough for Castellani, who was the runner-up in each of the past three conference championships.

Sophomore Michael Rossi and

junior Jason Choy both finished tied for third in the epee and saber events, respectively.

The fencers were back at the Joyce Center Fieldhouse on Sunday for the team championships.

All three men’s squads made it to the finals against Ohio State, with the sabriers and foilists winning their respective competitions and the epeeists coming in second. Bednarski said he was pleasantly surprised by the results of the men’s squads.

“I was happy with the saber win because they had been a little behind Ohio State,” Bednarski said. “For the foil team, we know we have a star in Castellani and we have others who are very strong, but nonetheless the foil team and saber team went a little above expectations. They took a lead and didn’t give it up. It was a very positive element of today’s competition.”

The women’s teams also had strong finishes and placed third overall, but they did not secure any gold medals. The sabreuses claimed silver after losing in the finals to Ohio State, while the foilists and epeeists both took bronze.

Bednarski said the Irish are hopeful their strong performances will set the tone for the NCAA championships, which begin with the regionals March 11 and continue with the finals beginning March 22.

“[The conference championships] are a good prognostic but we still have a lot of work to do,” Bednarski said. We need to improve our performance but we are moving forward and we have shown progress.”

The Irish will be back in action when they travel to Cleveland on March 11 for the NCAA regionals.

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Bouts

continued from page 20

“I feel fantastic,” Bortolotti said. “I’m a senior and it really means a lot that in my last fight I was able to get the [win].”

The fight was tightly contested and the two boxers were evenly matched throughout. The first round saw lots of tie-ups as neither boxer separated himself from the other. Peterson deployed a quick left-right combo but Bortolotti countered strongly to close out the round.

Bortolotti survived an onslaught from Peterson to open up the second stanza and came back by throwing some punishing lefts. Bortolotti seemed to grab the upper hand in the match toward the end of the second round as he got in some good punches near the ropes. Bortolotti commended Peterson’s skill as a fighter and said he needed the second-round success to pull out the win.

“Will is a great fighter,” Bortolotti said. “He is really slippery and moves really well. So I just wanted to try to get him on the ropes and I was able to do that in the first two rounds before I kind of ran out of gas and he got me a lot in the third. But I managed to do enough in the first two rounds to get the win.”

The O’Neill Hall resident dodged well and threw some monster punches in an attempt to swing the balance of the match in the third round. Bortolotti, who had his previous two fights stopped before the third round, was admittedly tired as Peterson landed some big shots.

“[This] was easily the most challenging fight all year,” Bortolotti said. “We had a strong bracket, but I went through and won my quarterfinal and semifinal matches by [referee stopped contest]. So this one was definitely the first time I had to go the distance and fight from bell to bell for all three rounds.”

In the end, though, Peterson’s efforts were too late and Bortolotti got the win.

Kevin “The Commisioner” Ortenzio def. Ben “Danger Zone” Eichler (148 pounds)

Senior co-president Ortenzio looked to be in trouble through the first two rounds as Eichler connected with some heavy shots time and again. However, in the third round Ortenzio, the defending champ, unleashed a vicious right that knocked down Eichler and secured the win.

“The first thing to say is wow,” Ortenzio said. “What a way to go out in such good fashion too. Ben is a really tough kid and he came out slugging me and I will be honest, I took my beating from him in the first and second rounds. Fortunately, I stayed on my feet and finished on a good note.”

Eichler had the upper hand throughout the first four minutes of the match, as he utilized vicious right hooks and uppercuts. The sophomore continued to control the match with a variety of punches until the end of the second round, when Ortenzio forced a lot of tie-ups and dodged some shots from Eichler.

Ortenzio admitted that through the first two rounds, he was just trying to weather the storm.

“I knew he threw a lot of hooks and a lot of uppercuts,” Ortenzio said. “So I tried to stay at home, keep the arms protecting, and maybe give a good punch or two or surprise him with an uppercut, but apparently that didn’t play out. I just had to ride the tough ride through the second round and once I saw the sign of him letting up, that’s when I went on my attack.”

Ortenzio did just that in the third round, as he got Eichler in the corner and connected with a slew of shots. Eichler, who had yet to go three rounds in a match, looked

tired as Ortenzio seemed to just be warming up. Ortenzio threw a strong left followed by the monster right that knocked down Eichler and secured the win.

“Endurance was [the key],” Ortenzio said. “The heart was there. Technique might have been out the window – I was a little wild – but the heart was there. All the work since October has paid off.”

Sunoh “What Is This? I Don’t Even” Choe def. Garrity “Biscuit” McOsker (154 pounds)

Junior Choe made it four straight wins for the blue corner as he won by split decision against the freshman McOsker.

“It feels good,” Choe said. “It was a hard fight, so it feels good.”

A hard fight it was as neither boxer could grab control of the fight during the first round. Choe landed a powerful right near the ropes but McOsker came back strong as the two then exchanged right uppercuts. McOsker then threw another uppercut but Choe managed to fight back near the ropes.

Choe began to separate himself from McOsker toward the end of the second round, as he went back to the uppercut with McOsker up against the ropes. Choe closed out the second frame firing on all cylinders as he picked his spots.

“[The fight] was a lot cleaner because [McOsker] is a technical fighter,” Choe said. “So I knew the match was going to be clean. It wasn’t going to be a brawl. So it was actually better for me. I had to think my way through the fight.”

McOsker, who has professional fighting experience, displayed strong technique throughout the match and used it in an attempt to turn things around in the final stanza. The freshman was aggressive to start the round but Choe stood strong. The junior then utilized his quickness and showed some aggressiveness as he landed a headshot with his right. Choe said he needed that aggressiveness to get the win.

“I wanted to keep to what I already knew,” Choe said. “I knew he was more technical than I was so I tried to do what I do best, which is just being aggressive and using my quickness.”

Joey Kim def. Greg Cunningham (158 pounds)

In a battle of two boxers hailing from New York, the junior Kim got the win by split decision as he used his length to keep the senior Cunningham at bay throughout the match.

The first round got off to a slow start before the two fighters each landed some solid shots. Kim went on the offensive and connected with some punches that had Cunningham retreating.

Cunningham seemed to let Kim go on the attack some more, as Cunningham waited for his opportunity. He quickly counter-attacked and landed some lefts.

Kim responded though and had Cunningham retreating for the rest of the first round.

The second round opened up with both boxers being extremely aggressive at the start. Kim and Cunningham exchanged a long flurry of punches in the corner of the ring, but then Kim then seemed to gain the upper hand in the match as he continued to utilize his long reach.

Kim then shifted his approach slightly and repeatedly unleashed a powerful right hook that left both boxers exhausted at the conclusion of the second frame.

Cunningham tried to take control of the match to begin the final round, as he landed some strong head shots that got him back into the fight. The rest of the round was marked by exhaustion and slow punches, and Kim got the win by split decision thanks to a solid first two rounds.



GRANT TOBIN/The Observer

Junior Ryan “Dirty” Alberdi, right, takes a swing at sophomore Jake Joe during his win in the 171-pound finals Saturday at Purcell Pavilion. Alberdi won by unanimous decision.

Alex “El Gatito Loco” Oloriz def. Inoh “Lights Out” Choe (165 pounds)

The junior captain Oloriz won his first title in his third trip to the championship as yet another match was decided by split decision over the senior Choe.

“I couldn’t believe when he held up my hand that it was real,” Oloriz said. “I’ve been [to the finals] twice and didn’t go the way I planned. When it started out, I felt it going that way. When I woke up this morning and was going through the day, I just felt that there was something special about this day; something was going to tilt my way. It feels really good.”

The match began uneventfully with hardly any punches landing through the first half of the opening round. Choe then landed a big punch that had Oloriz tripping backwards near the ropes. The senior Choe then continued to go on the attack, and he managed to retreat easily when Oloriz countered.

Oloriz was slightly more aggressive to start the second round, but Choe held his own just fine. Both boxers were dodging well and there were still hardly any big punches landed. They then got each other up against the ropes in successive sequences, and the match remained pretty evenly contested.

“I’ve never been more confident in my cardio, in my ability to keep going,” Oloriz said. “I figured [Choe] has a little speed on me — I knew he was a little faster — so I wasn’t going to use up all my energy early on, but I was going to make it a slow grind ... He got me towards the end of the first round pretty good, but I felt like I still stayed outside. During the second and third rounds, I decided to keep going and then in the third round I turned it up and just let it all out.”

Oloriz did just that in the final round as he got Choe in the corner and landed a bevy of punches. He continued attacking and threw some shots that had Choe staggering a bit. The two were exhausted at the end of the fight but Oloriz got the win by split decision in a fight that he said he was excited to partake in.

“All year I knew [Choe] was the best opponent out there,” Oloriz said. “We both have similar styles. We both have similar heights. It was just going to come down to who was boxing really well that night. I was really excited to get the chance to fight him in the finals. I wouldn’t want to fight anybody else. He was the best opponent I could ask for in terms of a final matchup.”

Ryan “Dirty” Alberdi def. Jake Joe (171 pounds)

In a matchup of runner-ups from

last year, the two fighters engaged in a defensive struggle that saw neither boxer break through with many big punches.

The junior Alberdi helped set the tone in the first round by aggressively going on the attack, a strategy that contrasted with the sophomore Joe’s more defensive style of fighting. Alberdi relied on a mixture of high punches and quick jabs to land some early punches.

Although he largely stuck to his defensive strategy in the second round, Joe used his height advantage and long reach to land some high jabs on Alberdi, knocking Alberdi off-balance early with a powerful jab-hook combination. Alberdi rebounded with some hard body shots to move Joe back at the end of the round.

“There were a lot of times when we would both throw and land some good shots on each other,” Alberdi said. “My strategy was to push the pace of the fight a couple of different times, which I think helped me.”

Alberdi came out swinging to rapidly speed up the pace in the final round, pushing Joe against the ropes early and using several right hooks to land headshots on Joe. The two fighters came after each other with far more punches in the final minute, looking for a strong last-gasp effort to secure the victory.

Alberdi’s stronger performance in the first and third rounds helped secure him a victory by unanimous decision.

“Last year, I made it to the finals and lost, so I said that this year was my year to win,” Alberdi said. “It feels good to finally do that.”

Connor “The Skellator” Skelly def. Joe “Send in the Troll” Garrity (180 pounds)

In a clash of seniors, Skelly used his lanky frame and quick footwork to his advantage, keeping Garrity at bay with his signature quick jab.

Garrity, taking the place of law student Brian Salvi, created several opportunities for himself in the first round, pinning Skelly toward the ropes at two different points during the round. Skelly, however, managed to dance away from several of Garrity’s punches and threw in a few jabs to move Garrity back.

“With the extra 30 seconds in each round, you just can’t go in there too aggressively; you need to pick your punches,” Skelly said. “I just looked for opportunities and stayed calm.”

The second round took on a decidedly defensive character, with neither boxer able to land many punches. Skelly went on the attack early in the round, going after Garrity with high jabs and landing a few shots. Garrity spent the rest of

the round trying to capitalize on his opportunities, but Skelly kept up his tight defenses.

The final round took on a faster tempo, with both fighters throwing series of punches. Skelly landed the biggest punches of the round, knocking Garrity down with a flurry of upper body shots and throwing Garrity off balance with a hard headshot. Garrity landed some headshots late, but it was to no avail, as Skelly took the victory by unanimous decision.

“I’m on cloud nine right now,” Skelly said. “It just feels great to win, especially after all my hard work throughout this season.”

Chris “Not Brian” Salvi def. Adrian “Yo Adrian” Moreno (188 pounds)

In one of the most anticipated fights of the evening, both fighters used their powerful frames to their advantage, pummeling each other with powerful punches that kept the outcome of the fight in doubt until the very end.

The pigtail-clad senior Salvi came out of the gate with visible aggressiveness, immediately hitting fellow senior Moreno with some hard body shots and a rapid uppercut. After seeing his first punches foiled by Salvi, Moreno broke through toward the end of the round, mixing in an array of headshots that put Salvi against the ropes.

The start of the second round featured both fighters unleashing their hardest punches, but neither boxer saw much success in landing them. Salvi changed his attack, going after Moreno with a right hook to the stomach and then adding a left hook to Moreno’s face to force him into the corner. Although Moreno was able to break away from Salvi, Salvi once again landed a high left hook to trap Moreno against the ropes.

The final round provided a fitting conclusion to a top-notch bout. Salvi began the round with some strong lower body shots, forcing Moreno back. With much of the crowd in his corner, though, Moreno rebounded to land a big shot to Salvi’s face that left Salvi’s nose bleeding. After Salvi landed a headshot, Moreno continued to attack high, landing several headshots to move Salvi back against the ropes. Both fighters continued to throw a flurry of punches before the round came to a close.

In a very close fight, Salvi was awarded the victory by split decision.

Brian “Caesar” Salat def. Bart “The Guv’nor” Dear (204 pounds)

In one of the most aggressive

Finals

continued from page 14

fighters of the night, both fighters entered the ring with an intensity that would last throughout the entirety of the match.

This intensity was visibly apparent in the first round, as both fighters traded an array of lower body shots early on. The senior Dear looked to go on the attack for much of the round, but the junior Salat largely fended off his low attempts. Salat capitalized on his defense at the end of the round, countering Dear with a series of left hooks.

“My strategy was really to stick with what I know and not mess up what I had been doing,” Salat said. “I fought this bout in the same way I had been practicing since October.”

The second round saw Dear use sound defensive tactics, taking advantage of his smaller frame and lower stance to evade Salat’s punches. After stopping Salat’s early attack, Dear moved Salat on the ropes and tried to wear him down with a constant stream of lower body punches.

Both boxers engaged in a slugfest in the final round, fighting through fatigue to hit each other until the final bell sounded. After a wild flurry of punches to start the round, Dear zeroed in on Salat with a series of high punches, knocking him into the ropes with a few headshots. Salat threw every punch in his arsenal to move Dear back, ultimately hitting him with a powerful uppercut to the head.

In a very close bout, Salat took the victory in a split decision.

“I haven’t really comprehended the victory yet,” Salat said. “I’m just thinking of all the hard work and effort it took to win this championship.”

Daniel Yi def. Nate “Catdome” Arnold (Heavyweight)

After winning the 198-pound division last year, sophomore Daniel

Yi moved up to the heavyweight division for this year’s tournament. Despite fighting in a much heavier division, Yi successfully relied on a sound technical strategy, as he fully demonstrated in his victory over law student Nate Arnold in a thrilling heavyweight championship bout.

The first round set the tone for the bout, as Yi relied on his stamina to get away from Arnold, who held a significant height and weight advantage, and wait for an opportunistic time to get his punches in. Yi was able to move in and land a few high jabs on Arnold, but Arnold succeeded in knocking Yi back with some pummeling body shots.

“My strategy was not to let him push me around too much, since he was the bigger guy,” Yi said. “I wanted to continue what I had been doing, but I also wanted to be smart and keep a good distance from him.”

Yi showed little restraint in starting off the second round, coming in high on Arnold with a series of jabs and knocking him against the ropes early. Yi continued to attack with a series of high body shots and kept Arnold on the defensive for much of the round.

The fight became decidedly more physical in the final round, as Arnold used his brute strength to push Yi off him at several points. Arnold gained some momentum by landing some strong lower body shots.

Arnold’s efforts were not enough, as Yi won the bout by split decision on his way to being named best boxer of the year.

“It feels great to win, especially after a long season,” Yi said. “The quality of the fights was better this year, and there were so many great boxers in this year’s field.”

Peter Steiner and Brendan Bell also contributed to this report.

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MEN’S GOLF

Team competes in Alumni Match

By PETER STEINER
Sports Writer

With winter weather still present in the Midwest, the Irish took a trip down to Hilton Head Island, S.C. to play the Alumni Match Weekend in order to prepare for the upcoming Schenkel Invitational.

In addition to practicing their golf game at the Sea Pines Resort, the weekend was also an opportunity for the current players to meet and spend time with Irish players of the past, Irish coach Jim Kubinski said.

“There were two things we wanted to accomplish this weekend,” Kubinski said. “We wanted to spend some time with our alumni and we did that ... We spent some time talking and just getting to know each other.

“The second thing was to get out on grass, play a little bit, get some rounds in, some holes in and we did that.”

While the Irish were not in South Bend, weather was still one obstacle the Irish faced. Severe thunderstorms descended upon Hilton Head Island on Saturday afternoon, forcing the Irish to end their rounds early without finishing the competition.

“[Saturday] we were over at Harbor Town,” Kubinski said. “Everyone got at least nine holes in. Some of the groups got a little farther into the back nine, but we actually just canceled the competition because no one was able to finish because of severe thunderstorms.”

Amid the changing weather, the level of play among the



ASHLEY DACY/The Observer

Freshman Tyler Wingo watches his shot during the Fighting Irish Gridiron Golf Classic on Sept. 26 at Warren Golf Course.

current Irish golfers also varied depending on the day, Kubinski said.

“We had some really good scores going [Saturday],” Kubinski said. “Chris Walker was four under through 10 holes at Harbor Town. Max [Scodro] was a couple under through 15 holes. We had the boys playing well [Saturday] on the PGA tour course.

“Then [Sunday] we played Heron Point. Scores were actually much higher [Sunday]. We had some high numbers due to high winds, kind of a tough day.”

The Irish return to Notre Dame this week to practice before heading back to the

Southeast during the spring break. Then, on the last weekend of break, the Irish will play in the Schenkel Invitational in Statesboro, Ga.

“We head down for spring break on Saturday,” Kubinski said. “We will spend about three days in the Atlanta area, practicing and playing. Then we will make our way down on Wednesday to the Schenkel to play on the back end of the break. We will be in the same environment — playing in the southeast, playing on the Bermuda grass — just trying to get ready.”

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BASEBALL

ND goes scoreless in series against Texas St.

By VICKY JACOBSEN
Sports Writer

The Notre Dame lineup may have kicked off the season on a blistering pace, but that came to an end over the weekend as the Irish failed to score a run in a three-game sweep at the hands of Texas State.

The Irish (5-4) lost 6-0 in San Marcos, Texas on both Friday and Saturday night before falling 5-0 on Sunday afternoon.

“We were a team that had swung the bats pretty well, and they shut us right down,” Irish coach Mik Aoki said. “All the credit to them — they did a great job.”

The wins marked the third, fourth and fifth straight shutouts for the Bobcats (8-3), who are on a six-game winning streak. The Texas State pitchers have thrown 50.1 innings without giving up a run and are approaching the collegiate record of 64 consecutive scoreless innings set by Arizona State in 1978.

“I’ve been around college baseball for 25 years as a player and a coach, and that’s as good or better a pitching staff as I’ve ever seen,” Aoki said. “Those guys had really good stuff and they did a really good job of commanding it.”

The Irish had several opportunities Friday against Bobcats junior left-handed pitcher Colton Turner (1-0), who gave up hits to six of the first 12 batters he faced, but he held Notre Dame scoreless and allowed just one more hit before leaving in the seventh inning.

“We got 10 hits in the game and we weren’t able to score a run, which is both a credit to them and kind of a shortfall on our side,” Aoki said. “You hope that if you have 10 hits that you’re able to string a run or two together.”

“I want to give them a lot of credit; they made pitches when they needed to. The very first inning they took Trey Mancini, who’d been red-hot coming into the series, and they got him to bounce into an inning-ending double play. And it wasn’t as though Trey got himself out; those guys made good pitches against them all weekend long. They did a good job.”

Irish sophomore right-handed pitcher Sean Fitzgerald (1-1) was

charged with the loss after giving up four runs on eight hits in 3.2 innings.

Saturday’s game was scoreless through the first three innings, but in the bottom of the fourth Irish senior right-hander Will Hudgins (1-1) gave up a leadoff double to Bobcats freshman outfielder Brooks Orton, who advanced to third base on an error from freshman center fielder Mac Hudgins and then came around to score on a groundout. Texas State scored four unearned runs in the fifth inning and another in the eighth, but as Bobcats junior right-hander Travis Ballew surrendered just three hits in a full-game shutout.

Sunday’s matinee began as a pitching duel between Texas State sophomore right-handed pitcher Kyle Finnegan (3-0) and Irish junior right-hander Adam Norton (2-1), but the Bobcats again broke through in the fourth and then added two runs in the fifth inning. Norton gave up three earned runs on eight hits in six innings of work, but he still took the loss as Finnegan surrendered just three singles and struck out 12 batters over seven innings.

“We did a much better job of pitching than we had in our previous two weekends, but it doesn’t really matter when you’re not able to scrape out up run throughout the whole weekend,” Aoki said. “We expected for them to have a really good pitching staff, and they certainly didn’t disappoint.”

Aoki said that the series gave the Irish a good opportunity to see where they stand at this point in the season.

“I think you move on from it and hope that you’re able to get better and that facing a pitching staff with arms like that better prepares us for some of the challenges that we have coming down the road,” Aoki said. “Those guys just did a good job — they don’t have the ranking but as far as I’m concerned they’re probably a top-10 or 15 team.”

The Irish will try to re-awaken the bats when they face Michigan in Baton Rouge, La., on March 10 at 1 p.m.

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ND SOFTBALL

Irish win three games in Fla.

By MIKE MONACO
Sports Writer

The Irish took three of four games for the second weekend in a row, as they participated in the Diamond 9 Citrus Classic at the ESPN Wide World of Sports complex in Buena Vista, Fla.

Notre Dame (7-6), which has won seven of its last 10, opened the weekend with a 5-0 win against Long Island by outhitting their opponents, 9-3. Notre Dame got all five runs by the fourth inning thanks in part to sophomore infielder Chloe Saganowich’s three-run triple to right-center field.

Senior outfielder Alexa Maldonado then drove in Saganowich with a single to right field. Maldonado, who went 3-for-4 against Long Island (2-16), led the Irish offense throughout the weekend as she had three other hits and compiled a .462 batting average.

“We strung hits together when we needed them,” Maldonado said. “We had the big hit from [Saganowich], which scored three and then I scored her ... We just have been stringing hits together in situations when we need to. We also haven’t been leaving that many runners on base. Our team has been scoring when we need to and that’s how we succeeded this weekend.”

Junior pitcher Brittany O’Donnell (4-2) tossed five shutout innings of two-hit ball before returning to the circle in the seventh inning to get out of a bases-loaded jam.

In Saturday’s second game, the Irish used another strong pitching performance to take down Ohio State 3-1 in eight innings.

Sophomore pitcher Laura Winter went the distance and shut out the Buckeyes (11-7) for the last



SARAH O’CONNOR/The Observer

Senior outfielder Alexa Maldonado fields a ball during Notre Dame’s 10-3 win over St. John’s at Melissa Cook Stadium last spring.

seven innings after giving up the lone run in the opening frame.

“In our wins the pitching was good,” Maldonado said. “They didn’t put a lot of runners on base and they did not have a lot of walks. There weren’t many unnecessary base runners. The pitchers also made it so the ball was put in play which gave us a chance to play defense.”

The Irish tied the game in the third inning and it remained knotted at one run apiece until junior outfielder Kelsey Thornton ripped an infield single in the top half of the eighth inning to take the 2-1 lead. Junior catcher Amy Buntin’s sacrifice fly provided an insurance run, but Winter did not need it as she shut the door in the bottom of the eighth to secure the win.

O’Donnell was back in the circle for Sunday’s first game against Fordham. The junior threw four innings of no-hit ball, but the Rams (4-10) got a run in the fourth

inning on a sacrifice fly to take a 1-0 lead.

In the bottom of the fourth senior infielder Dani Miller had an RBI double to tie the game before freshman infielder Katey Haus belted her first career home run to give Notre Dame a 3-1 lead.

“They pitched very well and they weren’t hit very hard until [the Virginia Tech game],” Maldonado said. “Their pitch placement was great and so was their demeanor. We really fed off their enthusiasm.”

The Irish, however, couldn’t pull off the sweep in the final game of the weekend, as they were held scoreless in a 3-0 loss to Virginia Tech.

Notre Dame looks to continue the hot streak when it heads to Lakewood, Calif., on Saturday for the Long Beach State Invite.

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Friars

continued from page 20

over the Friars (15-16, 4-14). Notre Dame opened the second half on an 11-3 run, capped by sophomore guard Jerian Grant's 3-pointer with 15:46 left in the second half. The Irish eventually opened up a 67-51 lead late in the second half. Brey took this opportunity to recognize senior forward Scott Martin, removing him from the game to a large ovation from the Purcell Pavilion crowd on Senior Night. Martin finished the game with 11 points. The Friars, however, responded with a 12-2 run of its own to cut the deficit to just six points.

"Providence is a run team. They can hit shots really quickly and we found out tonight that you just can't let down your guard," Cooley said. "They came back and almost got us." Entering the game, Providence led the Big East in 3-point shooting percentage, but shot just 4-of-20 from behind the arc. "We wanted to make them drivers instead of shooters," Martin said. "We wanted to make them put it on the floor and we were able to do that." With the win, Notre Dame locked up the No. 3 seed in the Big East tournament, earning a double bye in the process. The Irish will open the tournament Thursday night at 9 p.m. in Madison Square Garden. "We've been to the semis," Brey said. "We'd love to get over the hump and get to [the championship game] Saturday night."

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JULIE HERDER/The Observer

Sophomore goaltender Steven Summerhays searches for the puck during Notre Dame's 4-2 win over Ohio State on Mar. 3.

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continued from page 20

merhays said. "They were doing a good job letting me see pucks, and letting me make routine saves and watch pucks into my glove and chest." Summerhays continued his strong play Saturday, but not without some early adversity. Ohio State scored the contest's first goal 4:35 into the game when senior defenseman Sean Duddy fired a shot past a screened Summerhays. Though Irish sophomore winger Jeff Costello quickly answered to tie the game, the Buckeyes went back on top near the end of the period when senior forward Danny Dries received a cross-ice feed and found the back of the net. But that would be the final goal of the season for the Buckeyes, as Summerhays shut the door the rest of the game, recording 31 saves. Irish coach Jeff Jackson said he was pleased to see Summerhays not flustered after the first-period goals. "The thing I've been clamoring for all year is consistency," Jackson said. "I was curious to see when he gave up the early goal tonight how he'd respond and he responded very well."

The Irish dominated play in the second period and again tied the game at the 2:08 mark. Sophomore winger Bryan Rust worked his way from behind the goal to the front of the net before finding sophomore forward Anders Lee at the top of the crease for an easy finish. The game-winner came with 11:03 left in the second period. After a faceoff win by Maday, sophomore forward David Gerths' shot hit Heeter's facemask then bounced off Voran into the net. The play was reviewed, but the goal stood. Maday concluded the scoring with an empty-net goal in the third period for his fourth point of the series, as the Irish scored more than two goals for the first time since Jan. 28. While Notre Dame advanced, there is still work left to do to make the NCAA tournament. The task only gets more difficult with a trip to No. 2-seed Michigan and hostile Yost Ice Arena. "The first ten minutes of the first game are going to be huge," Voran said. "When you're on the road, you definitely want to pick up the first game." The Irish travel to Ann Arbor, Mich., to face Michigan in the CCHA quarterfinals this weekend.

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WOMEN'S LACROSSE

Irish stay undefeated with win over Buckeyes

By JOSEPH MONARDO
Sports Writer

In their first road game of the season, the No. 14 Irish captured a 16-7 win over No. 10 Ohio State in Ohio Stadium. Notre Dame's blowout victory continues the team's undefeated start to 2012 and — after a 17-14 home defeat of then-No. 6 Stanford on Feb. 19 — gives the Irish (3-0) their second victory over a ranked opponent this year. "I think that we had a total team effort into being prepared, and our goal of improving every time out was really important," Irish coach Christine Halfpenny said. "We were able to look at the game film and take a look at where we wanted to improve our team and really train hard so we could get ready for we would be able to handle the pressure and the athletic team that Ohio State was going to throw at us." The Irish notched the first goal less than a minute into the contest, when senior attack Maggie Tamasitis assisted junior midfielder Jenny Granger's goal. The Irish added three more goals over the next nine minutes before Ohio State (5-1) answered with two quick scores. The Buckeyes' run was short-lived, as the Irish responded with four-straight goals to extend their lead to 8-2. Ohio State scored two more goals before the half to pull within four, but the Irish opened the second with a 5-1 run that effectively put the game out of reach. Seven different players scored for the Irish and junior attack Jaime Morrison, senior defense Megan Sullivan, sophomore attack Lindsay Powell and sophomore midfielder Kaitlyn Brosco each scored three goals apiece. "There's a lot [for other teams] to worry about on our offense," Halfpenny said. "This was our third game in a row where we had more than seven point-getters, and I think that's huge, when we are able to move

the ball through a lot of people's hands." Tamasitis recorded five assists in the game, already the second time this season she has reached the mark. "Her shooting ability, her vision is incredible," Halfpenny said of the captain. "But I think it is a testament to the players that are around her as well ... Yeah, Maggie is amazing, but we are really focused on total team style and the big goal is that everyone is making everyone else look better." On the defensive end, the Irish surrendered only seven goals for the second consecutive game. Ohio State entered the game averaging 17.2 goals per game on .506 shooting, but converted seven goals on 29 shots against Notre Dame for a shooting average of .241. Junior goalkeeper Ellie Hilling anchored the Irish defense and collected a career-high 16 saves Sunday. "Monster game for her, she was phenomenal," Halfpenny said. "Definitely, if we had a game ball, I think it would have to go to Ellie Hilling ... It wasn't just saves — she picked up ground balls and she caused turnovers as well. She was very focused, very ready." "[Ohio State has] a very potent offense so we knew they were going to get looks." Despite their hot start, Halfpenny said the squad needs to remain focused on the large portion of the season that lies ahead. "Honestly, we are going to stay focused on Notre Dame, ourselves," Halfpenny said. "It is still early in the season. We are really excited about the win, of course. Winning builds confidence and it breeds confidence, so that is good, but we definitely know that it is early and we are not going to be resting on our laurels by any means." The Irish will return to action when they travel to Boston University on Saturday.

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Dragons

continued from page 20

In the second quarter, Doyle scored his first goal of the season, which cut the Irish deficit in half and made the score 2-1 in favor of the Dragons at halftime.

Rogers said Irish coach Kevin Corrigan took advantage of intermission to reiterate the importance of playing aggressively.

“At halftime coach Corrigan told us that we had a lot of great opportunities, but we hadn’t finished any of them,” Rogers said. “We were close to knocking the top off of them, and we just went out with that mentality of just knocking shots into the cage. Defensively, we knew what we had to do to stop them, and we really executed the game plan in the second half.”

The Irish netted four goals in the third period, which featured four different scorers. Sophomore midfielder Jim Marlatt and sophomore attack Westy Hopkins each scored in the quarter, and Rogers

scored with 7:47 remaining for his first goal of the season. Both teams exchanged goals in the final minutes of the period, making the score 5-3 heading into the fourth quarter.

The Dragons responded with two consecutive goals to open the final period, tying the game at five in front of their home crowd at Vidas Field in Philadelphia.

It was Rogers who came through in the clutch, finding the back of the net for the second time and guiding Notre Dame to its second win of the season.

The Dragons outshot the Irish 30-25, controlled more face-offs (9-6) and collected more ground balls (25-24), but Notre Dame managed to steal the victory behind solid defense.

Junior goalkeeper John Kemp collected nine saves, compared to Drexel’s five.

Rogers said Notre Dame performed better than the statistics might indicate.

“The key to the victory was the offense playing aggressively,” he said. “We didn’t want to be laid back, and I think the offense did

a good job of that. The score won’t say so because we scored six, but as a whole, the offense played its most complete game of the season.”

Drexel’s inability to defend late ultimately led to its third loss

against a ranked team this season. The Dragons previously fell to top-ranked Virginia and No. 9 Villanova.

Rogers said Drexel proved to be a challenge to this Irish squad, which will play its next three

games against ranked opponents.

The Irish will face off at James M. Stuart Stadium against No. 20 Hofstra on Saturday at 3 p.m.

Contact Megan Golden at mgolde01@saintmarys.edu



GRANT TOBIN/The Observer
Senior attack Sean Rogers carries the ball during Notre Dame’s 4-3 overtime loss to Penn State on Feb. 26.

Diggins

continued from page 20

our program.”

Entering the tournament with the top seed and a double-bye, Notre Dame (29-2, 15-1 Big East) faced off with a DePaul team that had defeated South Florida 76-62 in the second round. The Blue Demons (22-10, 9-8) jumped out to an early lead and maintained a 12-11 advantage nearly six minutes into the contest.

“I think the game went about as I expected the beginning to go,” Irish coach Muffet McGraw said. “[DePaul] had played yesterday. I think that historically, when a team plays a game they are a little bit more game ready.”

The Irish jolted to life with a seven-point run to gain the lead, and then used another seven-point run several minutes later to push their lead to 32-21. After heading into the break up 12, the Irish scored the first 10 points of the second half to push the score to 48-26 and take command of the game.

“I think ... we finally woke up in the second half,” Diggins said. “We talked about it, made some adjustments at halftime, came out and executed better in the second half.”

The Irish outrebounded the Blue Demons 41-28 and grabbed 18 offensive boards, but their biggest accomplishment was holding DePaul junior guard Anna Martin to just seven points on 3-of-10 shooting. Martin averaged a Big East-leading 19.4 points per game this season and led the way

with 33 points in DePaul’s second round win over the Bulls.

“I was pleased with the defense on Martin,” McGraw said. “She had a phenomenal year; she is just a great player so I was really happy with the way we were able to guard her.”

After closing out Sunday’s game with a victory, the Irish prepare to face fifth-seeded West Virginia in the semifinals. The Mountaineers (23-8, 12-5) defeated fourth-seeded Georgetown in their quarterfinal matchup, 39-32, and handed Notre Dame its only loss in conference play for the season. On Feb. 12, West Virginia defeated the Irish 65-63 in Purcell Pavilion, largely behind junior centers Asya Bussie and Ayana Dunning. Bussie scored a career-high 22 points and brought in eight rebounds, while Dunning added 11 points.

“For me [the last time against West Virginia], I think I was 1-of-8 shooting, and I missed a whole bunch of layups,” Peters said. “Dunning and Bussie were getting a lot of points on me and I was fouling a lot ... I think the biggest difference in that game was the post game. They were scoring a lot of points in the post and we weren’t doing our job, so that is definitely going to have to change for tomorrow.”

The Irish will hope to take another step towards securing the first Big East championship in school history and exact revenge along the way when they face off with West Virginia at 6 p.m. Monday in the XL Center.

Contact Joseph Monardo at jmonardo@nd.edu

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CROSSWORD

WILL SHORTZ

- Across**

1 Chicks hatch from them

5 Social slights

10 Org. that shelters dogs and cats

14 Jump

15 Spooky

16 The "E" of G.E.: Abbr.

17 ___ Millions (multistate lottery)

18 Liability's opposite

19 Mah-jongg piece

20 Not-so-fancy places to stay

23 Scoundrel

25 Collection of atoms: Abbr.

26 In addition

27 Maryland's nickname

32 Contemptuous smile

33 Small notebooks

34 Ones not entirely gay or straight

37 Tasting like unripe apples

38 Layers of 1-Across

40 Lock fastener

41 Beast of burden

42 Soothing juice

43 Info in a library search request

44 Big Apple list

47 Old MacDonald's place

49 Lout

50 '60s "acid"

51 Osteoporosis threatens it

56 Leprechaun land

57 Therefore

58 Knitter's ball

61 Identify

62 Go in

63 Wheel turner

64 Goes from blonde to brunette, say

65 Heaths
- Down**

1 Dutch ___ disease

2 Word said while scratching one's head

3 Judges' decrees to keep information from the public

4 Length

5 Spring or fall

6 Food giant whose brands include Gerber and Goobers

7 ___ Major

8 Coffin holder

9 Rogen of "Superbad"

10 Colonize

11 Layers of wood

12 Rostropovich's instrument

13 Untouchable tennis serves

21 Ruler of Kuwait

22 Cheerios are made with them

23 ___ Rica

24 Wrist/elbow connectors

28 Tennis umpire's cry

29 Shopper's wild outing

30 Small amount

31 Episode interruptions

35 Spots in the Caribbean

36 Buy things

38 ___-ray Disc

39 Charged particle

40 Cry said twice before "hooray!"

42 \$20 bill dispensers

43 Bean curd

44 Actresses Worth and Dunne

45 World Cup sport

46 Spuds

47 Raid

48 Japanese cartoons

51 Show flexibility

52 "It's us against ___"

53 City near Lake Tahoe

54 "For ___ us a child is born ..."

55 Actor Gosling

59 "Kidnapped" monogram

60 Badminton feature

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

L	U	M	P		H	A	S	H	B	R	O	W	N	S
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G	U	L	C	H		B	L	E	W		E	T	A	L
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L	O	G	O	N			B	I	K	E	P	A	T	H
O	M	A	N		P	E	A	R		P	O	D	I	A
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56						57						58	59	60
61						62						63		
64						65						66		

Puzzle by Francesco Trogu

- 34 Old weapon in hand-to-hand combat

35 Spots in the Caribbean

36 Buy things

38 ___-ray Disc

39 Charged particle

40 Cry said twice before "hooray!"
- 42 \$20 bill dispensers

43 Bean curd

44 Actresses Worth and Dunne

45 World Cup sport

46 Spuds

47 Raid

48 Japanese cartoons

51 Show flexibility
- 52 "It's us against ___"

53 City near Lake Tahoe

54 "For ___ us a child is born ..."

55 Actor Gosling

59 "Kidnapped" monogram

60 Badminton feature

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HOROSCOPE

EUGENIA LAST

Happy Birthday: Don't be so hard on yourself. Your past accomplishments can lead you in a direction now. What you have excelled at in the past will not let you down if you follow a similar path. Update, manipulate and revamp your skills to better suit the current economic and social climate. Your numbers are 2, 7, 12, 23, 28, 35, 42.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Take the high road when faced with a disagreement. Arguing is a waste of time. Concentrate on personal changes that will make you feel good, look good and build your confidence. An interesting turn of events will improve a partnership. ★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Stick close to home or plan to do something special with family. Consider altering your surroundings to make room for a new project or lifestyle change. Research will help you cut costs. Don't think about what you want to do; make it happen. ★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Added responsibilities will cause problems in your personal life. Don't give in to threats. You mustn't jeopardize your personal relationships or family unity by putting your professional demands ahead of the people who love you the most. ★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You'll be tempted to overspend to impress someone who isn't worthy. Back up and consider your motives. You are better off getting involved in something that interests you and that has the potential to lead to a better position. ★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Socializing will bring you in touch with interesting people. Love is in the stars, and romance should occupy your mind. A responsible attitude will be necessary regarding older relatives. Get what needs doing out of the way so you can enjoy your day. ★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): What you do for others will count in the end. Offer your services, experience and knowledge, and you will make an impression that will result in interesting compensation. A partnership will offer incentives that are difficult to turn down. ★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Look at your options and consider what you want to do. List your skills and determine what you need to add to your resume that will help improve your earning potential. A change will expand your horizons. ★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Get out and socialize with people who have something unique to offer. Don't allow anyone to hinder your chance to learn something new. Expect someone to feel threatened by the changes you are trying to make in order to improve your future. ★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): A problem with someone older or younger will affect you personally, financially or emotionally. Offer help, but don't jeopardize your own position or status. Stick close to home and consider your options before taking action. ★★

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Don't be daunted by a last-minute change. Move along as planned, and don't look back. Take any opportunity that allows you to improve your living arrangements or surroundings. Follow your intuition, not hearsay, regarding an investment. ★★

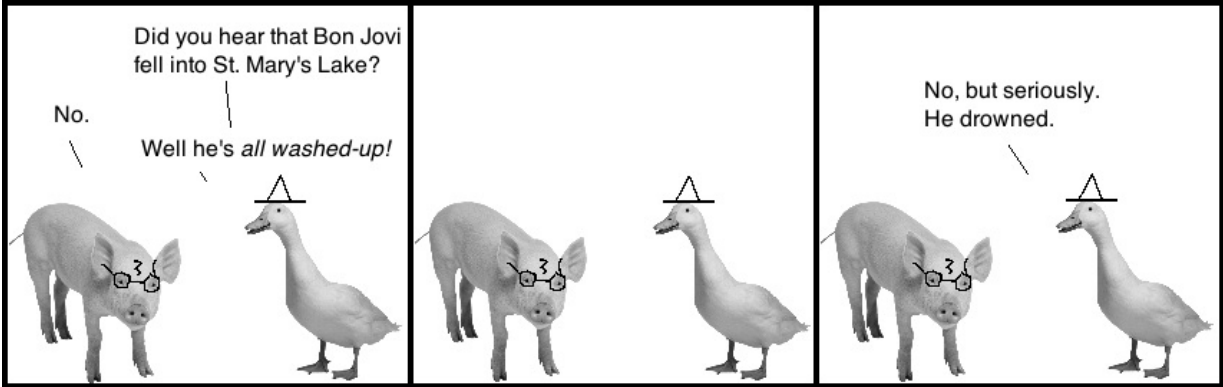
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Reconsider an unaccomplished goal. You may need to alter the way you go about fulfilling your dreams, hopes and wishes, but it doesn't mean you should give up. Don't let the words or actions of other discourage you. ★★

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Let your imagination lead to creative projects that inspire you to turn what you love to do into a profitable venture. People who share your interest or talent will give you plenty to consider. Start small and build a solid base. ★★

Birthday Baby: You strive to prove your point. You are aggressive and focused.

THE LONDON EXPRESS

ALEX GRISWOLD and LEE HAGGENJOS



THE CLAMMY HANDSHAKE

JOE MILLER and KELLY LYNCH

The Observer apologizes for the absence of

The Clammy Handshake

JUMBLE

HENRY ARNOLD
MIKE ARGIRION

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

ENKTL

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NSURP

CUTALA

CRENTH

Answer:

Answers tomorrow

Saturday's

Jumbles: UPPER ICING FORGOT ASTRAY

Answer: Putting the spire on the building was this — TOP PRIORITY



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

Answers tomorrow

THE OBSERVER

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BENGAL BOUTS

Champions crowned

Eleven boxers take home titles to conclude 82nd Bengal Bouts



GRANT TOBIN/The Observer

Senior Chris “Not Brian” Salvi, right, punches senior Adrian “Yo Adrian” Moreno during his win in the 188-pound final Saturday at Purcell Pavilion. Salvi won by split decision.

By MIKE MONACO and BRIAN HARTNETT

Sports Writers

Jack “Rico Suave” Lally def. “Tough As” Niels Seim (133 pounds)

The first fight of the night was a rematch of last year’s finals match-up, with the juniors Lally and Seim squaring off once again. For the third year in a row, Lally claimed the title.

“Once it again, it’s awesome,” Lally said. “It’s a huge relief this year, if anything just because there is a lot of hype having won last year. There is an expectation to come back and perform ... I’m really happy right now.”

The first round was uneventful as both boxers showed their quickness and agility and evaded their opponent’s best efforts. Seim and Lally both managed to land a few punches here and there, but for the most part the juniors were content

to stay at home and let the other boxer open up and potentially leave himself vulnerable. For Lally, that fighting style fit right in with his game plan.

“I’m one of the lankier kids in the 133 [pound] division,” Lally said. “Typically, my plan is just to keep guys away with a stiff jab and basically take the center of the ring and make him work for his points. I was just able to keep [Seim] away from me and use my reach advantage. That’s pretty much what it came down to. There were a few times when he broke in on me and I had to pivot out and try to reestablish that space. But once I had that space established, I felt like I was able to control the fight.”

Seim went on the attack in the second round and had Lally re-treating. He landed punches with strong left-right combinations that had Lally backpedaling out of harm’s way.

The final frame began with

both guys swinging for the fences in what was an even third round. Seim landed his fair share of punches, but Lally stood strong and countered aggressively. In the end, Lally got the win by split decision.

“Last year, it was a unanimous win [against Seim] and this year was a split so this year was definitely a little bit closer,” Lally said. “He put up a really good fight ... He’s a great competitor so I was really happy to get out with a win on this one.”

Nick “Bronco” Bortolotti def. Will “The Thrill” Peterson (142 pounds)

Senior captain Bortolotti concluded his boxing career at Notre Dame with a split decision win over sophomore Peterson, the defending champion. The senior from Elmhurst, Ill., was thrilled to go out in dramatic fashion.

see BOUTS/page 14

ND WOMEN’S BASKETBALL

Irish defeat DePaul, to play Mountaineers

By JOSEPH MONARDO

Sports Writer

In the same venue that hosted Notre Dame’s regular season Big East title-securing victory over No. 4 Connecticut, the Irish began their quest for the Big East tournament title.

The Irish returned to action in the XL Center of Hartford, Conn., with a 69-54 defeat of DePaul in the quarterfinals of the conference tournament.

Graduate student forward Devereaux Peters recorded her 10th double-double of the season with 16 points, 10 rebounds and six blocks, and junior guard

Skylar Diggins added 12 points and five assists after being named Big East Player of the Year on Friday. Diggins, who was also the Big East preseason Player of the Year, led the Irish with 17.2 points, 5.8 assists and 2.6 steals per game this season.

“It shows the respect that Big East coaches have for me, choosing me at the beginning and then at the end,” Diggins told BigEast.tv on Friday. “Without my teammates I would never be able to receive a reward like this ... It means a lot to the University of Notre Dame and

see DIGGINS/page 18

MEN’S LACROSSE

Notre Dame captures road victory over Drexel

By MEGAN GOLDEN

Sports Writer

Senior attack Sean Rogers and No. 9 Notre Dame responded to last weekend’s loss to Penn State by rallying to top No. 18 Drexel 6-5 on Saturday.

The Irish defense set the tone against the Canadian-style Drexel offense. The Dragons (1-3) were unable to halt Notre Dame’s comeback as the Irish found a rhythm offensively in the second half.

“We tried to be aggressive this week and definitely took advantage [of our open looks]. As a whole, we played really

well,” Rogers said. “The defense, they’re just phenomenal. They really give the offense a boost of confidence when you know they will hold teams.”

An early Irish penalty by freshman attack Conor Doyle led to Drexel’s first goal of the game, putting the Dragons up 1-0 within the first two minutes of play.

Drexel added a second goal midway through the first period, building an early 2-0 lead.

Notre Dame (2-1) would eventually overcome its slow start by holding the Dragons scoreless for the next 33:27.

see DRAGONS/page 18

HOCKEY

Irish sweep Ohio State, advance in playoffs

By SAM GANS

Sports Writer

The final game ever played at the Joyce Center was an Ohio State victory over Notre Dame on Oct. 15. The final games played at the Compton Family Ice Arena in the 2011-2012 season proved a different story, as the No. 18 Irish stormed to a two-game sweep over the Buckeyes in the best-of-three first round of the CCHA playoffs by scores of 2-0 and 4-2 on Friday and Saturday, respectively.

No. 8-seed Notre Dame (19-16-3) started Friday’s game strongly with a goal during the first 10 minutes, when sophomore forward Mike Voran corralled the puck along the goalline and shot it toward the net. The puck appeared to hit the shin of senior captain and forward Billy Maday and then deflected into the net off Buckeye

defenseman Al McLean’s leg past goalie Cal Heeter.

Early in the second period, Maday scored again, when he put away an easy opportunity off a rebound from a slapshot by freshman defenseman Robbie Russo on the power play.

From that point on, sophomore goaltender Steven Summerhays stole the show.

Summerhays, who notched his second consecutive shutout, finished with 33 saves, including a sprawling glove save in the second period to keep ninth-seeded Ohio State (15-15-5) scoreless.

“I feel like anytime you get a shutout, as I said last week, it’s a direct result of the guys in front of you blocking shots, and tonight they probably blocked the most shots they have all year,” Sum-

see CCHA/page 17

MEN’S BASKETBALL

ND tops Friars, claims No. 3 seed

By MATTHEW DeFRANKS

Sports Writer

It was only fitting that on a night when Notre Dame honored former great Adrian Dantley, Irish junior forward Jack Cooley tried his best to emulate the newest Ring of Honor member.

Cooley’s career-high 27 points and 17 rebounds helped propel the No. 20 Irish to a 75-69 win over Providence on Friday night.

In Notre Dame’s 59-41 loss to Georgetown, Cooley registered just two points and no rebounds.

“[I was] certainly happy to see Cooley bounce back with a vengeance,” Irish coach Mike Brey said. “We were able to throw it to him and he was fabulous tonight.”

Cooley scored 21 of Notre Dame’s 31 points in the first half. He also collected 10 rebounds in the opening half.



SARAH O'CONNOR/The Observer

Junior forward Jack Cooley shoots a hook shot over a Providence defender during Notre Dame’s 75-69 win over the Friars on Friday.

“I know I needed to refocus,” Cooley said. “Out in practice, I was playing hard but I knew I had to get out here and show it off to get some confidence.”

Despite Cooley’s big first half, the Irish (21-10, 13-5 Big East) held just a 31-28 halftime edge

see FRIARS/page 17