

THE OBSERVER

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NDSMCOBSERVER.COM

ND admits students, ranks as "dream school"

University receives more applications, accepts fewer students

By TORI ROECK
News Writer

When most colleges see increases in applications, they admit more students, assuming a large number of them will choose to attend other schools.

But Bob Mundy, director of admissions, said the yield for admitted applicants who chose to attend the University last year was unpredictably high, leading to a decrease in the number of acceptances this year.

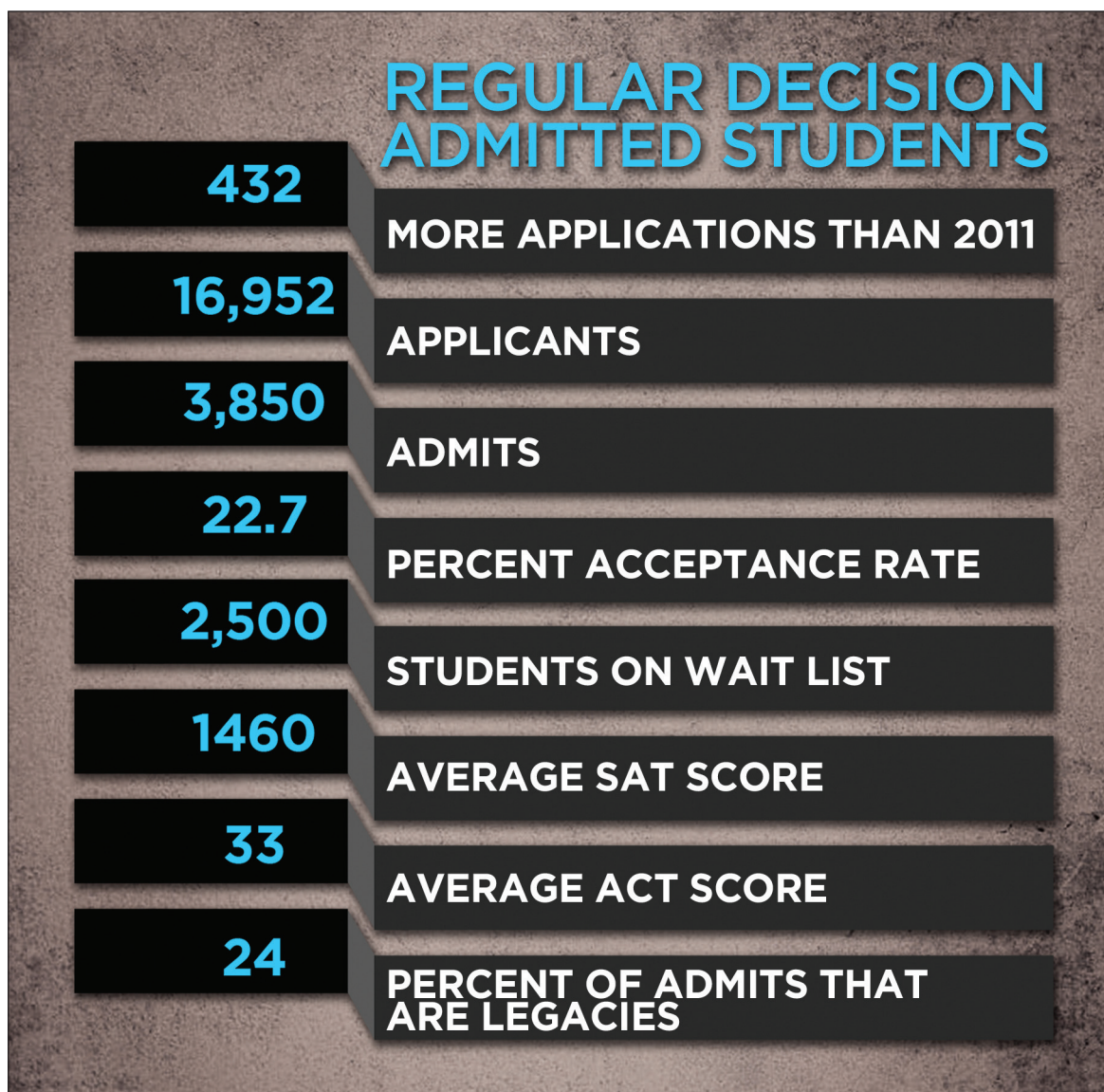
"Clearly we think we've become a more popular option out there," Mundy said.

According to Don Bishop, associate vice president for undergraduate enrollment, 16,952 high school seniors applied for a spot in the Class of 2016 and 3,850 were admitted. Last year, the University received 16,520 applications and accepted 4,019 students, Bishop said.

The number of international applicants and applicants of color also rose this year, he said.

Bishop said this year's acceptance rate was 22.7 per-

see APPLICANTS/page 3



MARINA KOZAK | Observer Graphic

Parents rank Notre Dame as No. 4 choice for children

By ANN MARIE JAKUBOWSKI
News Writer

March saw Notre Dame rising in another set of rankings, as the Princeton Review survey "College Hopes and Worries" listed the University as parents' No. 4 "dream college" for their children, up from No. 9 in 2011.

Notre Dame was ranked behind Stanford University, Princeton University and Harvard University.

According to the Princeton Review's website, "dream colleges" are schools that parents wish they were sending their children to if cost and admission were not contributing factors. A separate ranking listed the top ten dream colleges for students.

Bob Mundy, director of admissions, said the ranking speaks to the positive perception of Notre Dame nationwide.

"If you can step back and think about it as a parent might, I think it provides a nicely illustrative view of Notre Dame," Mundy said. "Parents want great things for their children, and I think this is a statement that they see Notre Dame as a unique combination of educa-

see DREAM/page 6

University leaders address discrimination

By KRISTEN DURBIN
News Editor

In the wake of last month's incidents of racial discrimination against two student groups and the March 5 town hall meeting held in response, Notre Dame student leaders, faculty, staff and administrators are formulating a "Plan of Action" for addressing discrimination on campus.

Senior Brittany Suggs, chair of the Black Student Association (BSA), said the decision to create the Plan of Action arose from the student body's response to the town hall meeting. She said students called for "more direct involvement in changes on campus" with regard to racial incidents and discrimination.

"[The Plan of Action] also came from the belief of students that we have meetings and forums and

discussions of these issues, but people leave feeling like, 'I said all this, but what happens next? What will be done? How will the words we share be transferred to actual change?'" she said.

Suggs sent a campus-wide email last week alerting the Notre Dame community to the creation of the Plan of Action.

Town hall attendees submitted personal responses addressing the changes they wanted to see with regard to discrimination in specific areas of campus life, Suggs said. These responses will be used to formulate a formal proposal to be presented to the University administration in early May.

"The committee goal is to have ... something in place for transitioning officers [of student orga-

see TOWN/page 6

Professor discusses HHS mandate

By ABI HOVERMAN
News Writer

Amid national controversy over the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) contraception mandate, members of the Notre Dame community discussed the development of conscience in the Catholic faith Monday.

Led by David Clairmont, assistant professor of moral theology, the talk provided context for understanding the debate over the mandate requiring employers to include contraception in their insurance packages.

"The bishops want to have the specific effects of the mandate on Catholic institutions eliminated so Catholic institutions will not be in the situation of providing things that go against Church teaching, even if there are varieties of opinions among Catholics about

see MANDATE/page 6



XULE LIN/The Observer

Professor Clairmont discusses the contraceptive mandate and conscience formation in the Geddes Hall coffee house on Monday.

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The news is reported as accurately and objectively as possible. Unsigned editorials represent the opinion of the majority of the Editor-in-Chief, Managing Editor, Assistant Managing Editors and department editors. Commentaries, letters and columns present the views of the authors and not necessarily those of The Observer.

Viewpoint space is available to all readers. The free expression of all opinions through letters is encouraged. Letters to the Editor must be signed and must include contact information.

Questions regarding Observer policies should be directed to Editor-in-Chief Allan Joseph.

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CORRECTIONS

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

QUESTION OF THE DAY: MAY THE ODDS BE EVER...



Emily Nash

sophomore
Lyons

"In your favor."



Elizabeth Surat

sophomore
Lyons

"In your favor."



Spencer Ness

sophomore
Alumni

"Two weeks from
Wake Week."



Kevin McMannis

freshman
Duncan

"With the
women's
basketball
team."



Colin Ebert

freshman
Duncan

"In your favor?"



Blake Prunsky

freshman
Duncan

"With your
carrot."

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



PAT COVENEY/The Observer

Mark Appleton from Appleton & Associates, Architects, Inc. delivers a lecture titled "The Time Honored Traditions of Vernacular Architecture" in Bond Hall on Monday. In this lecture, Appleton discussed his drive to be an architect and his recent projects.

OFFBEAT

Divorce Expo is antidote to wedding industry

NEW YORK — New York City's first-ever Divorce Expo is being touted as "one-stop shopping" for lonely hearts suffering through a breakup. "Start Over Smart" will be held at the Metropolitan Pavilion this weekend. Its founders say the expo is an antidote to the nation's massive wedding planning industry.

Various exhibits will help people sort through recommended divorce attorneys, therapists and financial planners. There will be free makeovers and dating advice, personal shoppers, hairstylists and matchmakers. An evening "mixer" will allow people to socialize and

perhaps meet someone new.

Divorce expos have been held in other cities, but this is billed as the first for New York.

Francine Baras, who co-founded the event, says they are hoping to show people that there really is a life after divorce.

House candidate can note astronaut past on ballot

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — A congressional candidate in California's Central Valley can note on ballots that he used to be an astronaut.

A Sacramento County judge ruled Thursday that Democrat Jose Hernandez can use the ballot designation "astronaut." Hernandez is challenging freshman Rep.

Jeff Denham, a Republican from Turlock, for California's 10th District seat.

A Sacramento law firm had argued in a lawsuit that Hernandez's use of the moniker would violate state elections law because Hernandez has left NASA. Hernandez had flown aboard the shuttle Discovery in 2009.

The Sacramento Bee reports that Superior Court Judge Lloyd Connelly ruled that ballot designations apparently can reflect a profession or vocation held during the previous calendar year. Hernandez spent two weeks at NASA in 2011 before leaving the agency.

Information compiled from the Associated Press.

IN BRIEF

Saint Mary's College students are selling \$6 Silver Hawks tickets for the game on Friday, April 20. Proceeds will go to the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. Help raise awareness and make CF stand for Cure Found. Contact Liz Leeuw at lleeuw01@gmail.com to purchase tickets.

Dr. Harry Kolar, IBM Distinguished Engineer, will talk about how his efforts with the SmartBay Galway project and REON (River Estuary Observatory Network) are supporting IBM's Smarter Planet Initiative utilizing advanced analytics and cross-industry technologies today from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. in 136 DeBartolo.

Peter A. Hall will deliver a lecture titled "The Eurocrisis: Its Origins and Implications" today from 12:30 to 2 p.m. in Room C103 at the Hesburgh Center.

R. David Edmunds, Watson Professor of American History at the University of Texas at Dallas, will discuss the Battle of Tippecanoe as the opening battle of the War of 1812, and will also discuss how the battle changed the nature of the Native American resistance movement tonight from 7 to 8 p.m. at the Eck Visitors Center auditorium.

Campus-wide Stations of the Cross begin at 8 p.m. at the Grotto. In case of severe weather, Stations will begin at the Basilica of the Sacred Heart at 9:00 p.m., followed by Reconciliation.

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

LOCAL WEATHER

TODAY



HIGH
LOW

77
58

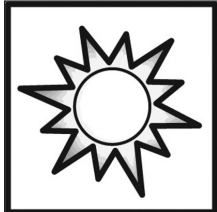
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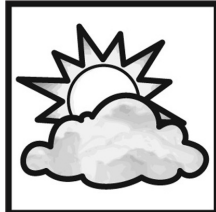
WEDNESDAY



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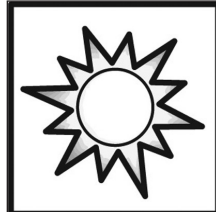
THURSDAY



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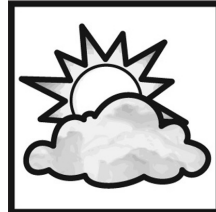
FRIDAY



HIGH
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62
39

SATURDAY



HIGH
LOW

69
50

Group aids locals with tax returns

By JILLIAN BARWICK
Saint Mary's Editor

Through the Vivian Harrington Gray Notre Dame-Saint Mary's Tax Assistance Program, students at both institutions are preparing tax returns for South Bend community members with less than \$40,000 of income. Saint Mary's senior Kama-ra Umbaugh, the program's public relations director, said Notre Dame professor Ken Milani began the program as a volunteer effort in 1972 to meet a perceived need.

"Through his unceasing effort, this tax assistance program has really flourished under Milani," Umbaugh said. "Over 3,900 tax returns were filed in 2011 with the program."

The program prepares federal and state tax returns for families and individuals as well as tax-filing services for international students, Umbaugh said. She said the program's office is in the Mendoza College of Business.

"Participants are Notre Dame or Saint Mary's students who have completed a tax class at those institutions and have further passed an IRS [Internal Revenue Service] examination," Umbaugh said. "Students must pass both the basic and intermediate level examinations conducted by the IRS to become involved with the program."

Notre Dame and Saint Mary's students receive two academic credits for taking a lecture course on individual income tax preparation and participating in the program, Umbaugh said.

"When I heard of this, I im-

VIVIAN HARRINGTON GRAY
ND-SMC TAX ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

- Volunteer tax returns service for individuals or families that have less than \$40,000 income
- Tax filing for international students
- Housed in Mendoza College of Business

MARINA KOZAK | Observer Graphic

mediately was interested," she said. "I highly value philanthropy and being able to utilize my knowledge to offer services that benefit those in the community."

As public relations director, Umbaugh is responsible for scheduling, staffing and assisting with television and radio promotional activities.

"I try to promote the program throughout the community and make sure that others are aware of this free tax preparation service we provide for them," Umbaugh said.

In addition to this position, Umbaugh said she is also part of the SWAT-2 subsection of the program, which visits individual homes of senior citizens to help them with their income tax preparation. These services are provided at nine locations in the South Bend-Mishawaka area, she said.

"This allows for us to pro-

vide services at their convenience," Umbaugh said. "We have been to St. Paul's Retirement Community as well as other nursing homes or senior living communities as well to provide services to individuals at these locations."

Umbaugh said she is grateful for the chance to participate in the program.

"Business majors should take Federal Taxation or another tax class their junior year so that they can be involved in the program for both their junior and senior years," Umbaugh said. "Luckily, I have gotten the opportunity to participate in the program both years, and it truly is a rewarding experience."

For more information about the program, visit taptax.nd.edu.

Contact Jillian Barwick at jbarwi01@saintmarys.edu

CAMPUS LIFE COUNCIL

Group considers price of single dorm rooms

By NICOLE TOCZAUER
News Writer

In the last meeting before Easter break, Campus Life Council (CLC) members discussed the surcharge students pay for single rooms and the bike shop resolution.

Sr. Carrine Etheridge, rector of Farley Hall, said she recently became aware of the extra cost to students that opt to live in single rooms in residence halls.

"If there's a surcharge for singles, why isn't there one for air conditioned dorms, or brand new ones versus old ones?" she said. "Also, are the students aware of this, and are their parents?"

Many students only become aware of the surcharge when moving into a single after a study abroad program, Etheridge said.

"When they came back from overseas and got a single, they found out when they got the bill," she said.

Etheridge said the University should inform students of the extra cost, especially before room picks.

"If they're going to have it, it needs to be transparent," she said. "And if they're going to take that money, it should go back to the dorms for things like paint and

carpet." Pat McCormick, former student body president, said student government would consider if such a change could occur.

"It could become a resolution as well if we had more information, if there's an interest," he said. "That would definitely be something to look into."

McCormick said voting on the bike shop resolution was postponed again because not enough senators were present at CLC to allow a vote. He said the group would vote on the resolution within the next few weeks.

"We continue to look for every possible way of supporting the bike shop and were pleased the Student Senate passed a unanimous resolution in support of it last week," he said. "We hope the members of the CLC will also vote in favor of the resolution."

McCormick closed the meeting with congratulations to the new administration.

"I would be remiss if I didn't acknowledge our new student body president, Brett Rocheleau," he said. "And thank you to everyone who worked hard on the efforts we made this year."

Contact Nicole Toczauer at ntoczaue@nd.edu

Applicants

continued from page 1

cent, down from 24 percent last year and 29 percent two years ago. He said 2,500 applicants were put on the waitlist.

Because so many admitted applicants chose to attend Notre Dame, not a single student was accepted off the waitlist last year, Mundy said.

"We've admitted about 170 fewer students than last year, with the goal of being able to admit some students off the waitlist," he said.

Admitted applicants' academic qualifications remained impressive, with a median SAT score of 1460 and ACT score of 33, Bishop said. The median high school class performance for the admitted class was also the top one to two percent, he said.

"We could admit 75 percent of our applicants and still have a group that would be very successful here," Mundy said.

Bishop said these statistics have improved greatly in the past few years.

"About a fourth or a fifth of the class that five years ago would have gained admission, in today's competition, would not," Bishop said.

The number of admitted legacy children remains higher than at most elite colleges, Bishop said. Twenty-four percent of this year's admitted class is a legacy compared to about 12 percent at most top 10 schools, he said, but this is because legacy applicants tend to be very qualified.

"Notre Dame alumni have traditionally had more children, and Notre Dame alumni children are more loyal to applying to Notre Dame," Bishop said. "Even though there is this special consideration, a disproportionate ... share of our top students are children of alumni."

The increase in exceptional applicants and decrease in available

spots contributed to more selectivity in the admissions process, Bishop said.

"We're more selective, but we're more on mission," Bishop said. "Once the numbers get so high in the academic credentials of the student, it's not necessary to continue to use those numbers to distinguish one student from another."

Bishop said admissions officers choose qualified students by examining characteristics that fit the Notre Dame educational philosophy.

"You start looking at the other attributes ... [such as] intellectual drive and ambition ... their creativity, their sense of service to others, their leadership ... [and] being active in service and faith," he said.

Because most of the admitted applicants will have been accepted to other top schools, many students' decisions will rely on financial aid, Bishop said.

"The financial aid staff is going to be working extremely hard on counseling families and assisting them," he said. "Notre Dame will likely spend over \$27 million in financial aid to the freshman class, and that's gift aid. Over the course of four years, it will be over \$100 million."

Bishop said other accepted applicants will base their decisions on campus visits and current students should look out for them.

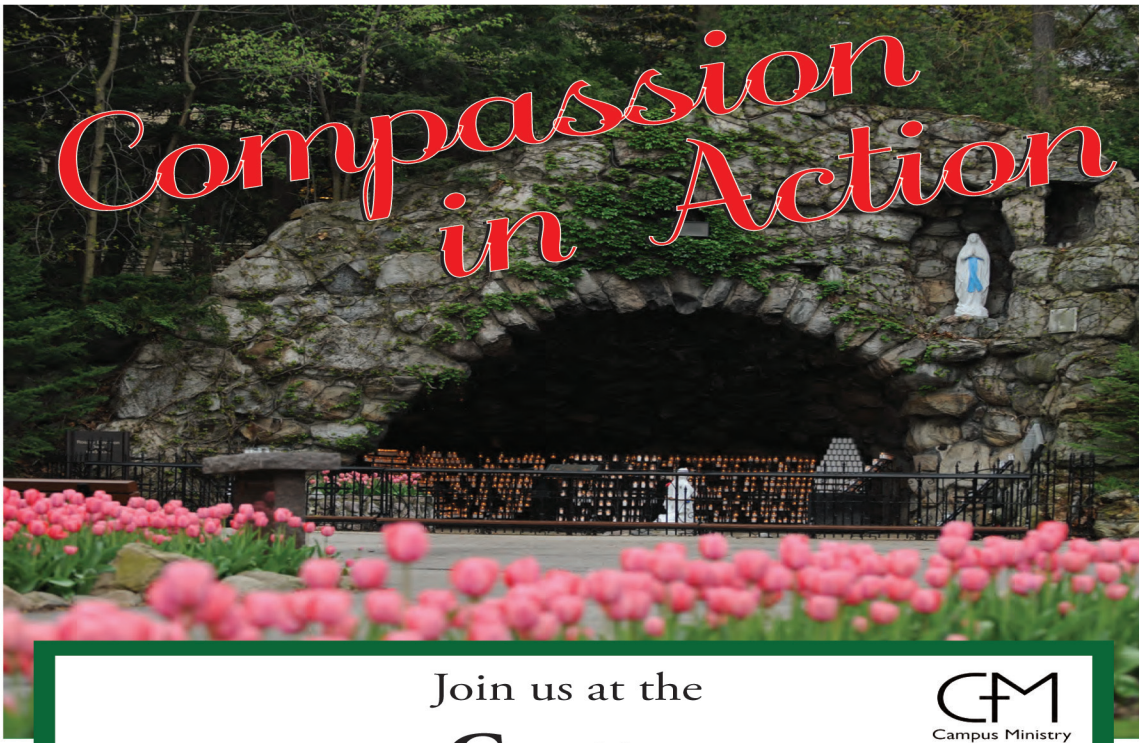
"All the students on campus should know that we're going to have a lot of visiting admitted students who are going to be comparing us with a lot of great choices," he said. "We're hoping that our students will take this opportunity to reach out to the visiting students and tell them about Notre Dame."

Overall, Mundy said he is pleased with the Class of 2016.

"It's safe to say we feel really good about the group as it stands right now," he said.

Contact Tori Roeck at vroeck@nd.edu

In response to recent acts of discrimination on campus, the Notre Dame community is invited to come together in prayer and unity.



Join us at the
Grotto
Wednesday, April 4, 8 pm
Together, we can ensure all feel
at home under the Dome.





IS THERE A CRISIS IN PUBLIC EDUCATION?

Address by Diane Ravitch, Research Professor of Education at NYU

APRIL 10, 2012
McCARTAN COURTROOM
ECK HALL OF LAW
ADDRESS BEGINS AT 7:00 P.M.

Some states are including student academic performance in teacher evaluations and merit pay programs for administrators and educators.

Ravitch believes these reforms do more harm than good.

The former assistant secretary of education and best-selling author is working hard to ensure that every neighborhood in the United States has a good public school that meets the needs of its community.

LET'S IMAGINE TOGETHER.

This event is free and open to the public
with first-come, first-served seating.



THE NOTRE DAME FORUM:
A YEARLONG DISCUSSION

More information:
FORUM.ND.EDU



31 Lengths raises money for Uganda

By CAROLINA WILSON
News Writer

Through the 31 Lengths Campaign, a team of passionate Notre Dame students is using its business skills to create an entrepreneurship center at the Lacor Secondary School near Gulu, Uganda.

Freshman Emily Mediate, undergraduate project leader, said the center's resources will benefit the entire community of Gulu.

"We are working on implementing a variety of programs at the center, including a speaker series, training of the librarian at the entrepreneurship center [and] implementation of entrepreneur teaching materials and an MBA internship program," Mediate said.

MBA student Conor Evans and his wife Lauren Evans used their talents in construction design and their interest in the role of business in emerging economies to found the campaign, Mediate said. She said Conor spoke with several non-governmental organizations in developing countries during the first year of his master's program.

Mediate said the story of Secretariat, a racehorse that won the 1973 Belmont Stakes by 31 horse lengths, inspired the campaign. According to the campaign's website, Secretariat serves as a metaphor for people's ability to achieve when they are empowered.

The project is meant to strengthen education in Gulu and requires 90 thousand dollars to complete, Mediate said.

"We are finishing raising the last part of funds for the library and will finish construction and begin implementation of business programs over the summer," she said.



Photo courtesy of 31 Lengths Campaign

Lauren Evans, wife of Notre Dame MBA student Conor Evans, leads Ugandan business students in an opportunity recognition exercise.

Mediate said some of the campaign's most successful fundraisers so far have been small.

"We actually held an undergraduate dodgeball tournament event earlier in the month to raise awareness and funding for the project," she said. "The event was a huge success."

Members of the campaign helped construct the entrepreneurship center during Notre Dame's spring break, Mediate said. She said they will collaborate with the Invisible Children organization and Ugandan professionals to train the staff members that will run the center.

"I heard from MBA students who went over spring break that there was a huge response from the children at the school," Mediate said. "They are more than thrilled to be

getting an entrepreneurship center at their school available with numerous resources to them."

Mediate said the campaign's mission extends beyond raising money to construct a building.

"This project is about using each individual's talent in a way that unlocks the potential of others," she said.

The entrepreneurship center's grand opening is scheduled for late August, Mediate said. She said she thinks the center's inception will mark the beginning of educational growth in Gulu.

"It has been amazing to see the project grow from an idea to a plan to a structure and an implementation," Mediate said. "Not only is this project focused on building an entrepreneurship center with resources for the children at the secondary school, it aims to empower the Ugandan people to take advantage of the economic opportunities flourishing in Gulu."

For more information or to donate to the campaign, visit 31lengthscampaign.com.

Contact Carolina Wilson at cwilso16@nd.edu

HolyVotes explores politics and Catholicism

By AUBREY BUTTS
News Writer

Four political science professors will share the Washington Hall stage April 12 to exchange and debate their opinions about the intersection of Catholicism and politics.

HolyVotes, an event seeking to open a pathway for political discussion on campus, will replace the God Debate, held in past years.

Senior Malcolm Phelan described HolyVotes as a "light-hearted and rational political debate" that needs to take place at Notre Dame in order to counter the political dialogue currently dominating the media.

"Most news outlets and political commentators seem to be acting out some form of grotesque tragedy about the death of reason and discourse," Phelan said. "That's exactly why we are hosting HolyVotes. We want to lay out our civic beliefs as Catholics, and then discuss which form of government best helps us to achieve those goals."

HolyVotes will feature professors Sebastian Rosato, Eric Sims, Vincent Munoz and Michael Desch.

Junior Arnav Dutt, a coordinator for the event, said he was grateful for the faculty members' willingness to voice their opinions outside of the classroom.

"In a way, these professors

chose themselves," Dutt said. "All three were brave enough to tackle the issue in a public forum."

Rosato, a professor of political science specializing in international relations, said he will represent the Democratic position, which is often considered more controversial because of the Catholic tendency to vote Republican.

"It's a very complex issue, one that many people view as black and white," Rosato said. "The assumption is if you vote Republican, you are going straight to the pro-life argument, and if you're Democrat, you are going to run straight to the social justice issues."

"I think there is a lot of overlap, and I think that the parties are internally divided, and that therefore, this is a debate that really needs to occur on campus."

Rosato said defending the Democratic stances on abortion and gay marriage represents the most difficult task, but he believes his arguments can counter the opposition if received with an open mind.

"In these types of debates, people typically tend to give the party line or the Catholic stance, and there is no one on the other end," Rosato said. "I think the other professors involved in this debate are

well-intentioned, and I believe most people in the room will be able to treat it as a debate, but I fear it may devolve into name calling."

Despite advice not to participate in HolyVotes, Rosato said he believes it is his duty to ask the charged questions and contribute to overturning the paradigm of asserting truths rather than debating issues.

"I believe I was put on this earth to make arguments and to make them regardless of what people thought," Rosato said. "As a privileged professor at Notre Dame, I'm meant to inform and contribute to raising the level of discourse. My job is to think, and that's why I said yes."

Dutt said the event is meant to encourage contemplation and dialogue.

"Students should expect an intellectually stimulating debate conducted at a high volume," he said.

Phelan agreed HolyVotes should make attendees think.

"My hope is that we all stumble out of Washington Hall, slightly dazed at the brilliance of Rosato, Munoz, Sims and Desch while considering what duties we owe our country and our fellow citizens."

Contact Aubrey Butts at abutts@nd.edu

"The assumption is if you vote Republican, you are going straight to the pro-life argument, and if you're Democrat, you are going straight to the social justice issues."

Sebastian Rosato
Professor of political science

"I believe I was put on this earth to make arguments and to make them regardless of what people thought."

Sebastian Rosato
Professor of political science

Discussions on Development



Sustainable Urban Alternatives through Productive Public Spaces

Chelina Odbert

Cofounder and Principal of Kounkuey Design Initiative

7:00pm TONIGHT! — Hesburgh Center C-103

For more information visit:

kellogg.nd.edu/fordprogram



THE FORD FAMILY PROGRAM
In Human Development Studies and Solidarity

The Kellogg Institute for International Studies

Dream

continued from page 1

tion of the mind and heart.” While some other universities were chosen as dream colleges for both parents and students, Notre Dame did not make the student list.

“There is definitely a difference between the student and parent perspectives,” Mundy said. “They’re looking for some of the same things, but not all, so naturally different factors come into play.”

Mundy said he believes the ranking demonstrates this disparity in goals.

“Parents really see college as a time to grow intellectually, socially and spiritually, and in this case, it means that they see Notre Dame as an ideal place for this.”

University Spokesman Dennis Brown said the administration was pleased about the ranking.

“We believe Notre Dame is among the nation’s best in providing an extraordinary undergraduate experience, and we’re pleased that parents who engaged in this survey have recognized as much,” Brown said.

He said, however, the University does not allow such rankings to carry much weight.

“While we recognize that the various college surveys and rankings serve a useful function for some prospective students and their parents, we have joined with

NOTRE DAME PARENTS’ NO. 4 “DREAM COLLEGE”

- SURVEY BY PRINCETON REVIEW
- NOT RANKED ON STUDENTS’ LIST
- RANKINGS CARRY LITTLE WEIGHT IN SHORT OR LONG TERM

MARINA KOZAK | Observer Graphic

others for 20 years in expressing our reservations about their various methodologies,” Brown said.

Mundy said he believes rankings like this could potentially affect future applicant pools.

“It might help more in the early stages of the application process,” he said. “If Notre Dame is on the parents’ radar and that helps get us on the student radar, that’s a good thing.”

Parents’ influence over their children is an important component of academic

recruiting, Mundy said.

“Once we can get on students’ radar, we can pretty much do the rest,” he said.

Mundy said the rankings, though positive, would not affect University policy in the short or long term.

“Rankings give a global view of our institution,” he said. “They don’t necessarily affect our internal policy. This is certainly a very positive affirmation for us, though.”

Contact Ann Marie Jakubowski at ajakubo1@nd.edu

Mandate

continued from page 1

those preferences,” Clairmont said.

Mary Daly, program coordinator for the Office for University Life Initiatives, said the HHS mandate passed under the Affordable Care Act also requires coverage for Plan B, sterilization and education on family planning methods. This goes against the conscience of Catholic employers, including universities, charities and hospitals, she said.

“[The mandate] requires individuals to perform immoral acts against their consciences,” Daly said.

Daly said the event, which was cosponsored by Campus Ministry, the Center for Ethics and Culture, the Center for Social Concerns, the Gender Relations Center, the Institute for Church Life and the University Life Initiatives office, aims to improve understanding of the key assertions in the debate over the HHS mandate.

“People were coming at this from different angles of not understanding what the church was teaching,” she said. “We thought the most helpful thing we could provide for the students was what it means to form your conscience. We thought that would be the best starting point for students for thinking and talking about these issues.”

Clairmont referenced one of the most frequently cited descriptions of conscience, the Second Vatican Council, which

describes conscience as human beings’ attempts to live in ways that bring them ultimate happiness with God.

“Deep within his conscience, man discovers a law which he has not laid upon himself, but which he must obey,” Clairmont said. “His voice, ever calling him to love and to do what is good and to avoid evil.”

Clairmont said people must work to improve their consciences by studying witnesses in the Church, like saints, and learning from the Church’s teaching authority.

“[Conscience] needs to be developed throughout one’s whole life,” he said. “It’s never fully formed. It’s life-long work ... There are always ways we can develop our moral conscience.”

Clairmont contrasted this Catholic idea of conscience, rooted in never-ending improvement based in the Catechism, with the modern, secular belief that conscience is entirely individual.

“Formation in conscience comes through studying the teachings of the Church on the matters pertaining to human happiness, and by studying the lived examples of other Christians,” he said. “Formation in happiness requires one to be

constantly open to having one’s own experiences interrogated.”

Addressing the pro-mandate argument that many Catholics do not adhere to the Church’s anti-contraception values and so do not oppose the mandate, Clairmont said conscience can always change and be improved.

“It’s not as if conscience wells up in a pure judgment, saying, ‘This is what I must do,’” he said. “This is a judgment at this time, in light of what I know and the experiences I have already had. Those experiences might change.”

Clairmont said he hoped the conversation about Catholic conscience would have long-term positive effects.

“We have opportunities to shift the discussion slightly ... as an opportunity to teach people in the wider society how Catholics understand religion and religious freedom, how we understand conscience,” Clairmont said. “Conscience has a very particular place in the logic of the faith’s presentation. And that is something that is relevant to the public discussion.”

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“We have opportunities to shift the discussion slightly ... as an opportunity to teach people in the wider society how Catholics understand conscience.”

David Clairmont
Assistant Professor
of Moral Theology

Town

continued from page 1

nizations] coming into their positions and to have something for seniors who have been involved to see something formally put in place to carry on in the future,” Suggs said.

The Plan of Action committee unites Student Government, BSA, the African Student Association (ASA), Alliance of Black Leaders, Multicultural Student Programs and Services (MSPS), the Notre Dame Coalition for Human Dignity, the Progressive Student Association, MECHa, the Diversity Council of Notre Dame, the Center for Social Concerns and other interested individuals in compiling campus responses into a comprehensive proposal on how to address and combat discrimination, Suggs said.

“We would love for the whole campus to be involved in the process, but it’s not feasible with the size of the student body,” she said. “We’re taking the main student leaders of campus majority and minority groups and faculty leaders, bringing them together from different backgrounds and points of view on the issue, meeting with them to first highlight the main problem and creating a goal of sorts to keep us focused on the task at hand.”

MSPS Director Iris Outlaw said some recurring themes appeared during the categorization of personal responses from town hall attendees, including a lack of cultural competency in interactions with residence hall staff, Notre Dame Security Police (NDSP) and faculty members; racial profiling by NDSP; inappropriately themed residence hall activities; the “isolating” nature of First Year Orientation, especially for students of color; and a lack of University support for departments like Africana Studies and the Institute for Latino Studies.

“[The responses showed that] the campus climate overall is isolating, and majority students are often unaware of how international and minority students feel about it,” Outlaw said. “Even though we address diversity in the Contemporary Topics course, it only plants the seeds.”

Outlaw said many responders expressed interest in a semester-long course in cultural competency that would educate students about real world diversity issues that specifically affect the Notre Dame community.

“In cultural competency classes, students might study countries like Spain, Italy and Ireland,” Outlaw said. “But we need to talk about what’s going on in our backyard too.”

Some town hall attendees also called for mandatory diversity training for faculty and staff members to further improve cultural competency on campus, Outlaw said.

“Things are written in handbooks, but most people never look at them unless they have an issue or need it for something else,” she said.

In the weeks prior to the February incidents involving the BSA and ASA, Student Senate passed a resolution advocating for increased reporting of discriminatory incidents, student body president Brett Rocheleau said.

“We worked with Diversity Council and found that there are a lot of unreported instances of discrimination, so we want to advocate for students to feel free and safe to report instances of discrimination,” Rocheleau said.

Outlaw said these unreported cases of discrimination prompted administrators to assess the availability and accessibility of resources for reporting and dealing

with discrimination on campus.

“That [assessment] has been key because some resources haven’t been easy to find, especially when important information has been lost in web page changes,” she said. “We’ve been introspective, so it’s great that we’re now trying to be proactive to make the University the place we know it should be.”

This proactive mindset distinguishes the current movement from similar initiatives in the past, Outlaw said.

“The call for accountability has been twofold across the institution,” she said. “We’re holding students accountable for incidents they experience or witness, and the administration is helping students navigate the system, speaking out against discrimination and doing an internal assessment.”

Suggs said Notre Dame is fortunate to have a supportive campus environment.

“Other campuses may have much more deep-rooted issues from living in a post-civil rights era, so thankfully campus is behind us and has the awareness that something needs to be done,” she said. “But we can’t let it die as it has many times before, and we can’t leave it in the hands of a few individuals.”

All members of the Notre Dame community can act individually on that accountability, she said.

“Everybody can take up their call with little things like reporting discrimination, encouraging teachers to facilitate discussion in class, doing your part when others are victimized and not turning your head in the other direction and pushing a zero-tolerance mission for discrimination,” she said.

Former student body president Pat McCormick said the work of student groups and responses to the town hall demonstrate solidarity among the University community.

“The initiatives that have developed in the call to action and the work of Student Senate, student government and members of the coalition indicate that the student body is standing in solidarity on these issues,” he said. “My hope is that it’s one of the things we’ve taken away from this ... and that it’s not the end but rather the beginning of facing these challenges together.”

McCormick and Suggs said the administration and faculty members have been receptive and active in addressing the responses to these incidents, especially the Offices of the Provost, the President and Student Affairs.

“The Office of the Provost and [vice president and associate provost for undergraduate studies] Dr. Don Pope-Davis have been extremely generous with their time and are looking for ways to confront challenges systemically from the perspective of the academy,” McCormick said.

Most importantly, the campus community must understand the importance of uniting in the fight against discrimination, Suggs said.

“It’s not just my issue or a BSA, ASA and minority issue,” she said. “Whether you have a past, present or future at Notre Dame, it’s all our issue to solve this.”

Suggs said Notre Dame should be held to its reputation and the high standards it has in “everything you could possibly name,” and discrimination is no exception.

“This is a crucial part of the Notre Dame and Holy Cross mission that has been overlooked,” she said. “We need the Notre Dame community to further that mission and see it through ... with the same vigor as we see everything else through.”

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SMC partners with Rebuilding Together

By CHRISTIN KLOSKI
News Writer

Through the non-profit partnership Rebuilding Together, Saint Mary's students are working with economically disadvantaged homeowners in the South Bend area to transform their homes.

Olivia Critchlow, assistant director for the Office of Civic and Social Engagement, said homeowners apply to the program and are chosen based on their need. She said Saint Mary's has volunteered with Rebuilding Together for eight years and will donate \$3,500 to remodeling one of the 25 houses that were chosen this year.

"This becomes the Saint Mary's student experience," she said. "The students have hands-on opportunities to see a complete transformation."

Critchlow said this year's home rehabilitation will be in South Bend's River Park neighborhood and provides an opportunity for the South Bend community to serve together.

"Students will be doing the unskilled labor, which includes painting, light landscaping and other exterior work," Critchlow said.

Skilled laborers will work on the houses the weekend before the student volunteers do, Critchlow said. Plumbers, electricians and roofers will attend to major details, while students work on minor details.

Students do much of the manual labor required to remodel the homes of single-parent families and elderly individuals in order to ease some of their burdens, Critchlow said. The rebuilding gives particular relief to families in a tough economic time.

"The experience will also give students an opportunity to meet members of the South Bend community and hear their stories," Critchlow said. "It is an incredible feeling of accom-

plishment and community for all involved."

Critchlow said Saint Mary's Office for Civic and Social Engagement will collect donations for constructing the sponsored house.

According to a press release from Critchlow, the South Bend Medical Foundation will also host a blood drive April 11 to raise funds. For every unit of blood collected, she said the Foundation will donate \$5 to the effort.

Volunteering with Rebuilding Together is different than participating in other volunteer opportunities, Critchlow said.

"In the rebuilding project, an entire group works together to work on a house in the morning and see its complete transformation by the time that they all leave in the afternoon," she said.

Critchlow said although the volunteer experience is short, it leaves a feeling of accomplishment.

"Unlike other volunteer experiences, where volunteers wait for a few months to see the outcome, the Rebuilding Together project gives students the opportunity to see the outcome within a few hours," Critchlow said. "They get to see a face-lift on the house that they've been working on for half of a day."

According to Critchlow's press release, 80 percent of Saint Mary's students participate in service before graduating.

"It is through service events like Rebuilding Together, that bring our students together with those in need in the community to connect in very real and tangible ways, that truly help to make our world a better place," she said.

Critchlow said the house rebuilding will take place April 21 and students who want to volunteer should sign up by April 18.

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Burger King updates menu with new items

Associated Press

MIAMI — Burger King is trying to revive its ailing empire with a rival's recipe for success.

After years of lackluster sales of its Whoppers and fries, the struggling fast-food giant on Monday launched 10 food items in its biggest menu expansion since the chain was started in 1954.

But there are unmistakable similarities between Burger King's new lineup and the offerings its much-bigger rival McDonald's has rolled out in recent years. The Golden Arches already rolled out specialty salads in 2003, snack wraps in 2006, premium coffee drinks in 2009, and fruit smoothies in 2010.

Burger King doesn't deny that its new chicken strips, caramel frappe coffees, Caesar salads and strawberry-banana smoothies sound pretty close to those on McDonald's popular menu. But executives say the company came up with them through its research.

"Consumers wanted more

choices," said Steve Wiborg, president of Burger King's North America operations. "Not just healthy choices, but choices they could get at the competition."

The menu additions are part of Burger King's plan to abandon its nearly single-minded courtship of young men, who were once the lifeblood of the industry but were hard hit by the economic downturn. Competitors went after new customers with breakfast items and healthier fare, but Burger King let its menu get stale. As a result, Burger King for the first time was edged out by Wendy's last year as the nation's No. 2 burger chain. McDonald's solidified its hold on No. 1.

To stem the decline, Burger King executives last year decided to modernize the 7,200-restaurant chain's aging stores, redesign worker uniforms with aprons so they stay clean and even serve the iconic Whopper in cardboard cartons instead of paper wrapping for the first time in more than 20 years. Food, however, is at the heart of their plan.

Romney shifts focus to Obama

Associated Press

GREEN BAY, Wis. — As Mitt Romney looked for a sweep in Tuesday's three Republican primaries to tighten his grip on the party's nomination, President Barack Obama criticized the GOP front-runner by name in a campaign ad for the first time, signaling that he too thinks the nomination race is all but over.

Regardless of the outcome in Wisconsin, Maryland and Washington, D.C., Romney was rapidly shifting toward the general election — and the challenges of Obama's better-financed and better-organized opposition.

The president flexed that campaign muscle Monday, suggesting that he's ready for Romney even if the former Massachusetts governor isn't quite ready for him. Obama released a television ad set to run in six swing states accusing Romney of standing with "Big Oil." The ad came hours after the release of a similar campaign from an Obama ally.

Romney has been ignoring his Republican rivals for several days and taking it to the Democratic president, whom he accused Monday of "crushing dreams" with a "government-centered society."

"He takes his political inspiration from the capitals of Europe," Romney told supporters in Green Bay, Wis., one day before the latest primaries in the GOP fight. "His version of a perfect world is a big-spending big government."

The grinding Republican primary, already 3 months old, has complicated his ability to refocus his broader organization and resources toward Obama. Aides concede that staff building and fundraising for the fall match-up are lagging.

Romney's recent string of high-dollar California fundraisers was limited to raising money only for the Republican primary contests. Aides are only beginning to take steps to raise cash to use against Obama, who has been aggressively fundraising and distributed staff on the ground in almost every state in the nation.

The delay has given Obama a massive head start. The disparity is staggering.

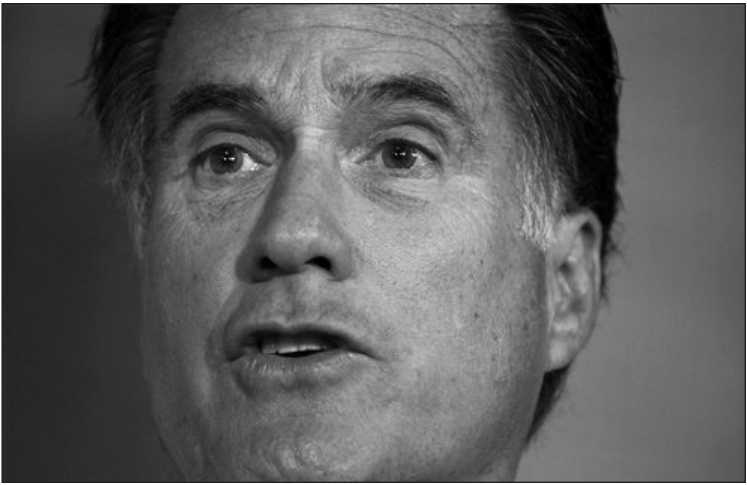
At the end of February, Obama reported \$84.7 million in his campaign account compared to Romney's \$7.3 million. Obama has more than 530 paid staff compared to roughly 100 for Romney.

A fading Rick Santorum, also campaigning in Wisconsin on Monday, said that Romney has essentially bought his success by outspending the competition.

Romney and his allies have spent a combined \$53 million on television advertising so far this election cycle compared to just \$27 million from his three Republican competitors combined, according to data compiled by the media tracking firm SMG Delta.

Santorum's team, having narrowly lost a string of high-profile contests, spent just \$9 million.

"With almost unlimited resources, Gov. Romney has not proven to be very effective," Santorum said Monday as he predicted a possible upset in Wisconsin. "The only way he's been successful in winning the primaries is by just bludgeoning his opponents by an over-



Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney speaks at a building supply store in Green Bay, Wis. on Monday.

whelming money advantage — something he's not going to have in the general election."

In the primary race, Romney has a huge advantage in delegates. On Monday, The Associated Press count had Romney with exactly half the delegates needed to win the nomination, 572, and twice as many delegates as Santorum.

For the fall campaign, Romney's presidential hopes may rest, at least in part, upon the ability of the Republican National Committee to give him a running start. The RNC, beset by problems of its own in recent years, says it's ready to meet the challenge. Yet party officials acknowledge limitations. General election fundraising in particular has suffered without a nominee.

The RNC last week announced it had filled a "presidential trust" with \$21 million to spend in coordination with the nominee. But there is no limit on what the committee can raise and spend on its own to support the party's presidential contender.

"There are donors that are sitting on the sidelines right now," said RNC political director Rick Wiley.

Romney's campaign has been anxious to be able to raise money for the party itself when it holds finance events — donors can cut checks of up to \$30,800 to the party committee. Without the nomination, however, Romney hasn't been able to ask for that money yet. That's changing this week, the Romney campaign said Monday night, as Romney prepares to begin raising money jointly with the RNC. The Wall Street Journal first reported the change in strategy.

Romney spokeswoman Andrea Saul said the campaign has been talking to the RNC about preparing to challenge Obama, including joint fundraising. "Our donors are ready to mobilize for November and understand that, for the Republican nominee to be able to compete with the \$1 billion Obama machine, they need to get started now," she said in a statement.

Complications for the Romney campaign extend beyond fundraising.

Wiley said the committee's nationwide network of "victory centers" might not be fully operational until August unless a nominee secures the nomination soon.

"I think you will see as soon as you get a nominee, an accelerated ramp-up of staff," Wiley said. "Right now everyone's out the door by August, but I can see a scenario where everyone was out the door by June or July if we had a nominee in the

next 30 days or so."

Late last month, the RNC opened general election offices in North Carolina and Virginia and in Florida, a critical swing state where the committee now has 10 offices, according to Wiley. And this week offices are set to open in Nevada, Colorado, New Mexico and Michigan.

Romney's campaign, which would assume control of the offices should he claim the nomination, has been slow to implement a plan to reach Hispanic voters, outside of a handful of states, such as Florida. The RNC separately is instituting Hispanic state directors this week in Florida, North Carolina, Virginia, Colorado, New Mexico and Nevada.

While the RNC cannot pick sides before a nominee emerges, Romney's campaign has benefited from a network of informal alliances. Many members of Romney's senior staff have either worked for, or closely with, the RNC for years.

Wiley, for example, worked under Romney's political director, Rich Beeson, for more than a decade. Beeson was the RNC's political director four years ago.

Beeson said that even without the RNC's help, the Romney campaign has built a network of donors, prominent supporters and voter files that will translate to the general election.

"You don't go into Florida and bank as many early absentee votes and do what we did statewide without leaving behind a pretty good organization that's still in place and will be there in a general election," Beeson said. "Same with Ohio, same with Michigan, same with Colorado, with Nevada — just sort of go down the list. There is an infrastructure in place in every one of those states."

In some cases, however, the campaign is not as prepared as Beeson would like.

Romney's campaign often moved staff from state to state as the primary progressed. Much of Romney's Florida senior team, for example, left the state for Ohio as soon as voting finished — and then moved on yet again from Ohio to Illinois and then to Wisconsin.

They are eager to expand, however. The campaign has a list of Republican operatives ready to hire as soon as Romney has general election money to pay them. The campaign's Boston office occupies two floors but is preparing to fill a third.

In Chicago, Obama's team has 300 paid staffers already at work inside the president's re-election headquarters. They're anticipating a general election against Romney.

INSIDE COLUMN

Big Blue Nation

Even though it's April, I still have March Madness, which is strange because I hardly ever follow basketball (this coming from the girl who asked her sister-in-law if player fouls went away after halftime). I have never filled out a bracket for the madness. That is, until one little team made it all the way to the national championship — the Kentucky Wildcats.

That's right. I bleed blue and even though the championship game will be over by the time you read this, I cannot thank the Wildcats enough for such a great season, win or lose.

You see, for some, the teams in last night's game were just two bracket fillers. For me, the Kentucky Wildcats are my connection to home. As a Kentucky girl, I turn on the games when I miss home. It's so nice to see the arenas filled with blue and white and, occasionally, Ashley Judd.

Although I can't be in beautiful Rupp Arena during the season, my family helps me feel like I'm right there in the action. Throughout the games, I receive texts from my brother asking if I saw the previous play or from my mom giving me a score update every two minutes. I wear my UK shirts the day before a big game (my two favorites including the "Fear the Brow" and "We Invented Swag-ger" shirts), and it's my little tribute to home.

I love that my friends now know the names Michael Kidd-Gilchrist, Darius Miller, Kyle Wiltjer and (my favorite) Anthony Davis. During the tournament, they've put up with my constant talk about the team, my love of Davis and my Twitter updates from Wiltjer (sorry about that guys). Likewise, I've put up with the unibrow jokes and have formed my defenses including, "Davis — he will, he will block you" and "No hoop for you."

I think Coach Cal is the cutest coach out there, and no matter where I am, I still clap every time I witness a block or an awesome dunk. I cringe when our players don't get up right away after a fall and I think the "three goggles" are hilarious. I filled out my bracket, saying UK would make it all the way not just because they are ranked No. 1, but because they have the skill to go all the way, and they have fun with the game.

We may have the Naismith Trophy winner, the defensive player of the year and quite possibly the No. 1 pick for this year's draft, but we also have heart — a necessity for any champions.

So for all you Kentucky fans at Notre Dame and Saint Mary's, for all you who witnessed the blocks, threw the remote at the TV when we lost in the SEC, picked Kentucky to go all the way to the national championship and bought the T-shirts wondering if anyone on either campus would understand them, I salute you.

For me, Kentucky basketball isn't just another game — it's a way of life.

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



Caitlin Housley

News Writer

How to finish a semester in under a month

Over the past four years here at Notre Dame, I've found myself spread thinly between multiple classes and mastering none of them. I'd begin semesters compelled to genuinely dive deep into my curricula, but would become inundated with an intense workload impossible to champion. We're urged to eliminate the distractions of our lives — the likes of socializing, extracurriculars, and the passions that make us who we are — in order to rebalance ourselves around academia. However, the biggest obstacle in the way of genuine learning is simply school itself.

This semester, I found myself fed up with the typical tempo of an education system that is far too inefficient. Instead of business as usual, I sought to completely rework how I consume my education, becoming a test dummy in an experiment that would challenge how education is fostered. I believed that I could complete my entire academic semester in less than one month. And I succeeded.

Here's how I did it:

Almost every class I've taken has been fundamentally rooted by textbook readings. That is, textbook chapters are the foundations of assignments and lesson plans, which then become the underpinnings of projects, papers and exams. Ipso facto, the textbook defines the class. I broke down all of the deliverables for each of my classes into their overarching categories — reading, assignments, projects, exam prep, etc. — and organized them together by category in order of their due date.

By prioritizing class deliverables according to how material is consumed, I could effectively complete a class in less than one week. I attacked each class one at a time, beginning with every reading

assignment for that class and working my way to the next category. It would take about a day and a half to finish each category, and under a week to finish an entire semester's worth of class deliverables. Then wash, rinse and repeat for the next classes.

The benefits of this kind of system are astronomical. By completing assignments in order — instead of highly scattered and intertwined around unrelated tasks throughout the year — we gain the benefits of contextual recall and focused learning. As most textbook chapters are built off one another, a clean read without stagnation makes for a more effective understanding of progressive concepts. Similar assignments call for similar actions, and consolidating them together reduces the total completion time by a major fraction. And instead of quickly forgetting material, this system actually reinforces content throughout each category, as well within class discussions, where content is no longer freshly new but reiterative.

It seems like all of this makes sense, but as you probably guessed, its execution is a nightmare. Classes have definitive due dates for deliverables, and there's little time to fit a program like this into a normal schedule of classes. To complete a class in less than a week is to operate within a 12-hour workday that is simply impossible to maintain ordinarily. A student must make a major tradeoff between academic efficiency and punctual participation, and there's no question that participation factors and submission deadlines dissuade many from even trying something like this.

So what did I do? I chose the classes with the smallest participation component attached to the final grade, with the fewest deadlines in the initial month, and with all deliverables and deadlines outlined for the semester. I then spent the first two weeks of school locked away in my room, working from 9 a.m. to 11

p.m. every day for what was the most intensive academic session of my life. In that time, I had managed to complete a total of three classes for the entire semester, a feat that still amazes me.

After spending those two weeks knocking out half of my semester deliverables from sunup to sundown, I returned back to class and organized my assignments around class periods. I found that my time wasn't scattered between three classes a night per usual; instead, I was able to devote my focus to the major projects and class assignments for my remaining classes. I was able to finish the rest of my assignments for the entire semester in less than a month.

What's the ultimate takeaway of all of this? While I'm certainly not urging you to commit to this system, what I am suggesting is that we must become better consumers of our own education. I've completed my deliverables and prepared for exams and for the first time in my life, I'm also mastering it all. It's a win-win scenario in which my schedule and academic enlightenment is infinitely more governable. But this luxury doesn't come freely.

We can't continue to blindly accept rules of a system where courses are engineered irrespective of how we learn. If we wish to continue having faith in the university system, we can't simply deprioritize everything else important in our lives en lieu of University demands. We must be willing to make tradeoffs and challenge our "that's the way it is" attitude towards academia. An education in which success comes at the expense of the passions and opportunities in our lives is simply no education at all.

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

EDITORIAL CARTOON



QUOTE OF THE DAY

"I am not sincere, even when I say I am not."

Jules Renard
French author

Submit a
Letter to
the Editor

Email obsviewpoint@gmail.com

WEEKLY POLL

Is Haley Scott DeMaria a good choice to be the Commencement speaker?

Yes — she'll be inspiring
No — she's too low-profile

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

All the Girls Around Me

I'm eating lunch on the outdoor patio at a restaurant on the 3rd Street Promenade in Santa Monica, Calif. Hundreds of people are flowing in and out of storefronts, restaurants, theaters and whatnot. A street performer is playing a rendition of "Don't Stop Believing" on what appears to be a musical saw. It's as good a time as any to test the fabled iPhone app "Girls Around Me." In keeping with its name, the app pools three types of data together: Foursquare check-ins, Facebook profiles and GPS-located Google Maps. And it does all of this to show the girls who are around you.

30 seconds later I've downloaded the app and tap to open it. The splash screen is as suspect as the name. It displays several Bond-style, nude silhouettes of women posing like pole dancers in the middle of radar grids. The splash screen disappears and a map loads showing the images of 40 girls in proximity to me. Real people who are just sitting on a predatory map.

There are plenty of apps using this geo-location technology. Open up Yelp and you'll be centered in a map that shows all the great places to eat around you. Check in to Foursquare and it'll do the same. What makes Girls Around Me so different and sinister is that the girls listed have no clue that they might be appearing on the phone of some guy eating lunch a couple of meters away.

I tap on one girl at random. Her name was Sarah and the app pulls up basic

Blake J. Graham

Erudite Techno-Lust

information about her: name, where she is, how long ago she was there and a full screen version of her Facebook profile image. Then at the bottom there's a big green button labeled "photos and messaging." As my finger lingers over it, I look around at the street expecting passersby to point their fingers at me and yell, "pervert." They don't, so I click it. It links to her public Facebook profile.

In all of 30 seconds, I learn how old she is (22), where she went to high school (Harvard-Westlake (wow!)), college (Tufts), her favorite book (Self-Reliance), what she's interested in (men), her brother's name (Zach). Two more taps and I can access her photos. I then learn how she looks in a bikini (exceptionally athletic). Amazed at how quickly I invaded her privacy and undressed her life and person, I put my phone down and looked away from it. It was a special type of shame. The waiter asks if I'd like another Coke. I nod, but my mind is still on poor Sarah. Poor Sarah whose life is an open book. Poor Sarah who is not more than 20 meters away.

The thing is, Sarah and every other girl who appeared on my screen put that information online. When creating a Facebook profile, why not indicate your favorite book or list your relatives? And what's the harm in your albums entitled "Summer 2010," "Summer 2011," "Spring Break 2012," etc. After all, Facebook is a place for friends. Foursquare is a useful tool as well. The only people who will check it are your friends and you do so ever want to be the mayor of the Safeway (and so close you are!). Girls Around Me just puts all that information together

and the result is exceptionally creepy. They never intended to be on some predator's radar.

The Girls Around Me website describes it as "the perfect complement to any pick-up strategy. And with millions of chicks checking in daily, there's never been a better time to be on the hunt." So the logical next steps are as follows. I walk down to the store she is at and introduce myself. I could pretend I went to Harvard-Westlake as well, tell her she was a senior when I was a freshman. But the school is a bit too small for that. I could do the same for Tufts. Lead off a conversation about silly school colors and whisk her away with an Emerson quote: "I do not wish to expiate, but to live."

But I do none of that, because objectifying women with the aid of hyper-personal technology has never been my fancy. Instead I put my phone away and try very hard to forget Sarah and everything I know about her. And I do. For about two weeks when Girls Around Me exploded in the media.

I started to talk with people about how they felt they might be violated. The consensus was generally the same. "I didn't give my information to that app," they would moan. "But you essentially did," I inform them. "By letting all your Facebook and Foursquare information be public, there was nothing stopping a company from creating a service that connects one to the other." They were afraid and threatened because too much data was available — it was as if they had lost control of their own lives when it became accessible to complete strangers lurking nearby.

Here's where things broke down. People had expectation of where and how the information they shared was going to be used. And the media channels they shared with provide incentive for people to continuously share. Your Facebook experience is better the more details of your life you give up. Foursquare accumulates value from knowing where you are all the time. A privacy violation doesn't occur because too much information exists. Rather, it occurs when the right information goes to the wrong place. To get academic, we follow "context-relative informational norms." The second a norm is broken, chaos and fear ensue.

Girls Around Me has since been pulled from the Apple App Store. But there is absolutely nothing to stop other apps of a similar nature from appearing, and in six to ten months, there will be new services pulling in even more information than before. Due to the sheer volume of apps developed, there doesn't exist a good system to check and warn against seemingly deviant services. What's more, Girls Around Me didn't really even do anything wrong. Let shock and anger follow that comment, but the onus is on the user. I am not the first to say this and I certainly won't be the last. If you are not paying for something, you are not the customer; you are the product being sold. Take caution. Too much is at stake.

Blake J. Graham is a freshman. He can be reached on Twitter @BlakeGraham or at bgraham2@nd.edu

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

Dating at Notre Dame: The Remix

The title of this editorial could be accurately described as a misnomer. I have heard from every corner of campus that dating does not occur at Notre Dame. The lack of dating is not just relegated to Notre Dame, but is present on college campuses across the country. The reasons for this state of affairs is as varied as the people you talk with. Some claim that there just isn't enough time in the week to develop a meaningful relationship, others point to parietals as the source of our consternation and still others claim that the single sex residence hall system is to blame for the poor state of relationships on campus.

Regardless of what might be the mechanism driving our inability to create an environment where healthy relationships can flourish, my conversations with members of this community have convinced me that there is a desire to explore something other than the microwave relating that permeates our culture.

David Moss

Dr. D @ the GRC

Although many agree that the general state of relationship building on campus is generally unhealthy and inauthentic, in the same breath they acknowledge that "it is the only game in town." There is a belief that if they do not play this game as defined by popular culture and those within the circle of coolness, they will become bystanders and second-class citizens in their own college experience. Given this alternative, some claim that the current condition is not so bad. After all, the omnipresent hookup does offer some fun and emotional release from the mountain of academic obligations. Unfortunately, there are no free lunches and frequently those involved pay either a physical or emotional cost; a cost that few are willing to discuss honestly.

So how do we begin to carve out the time necessary to foster and develop relationships that are affirming, respectful and authentic? Foundationally, if we are honest with ourselves, this is what most of us are looking for. First, let's begin by lowering our expectations of what it

means to date someone. Level One Dating (as described by Kerry Cronin when she visited our campus) is an opportunity for you to have a conversation with your date which will do one of two things. At the conclusion of the conversation you will know that a) there may be potential here and you would like to have another conversation, or b) this was not someone you wish to spend more personal time with. This does not take as much time as you might imagine and this type of intentional dating is just that — intentional. It is not for those who use alcohol as a lubricant to engage others socially.

In addition, you must own the fact that you find the other person interesting (maybe even attractive) without the aid of beer goggles. You are not just hanging out with a group of friends, but actively engaged in learning about the person you are with. These dates also have a time limit. There should be no five hour marathon conversations on a Level One date. They should last about an hour and no more than 90 minutes. It really should

not be that intense and you will have opportunities for more conversation later. If you came to Kerry Cronin's presentation (Notre Dating) you were given a voucher to go on such a date at Starbucks. I am looking forward to talking with some of those students this week about their Level One dating experiences.

To continue the momentum of this authentic style of interaction, the Gender Relations Center and Student Activities will be engaging students in an old school remix of the date — the picnic. So don't be surprised when spring time welcomes a new activity on the Quad. We hope you will join us as we redefine social interaction with an intentional twist.

Dr. G. David Moss is the Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs and the Interim Director for the Gender Relations Center. He can be contacted at gmoss@nd.edu

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

New nd.edu sets the bar

Dear Office of Public Relations,

Yes, this is most certainly nerdy, but as a Computer Science Major with a strong interest in web technology and design, I want to commend you for the work on the new nd.edu launched on April 1. This update puts Notre Dame's public image at the forefront of smart web design. With the continuing trend of webpage access through a myriad of different devices, a website that adapts its layout based on size is not only brilliant, but also very forward-thinking.

Notre Dame students who have no idea what I'm saying — do this: Go to your web browser, type in nd.edu and make the window as small as you can. Now slowly drag the page bigger. Notice how the layout and content

of the page changes dynamically with the size. This means that the same nd.edu homepage will look good anywhere — be it a low-res smartphone screen, your gaming console or an HD display. Now try the same thing with another of your favorite websites. Chances are you won't get very far before the page looks distorted or cluttered. Notre Dame's Office of Public Relations is setting the bar for content-driven websites everywhere, and we should be proud of their work.

John Kemnetz
junior
Duncan Hall
Apr. 2



This Week's Mix - Soundtrack to Your Easter



by Maija Gustin

1	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> "Hallelujah" -- Jeff Buckley
2	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> "Scarborough Fair" -- Simon and Garfunkel
3	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> "The Lion's Roar" -- First Aid Kit
4	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> "Harvest" -- Neil Young
5	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> "40 Day Dream" -- Edward Sharpe & the Magnetic Zeros
6	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> "Five Years Time" -- Noah and the Whale
7	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> "Lady of the Island" -- Crosby, Stills, Nash and Young
8	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> "Old Man" -- Neil Young
9	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> "Rambling Man" -- Laura Marling
10	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> "White Blank Page" -- Mumford and Sons

Easter means something different to every-
one - for some, it is a deeply contemplative
holiday where we celebrate the resurrection
of Christ. For others, it is a great chance to
spend time together with Easter Egg hunts
and pastel-colored everything. For everyone,
though, Easter means the ushering in of
spring after - at least in South Bend - a long
winter. To accompany your Easter holiday
this year, Scene has prepared a folk-inspired
playlist that will move you to head outside
and enjoy the great, green outdoors.

Listen online at ndsmcobserver.com/scene

NEW TO
Your Queue

The Best of Watch Instantly

Wading through the excessive amount of horrible films on Instant Netflix can be daunting for any subscriber. To ease the process, Scene has graciously provided a list of the best Netflix has to offer.

1. "True Grit"

This superbly acted remake of the John Wayne classic is definitely worth the watch. The Coen brothers' film was nominated for 10 Academy Awards and although it didn't end up winning any, the film was still very impressive. Jeff Bridges' portrayal of Rooster Cogburn pays homage to John Wayne's character and yet, he makes the role entirely his own. The Coen brothers rarely make a bad movie, and "True Grit" doesn't disappoint.

2. "Take Me Home Tonight"

This isn't "The Artist." It isn't even "Hot Tub Time Machine." But this tribute to '80s culture is a fun and hilarious -- if not very smart -- comedy. Topher Grace graduated from MIT and now is out of college and not sure what he wants to do with his life. He and his friend Dan Fogler embark on a night-long journey of debauchery that leads them all over Los Angeles, helping Grace discover himself in the process. While the plot sounds cliché --and is -- it's still a decidedly funny movie.

3. "Trainspotting"

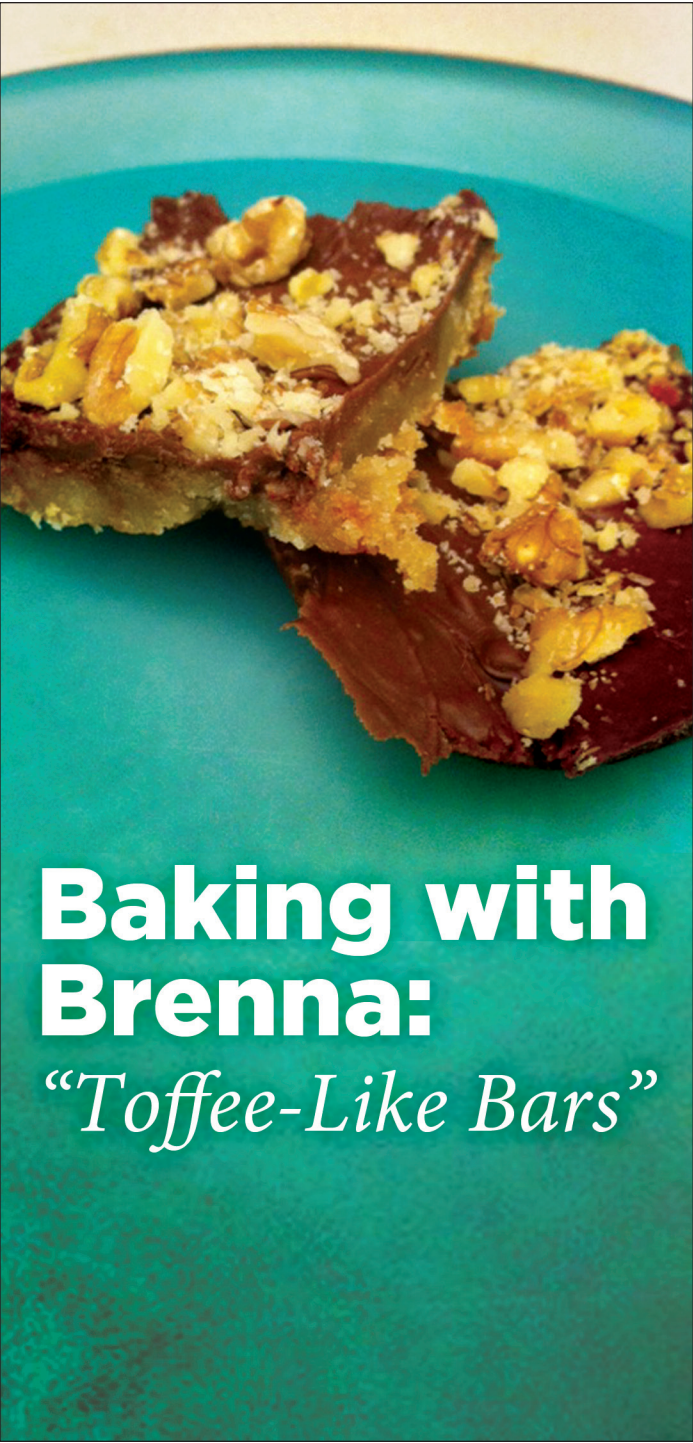
Before he made "Slumdog Millionaire" and "127 Hours," Danny Boyle made a name for himself in Britain with visually intricate films that captured the tragedy and, often, the majesty of nitty gritty '90s life. Following the exploits of a group of aimless drug addicts in Edinburgh, "Trainspotting" stars such future successes as Ewan McGregor ("Moulin Rouge!"), Johnny Lee Miller ("Dexter"), Robert Carlyle ("Once Upon a Time") and Kelly Macdonald ("Boardwalk Empire"). The film is equally funny and serious, uplifting and depressing, heavy and light-hearted, but always features Boyle's eye for capturing the nuances of life through visual style.

4. "Waiting for 'Superman'"

This documentary about the state of the education system in America is a moving story outlining the gaps students face and improvements that need to be made. Masterfully shot, produced and edited, the film focuses its attention all over the United States. It follows students in lotteries for charter schools in Los Angeles and New York City, interviewing big names like Michelle Rhee, former chancellor of the D.C. public school district, and Geoffrey Canada, an education reformer in Harlem, N.Y. The film provides an inside look at the failures of the American public education system, meant to energize and accelerate the change needed.

5. "Never Say Never"

Netflix has perfect timing when selecting and submitting their new movie arrivals to their website, and this week's picks are no exception. With his new single "Boyfriend" just out, what better movie to watch than Justin Bieber's "Never Say Never" documentary? The film recounts his story and path to stardom while listening and watching him perform some of his most popular hits in his sold-out concert in Madison Square Garden. For all of you Bieber fans, this is a must see.



Baking with Brenna: “Toffee-Like Bars”

By **BRENNA WILLIAMS**
Scene Writer

I spend holidays with my boyfriend’s family and I feel the need to make a peace offering or prove that I can cook whenever I see his mother, a plight that most significant others can empathize with. This Easter, I’m coming armed with a secret weapon: baked goods. With a recipe that’s easy and delicious, “Toffee-Like Bars” are sure to please everyone from picky in-law-types to the confection connoisseurs we call five year old cousins.

When I say I want recipe ideas, I’m being serious. This week’s idea came from a professor’s family recipe, and I am so glad that I solicited it. It’s hard to go wrong with butter, brown sugar and chocolate, so I thoroughly recommend these for a family-tested and approved treat.

Ingredients:
1 cup butter, softened
1 cup brown sugar
1 cup flour
1 egg yolk
Tip: Egg whites are an acceptable substitute
12 oz bag of chocolate or butterscotch chips
Tip: Use half of each and get the best of both worlds
1/2 cup of chopped nuts
Tip: I used walnuts, but you can use whatever is available/your favorite

Instructions:
1. Preheat the oven to 300 degrees Fahrenheit. Combine butter, brown sugar, flour, and egg in a bowl. Spread the resulting dough in a 13x9 pan.
2. Bake at 300° for 25-30 minutes or until light brown and set.
3. Take the pan out of oven, and sprinkle chips on top. Return to the oven for two to three minutes, or until chips are melted.
Tip: If you decide to use both butterscotch and chocolate chips, put the butterscotch on first and melt those alone for a couple of minutes. Then add chocolate and continue as instructed – butterscotch chips take longer to melt than chocolate
4. Remove the pan from the oven and use a rubber spatula or knife to spread the chips. Sprinkle nuts on top and cut into squares.
Tip: The professor who gave me the recipe advised me to put nuts on half and leave the rest plain. It makes them delectable to people who aren’t crazy about nuts



BRENNA WILLIAMS/The Observer

I will admit, somehow I have never had real toffee in my life, but I got a good idea about what I am missing out on after making this recipe. I would like to think that my boyfriend’s mother is going to be quiet this Easter because she likes me, but I will secretly know it’s because she’s savoring this delicious treat. I’ll take whatever help I can get.

Thank you to Professor Dreyer in FTT for this recipe! To everyone reading, I’m always willing to try to do justice to your favorite treat, so send me my next challenge!

Contact Brenna Williams at bwillia9@nd.edu

By **ALEX KILPATRICK**
Scene Writer

Andrew Bird has pegged himself as one of the apologist indie singer-songwriters of our generation. With his sixth and latest solo studio LP “Break It Yourself,” he delves into social, religious and geopolitical issues, often all in the same song.

Bird gives the album opener “Desperation Breeds...” a haunting sound as he points towards the problem of rapidly decreasing bee populations. In “Danse Caribe,” he mixes an unexpected Afro-Caribbean beat with traditional fiddling and the token whistling for which he is best known, as he sings “Then one day you’d had it / Exiled your closest advisors.”

Bird appears to play outside of his comfort zone on lead single “Eyeoneye,” which has a straightforward indie rock sound but does not offer much conceptually. Granted, the single does contain a fake palindrome, reminiscent of “Fake Palindromes” from his third album “Andrew Bird & The Mysterious Production of Eggs.”

He delves into the idea of the fragility of truth and memory in the sleepy piece “Lazy Projector” as he whistles through the lyrics, “And it’s all in the hands of a lazy projector / That forgetting, embellishing, lying machine.” “Near Death Experience Experience” both ruminates on the fragility of life and

celebrates its value (“And we’ll dance like cancer survivors / Like we’re grateful simply to be alive”) over instrumentals reminiscent of Bird’s early albums.

Solo act and fellow singer-songwriter St. Vincent accompanies Bird in a duet on “Lusitania,” which responds to Bird’s musings on memory in “Lazy Projector” while also touching on political events from World War I and the Spanish-American War. He sings, “We don’t study these wars no more.” “Sifters” plays like a lullaby with Bird’s wistful yet dynamic vocals, accompanied by woodblock and violin as he sings, “Sound is a wave like a wave on the ocean / Moon plays the ocean like a violin.”

“Hole in the Ocean Floor,” if nothing else, is certainly the longest track on the LP at a solid eight minutes. Bird offers a majestically layered sound - a piece of whistling and looped violins in this piece and blends in only a few scattered words throughout, “I woke with

a start / Crying bullets, beating heart / To hear all God’s creatures / Roaring again.”

Bird successfully keeps “Break It Yourself” cohesive by threading it all together with short transition pieces like “Polynation” and “Behind the Barn.” Overall, the album exhibits Bird’s exceptional violin skills and typical folksy sound while drawing influence from contemporary folk acts like Fleet Foxes and Beirut.

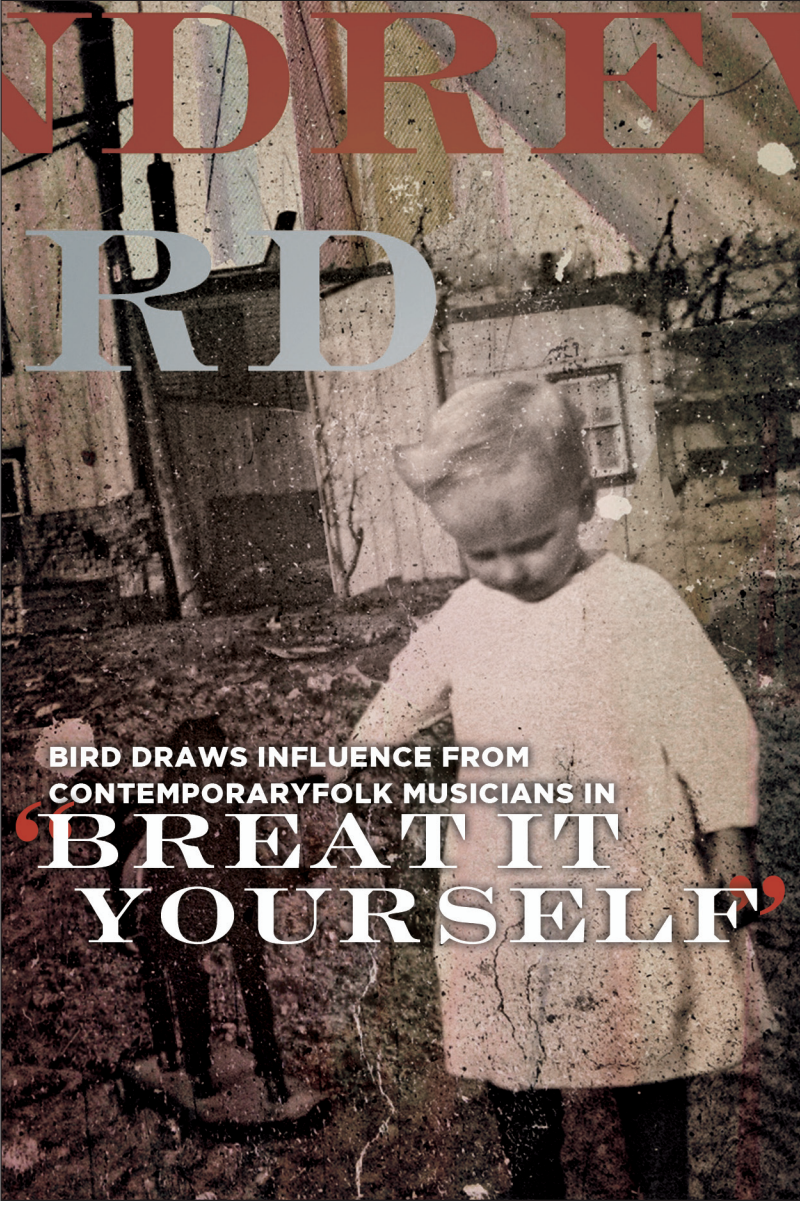
That being said, unlike Bird’s other releases, there are no standout tracks on the LP, ones that will be remembered on their own merits. “Break It Yourself” flows together well as a whole concept album but does not present any clear favorites for Andrew Bird fans.

Contact Alex Kilpatrick at akilpatr@nd.edu

“Break It Yourself”
By Andrew Bird

Label: Mom+Pop
Best Tracks: “Danse Caribe,” “Eyeoneye,” “Near Death Experience Experience”





MARINA KOZAK | Observer Graphic

SPORTS AUTHORITY

A look at baseball’s unwritten standards

All I can imagine is a dark room filled with shadowed figures sipping whiskey on the rocks. They trade quips and threatening stares. They each wear power suits with dapper ties. They are respected, feared, wise. They are gentlemen and scholars and ... baseball players.

Okay, so maybe that isn’t exactly how baseball’s unwritten rules were decided upon. Odds are they were decided by a handshake between captains after a fistfight. Okay, so maybe that isn’t it either, give me a break.

No matter how these rules were decided, there is no doubting their existence even without tangible evidence in a rulebook.

Despite the existence of these guidelines in America’s pastime, it seems like the past year has involved more and more code-breaking plays.

There was Angels shortstop Erick Aybar bunting in the eighth inning in an effort to break up Tigers pitcher Justin Verlander’s no-hit bid in August. Verlander said he was surprised by the attempt and called the play “bush league.”

Many argued whether Marlins outfielder Scott Cousins violated the players’ code when he ended Giants catcher Buster Posey’s season after barreling over him in a play at the plate a year ago.

Most recently, Indians pitcher Ubaldo Jimenez beamed former teammate and Rockies shortstop Troy Tulowitzki with a high and tight pitch that prompted tempers to flare and benches to empty — in spring training. Colorado manager Jim Tracy called the play “a gutless act” and said he lost all respect he had for the former 20-game winner.

Even more gutless than Jimenez’s action was his reac-

tion.

Just after the ball plunked Tulowitzki, Jimenez stepped off the mound towards him. It was almost instantly. His pompous attitude as he ran toward Tulowitzki just begged for someone to return what he had coming towards him.

He claimed the pitch just got away from him. He did not mean to hit Tulowitzki — it just happened. I believe that as much as I believe that Santa and the Easter Bunny ride their unicorns to their money trees where the Tooth Fairy and a centaur greet them. So, yeah, I don’t believe him.

For his efforts, Jimenez has been suspended for five games.

Written in the players’ code is a section about plunking opposing batters. Do it in the ribs. Do it in the back. Let him take his base and move on. Expect the same from the opponent. You’re not supposed to walk demonstratively towards home plate.

So the question is: why do these rules exist and why are they so religiously followed — and continuously ridiculed when they are broken?

Maybe it all boils back down to the dark room with the shadowed men. Or the fistfight-following handshake between captains. It’s all about respect.

This isn’t football where players hit after the whistle and aim to injure. This isn’t hockey where a skirmish breaks out after every held puck around the net. While those sports do have unwritten rules

of their own, baseball’s take a more prominent position in their sport. They have managers erupt over their breaking. They have players band together. They have columnists writing about them. They are just as integral to the sport as a ball and a bat are.

So let’s not turn on the light in the dark room. Let’s keep the origins of the rules hidden. So long as they are followed.

Contact Matthew DeFranks at mdefrank@nd.edu
The views expressed in this Sports Authority column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.



Matthew DeFranks
Associate Sports Editor

So the question is: why do these rules exist and why are they so religiously followed — and continuously ridiculed when they are broken?

MLB

Jimenez to appeal suspension



Rockies’ Troy Tulowitzki and Indians starting pitcher Ubaldo Jimenez are restrained by Indians catcher Lou Marson and home plate umpire Clint Fagan.

Associated Press

GOODYEAR, Ariz. — Cleveland Indians pitcher Ubaldo Jimenez was suspended for five games and fined by Major League Baseball on Monday for intentionally throwing at Colorado’s Troy Tulowitzki during a spring training game.

Jimenez will serve his suspension during the first five games of the season unless he asks the players’ association to appeal the decision by MLB senior vice president Joe Garagiola Jr.

Indians manager Manny Acta expects an appeal.

“He’s starting the second game of the season,” Acta said. “It’s disappointing, but I’m not surprised.”

Before the penalty was announced, Jimenez said he wasn’t going to apologize to Tulowitzki after hitting his former Rockies teammate on the left elbow Sunday.

Jimenez didn’t think he should be suspended for drilling the star shortstop and said his primary concern is being ready for the season.

“Players are hit by pitches every day,” Jimenez said. “With a guy like him, you have to go inside. I can’t get the ball to go where I want every time.”

Jimenez said he would not reach out to Tulowitzki. Earlier this spring, Jimenez revealed he was unhappy in Colorado before being traded to Cleveland last July. Tulowitzki later was quoted as saying the former All-Star should get over it.

“He was calling me names,” Jimenez said. “I already said I didn’t want to hit him. I had five walks. It’s not the first time somebody (was) hit.”

Both benches emptied Sunday, but no punches were thrown. Tulowitzki went to a hospital for X-rays, which were negative.

“He walked five guys. Where do you draw the line? Last year, we had guys hit. No suspensions,” Acta said. “I think it is time everybody stops relying on what guys write in the newspaper. It is too bad they get swayed by the press.”

Fans booed Jimenez during his five-inning stint and ballpark officials provided extra security for him after he left the game. There were no reported incidents.

Rockies manager Jim Tracy termed it the most gutless act he had seen in 35 years in the game and called for a suspension.

“I can’t control what peo-

ple say,” Jimenez said. “Yes, I was surprised he said that. But that’s OK.”

Commissioner Bud Selig attended the game.

“Guys do not play different if the Commissioner is at the game,” Acta said. “The majority of the guys didn’t even know he was there.”

Two years ago, Jimenez was 15-1 for the Rockies at the All-Star break and was the NL starter for the Midsummer Classic. He has gone 14-20 since. He was not sharp this spring, going 1-4 with a 7.43 ERA. In seven Cactus League starts, he had as many walks as strikeouts, 15, and allowed 30 hits in 23 innings.

After a bad outing against Cincinnati on March 17, Acta said, “It’s time to get it in gear,” about Jimenez, whose velocity was lagging.

Jimenez’s fastball was clocked at 95 mph in his next start against San Diego, but his overall performance has not approached what the Indians expected when they traded four minor league prospects, including two first-round draft picks, for the 28-year-old right-hander.

“I feel good. I’m ready to pitch,” Jimenez said. “Hopefully, I can get off to a good start.”

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PERSONAL

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This Day in History

On this day in 1860, the first Pony Express mail, traveling by horse and rider relay teams, simultaneously leaves St. Joseph, Missouri, and Sacramento, California. Ten days later, on April 13, the westbound rider and mail packet completed the 1,800-mile journey and arrived in Sacramento, setting a new standard for speedy mail delivery.

Jesse James, one of America’s most notorious outlaws, is shot to death by Robert Ford, a member of his gang who hoped to collect the bounty on Jesse’s head.

The Rebel capital of Richmond, Virginia, falls to the Union, the most significant sign that the Confederacy is nearing its final days.

U.S. President Harry S. Truman signs into law the Foreign Assistance Act, commonly known as the Marshall Plan. Named after U.S. Secretary of State George C. Marshall, the program channeled more than \$13 billion in aid to Europe between 1948 and 1951.

At his small wilderness cabin near Lincoln, Montana, Theodore John Kaczynski is arrested by FBI agents and accused of being the Unabomber, the elusive terrorist blamed for 16 mail bombs that killed three people and injured 23 during an 18-year period.

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.

Cycling

continued from page 14

onds. On Sunday, wide and fast roads inhibited breakaway attempts for the first 30 minutes of the criterium, with riders from most schools attempting to lose the field. Finally, a group of five took to a 15-second gap and, with the race going down the road, Magro again found himself crossing a gap to the leaders alone. After making contact, the breakaway began to put significant time into the field, and once joined by another five Marian and Lindenwood riders, the contest was over. Nearly lapping the field, Magro took another top-10 finish while O'Donnell scored valuable nationals qualifying points with a pack finish.

Only two riders, sophomore August Kunkel and junior Rob Piscatelli, represented the Irish in the Men's D category for the weekend. Kunkel was able to navigate an inexperienced field to secure a top-10 finish in both the road race and the criterium. He finished strong in the criterium even though he punctured his front tire during the last lap.

After the weekend's results, Notre Dame held steady to the fifth place conference ranking and moved closer to Purdue in the race for top club program in the Midwest. Magro increased his lead in the Men's Division II Individual standings.

Ultimate women's team

Notre Dame traveled to Naperville, Ill., to compete in the Chicago Invite last weekend.

The A squad opened the tournament Saturday against rival Indiana. The women came out strong in the cold temperature and won the game 13-6. Sophomore Eliza Herrero caught nearly every disk thrown in her

vicinity. The Irish went on to face a tough game against Illinois. After going down a few points in the beginning, the women eventually brought the game back to 8-9. However, Illinois used greater consistency to win 10-8.

Notre Dame came out extremely hard in its third game against Northwestern, bidding on defense and swinging the disk on offense to take a 7-2 halftime lead. Northwestern fought back, however, and the score became tied at 11-11. Junior Kelsey Taylor made great cuts while sophomore Kelsey Fink read the disk with ease in the end zone. Northwestern took the win 12-11 after an arduous last point.

In their final game of the day, fatigue got the best of the Irish and they fell to Marquette 9-8. Despite their losses, the women came away with valuable information regarding their future regional competition and played hard throughout the tough matches.

On Sunday, the team found itself in the ninth-place bracket and was determined to claim victory. In their first match against Winona State, the Irish played efficiently to win 13-1. Junior Allie Hawkins made great break cuts while sophomore Mara Stolee was aggressive on defense. The Irish then won games against Dayton and Truman State, 13-5 and 11-3, respectively. Many of the girls fought through tough injuries to aid the team, including senior captain Ashley Satterlee. In the ninth place game, the women came out unfocused and initially went down 4-0. However, they regained composure and played smartly to defeat Ohio 13-7. Senior captain Vicke Hadlock displayed great leadership to help the team get back into the game while junior Kelly Taylor maintained patience to make easy throws into the end zone. De-

spite their losses on Saturday, the women came away with a perfect Sunday record to take ninth out of 40 teams at the invitational.

The B squad played games against Northwestern B, Western Kentucky and Beloit on Saturday. The women came out strong against a newly-formed Northwestern B squad, losing by a mere point, 10-9. Junior captain Elizabeth Villafuerte sent beautiful hucks long while sophomore Mary Kate Scavo nearly perfected her hammer throws. Although the women did not see any more wins on Saturday, they showcased great spirit and improvement. On Sunday, the women produced excellent play. They won their opener against Western Kentucky 10-8, followed by a win against Illinois B 9-7. Sophomore Kim Kowalski made great throws and long cuts while junior captain Devlin Lynch made impressive plays on defense. The B team eventually placed 28th within the field of 40 and saw a string of wins that strengthened its confidence.

Ultimate men's team

Both the Notre Dame A and B teams travelled to Naperville, Ill., to compete in the Chicago Invite, the largest ultimate tournament in the country this season. Playing some of the best competition in the Midwest, the A team finished fourth in the 64-team field, while the B team finished 50th.

Notre Dame A started the tournament against No. 2 overall seed Michigan. Despite jumping out to an early lead and holding it for much of the game, the Irish were unable to finish the job and fell 14-12 to the Wolverines. Another close game against Penn State followed, but this time Notre Dame finished strongly to win 13-11. Next up, the Irish bested Northwestern 13-8 to finish second in the pool and set up a game against Pur-

due.

The Irish used a quick start to put the game out of reach early. Despite a few late points by Purdue, Notre Dame won easily 13-7 to put the team in the quarterfinals Sunday morning. After falling at this round their previous three tournaments, Notre Dame looked to finally advance past the quarterfinals. After a brief lightning delay, the game began with the Irish falling behind early to Tennessee. A late run to tie the game at 16 set up a double game point. After a couple turnovers by both sides, senior Mike DellaPenna connected with fellow senior Will Cernanec in the end zone to give ND the 17-16 win and a trip to the semis. Juniors Dan Bolivar, Zack Woodruff, Jonathan Koch and Charlie Bowen all made great plays throughout the game to set up the victory. The Irish then fell to eventual champion Iowa in the semifinal to finish the tournament. Seniors Adam Barsella, Sean Jackson and Thomas Kenealy all played well the entire weekend, as well as freshman Jason Wassel, Kyle Hill and Erich Kerekes.

The B squad won games against Michigan State B, Washington University B, and St. Mary's of Minnesota on the weekend to finish with a 3-5 record at the tournament. Impressive performances on the weekend came from juniors Andrew Romero and Nick Ferruolo, sophomores Jordan Lange and Jack Moore and freshmen Steven Zurawski, Peter Hall, Tim Hosty and Keith Podgorski.

The B team will be back in action at the Eastern Great Lakes Developmental conference championships in two weeks, while the A Team will compete at the East Plains conference championship at home April 14 and 15, with a conference championship and a bid to regionals on the line.

Men's Rowing

This weekend, the Irish split up, with the first varsity and first novice boats traveling to San Diego for the Crew Classic and the rest of the team traveling north to the Michigan Invite. The team rowed to some solid results — the best in club history — but overall was left disappointed.

The first varsity eight cruised to a victory in the heats Saturday, blasting through the field during the body of the race after a slow start, earning a spot in the finals and a good lane. However, the finals did not go as planned. Shortly after a solid start, an equipment failure cost the Irish a boat length on the field and they found themselves down by open water about 300 meters into the race. The boat quickly regained its rhythm and began moving up the field, eventually gaining the lead by a couple of seats with about 300 meters left. The tremendous comeback left the rowers without the gas for a sprint and Grand Valley regained the lead, winning by three or four seats.

The novice eight had a rough start in their heat, but like the varsity gradually moved up on the field and finished with an impressive sprint, taking fourth and earning a spot in the petite finals. In their final, the novice rowers started strong and were in a strong position, but couldn't pull off a similar sprint and took third in the petite finals.

In Michigan, the second novice boat showed off its speed by dominating Michigan in all three pieces. The second and third varsity boats and the novice four fell to Michigan and Grand Valley as the Irish rowed against the top club programs of the country. Notre Dame returns to the water April 21 in Oak Ridge, Tenn., for the SIRA regatta looking to continue to build boat speed and improve on these results.

NFL

Nike revamps uniforms, moving to change NFL

PORTLAND, Ore. — Back in 1998, Oregon and Nike teamed together to tinker with the Ducks' traditional uniforms. Out went emerald green and lemon yellow, in came spruce, mallard and a little something called "lightning."

That was just the start. The gaudy uniform craze that began with Nike co-founder Phil Knight's alma mater has gripped every school from Maryland to Boise State, hitting Notre Dame and Michigan along the way.

Is the NFL next?

Nike is taking over the pros from Reebok with a gala uniform unveiling set for Tuesday in New York City. The design details are a guarded secret at the Beaverton-based shoe and apparel maker, but some images — there's no way to know if they're real or fake — have circulated on the internet.

The biggest changes will be the performance aspect of the uniforms, newer lightweight fabrics, a sleek silhouette, but a few teams could get a Cinderella treatment.

Nike isn't commenting until the big reveal.

"I think that what we'll see is a subtle homage to the collegiate revolution in uniform design, but in the framework of arguably the most successful sports franchise there is, the NFL, which is more steeped in tradition than the col-

lege landscape was when Nike really got into it with Oregon," said Paul Swangard, managing director of the university's Warsaw Sports Marketing Center.

The Ducks signed their contract with Nike in 1996. After the first major makeover in 1998, the school introduced the Nike-designed "O" logo in 2002.

In 2003's opener against Mississippi State, the Ducks wore neon yellow from helmet to shoe, which some dubbed the "Human Highlighter." In 2006, Oregon introduced black uniforms, while "wings" were incorporated to jerseys in more recent years in a nod to the school's mascot.

"We aren't like USC or Notre Dame or Penn State or Alabama, which are really traditional," said Jim Bartko, who holds the title of executive senior associate athletics director at Oregon and has close ties to Knight. "Our philosophy was that every four years we were going to change, so that every player that comes into Oregon in the football program will have a chance to be a part of a design."

Today Oregon has five different helmets, seven jerseys and six pants for 210 possible uniform combinations, enough to carry them through 17-plus seasons, minus bowl games, which usually get new garb.

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CLUB SPORTS

Men’s water polo goes undefeated in Alumni tourney

Member of Equestrian team heads to national finals; women’s rugby dominates in March Madness

Special to The Observer

In a hard-fought game to start the 2012 Alumni Tournament, the Irish pulled out a 10-9 victory against Saint Louis, who finished 13th at the National Collegiate Club Championships. The Billikens started the game out aggressively and took an early lead against the Irish. But with timely shooting from junior Chris Jennis and freshman Dolff Hanke, the Irish pulled ahead. At the end of the contest, great defense provided by sophomore Jack Turek and senior Dan Geisman proved to be the difference.

In the next match, where the Irish faced some of the most prolific players in recent Notre Dame history, the team took on an Irish alumni team composed of very talented players. Never once leading in regulation, the team tied up the contest at 13 with 40 seconds remaining in the game. After missing a last-second attempt, the team entered a shootout with the alumni. After both teams went four-for-five on their first five shots, the contest entered another round of five shootout shots. Finally, on the final attempt by the alumni, junior goalie Tate Kernell blocked the shot and won the contest for the Irish. Defensive play by freshman Kevin Balhoff was key in keeping the contest close enough for the Irish to be able to tie the game in regulation.

Coming back after a hard-fought victory the night before, the Irish met the Fighting Scots, the third place team at Division III club nationals. Never really being challenged by the opponent, the team dominated most aspects of the game in a 10-6 win. Great defensive play by junior Rob Ray and offensive play by Hanke led the Irish.

After a grueling weekend of matches, the Irish finished the weekend 4-0 with a 8-6 win against ninth-ranked Michigan. Timely shooting at the end of the game by Turek sealed the victory in the final minutes.

Equestrian

After qualifying at the regional finals in March, four members of Notre Dame/Saint Mary’s travelled down to Marion, Ind., for the competitive zone finals last Sunday. Junior Mia Genereux started the day in the open fences class, laying down a lovely course to finish in sixth place, with sophomore Katie Walsh following closely in eighth.

In the flat class portion of the day, sophomore Steph Nearhos executed a beautiful ride to finish with third place honors in intermediate flat. Walsh also placed a respectable ninth in the open flat class. To wrap up the day, Walsh took third in the Cacchione Cup class, a combined fences and flat class at the open level. Walsh will continue on to the national finals in Raleigh, N.C., in May to compete in the individual Cacchione Cup championship.

Sailing

This weekend, Notre Dame traveled to Ann Arbor, Mich., for the Big Ten Team Race. In light and challenging conditions, the team placed second out of six teams. Sailing for the Irish were freshmen Mike Fla-

nigan, Claire Lupo and Claire Donavan, sophomore Sarah Eide, junior Annie Murphy and senior Nathaniel Walden.

Women’s Rugby

Notre Dame travelled to Wayne, Neb., to compete in the March Madness tournament, one of the largest spring rugby tournaments in the country. Notre Dame arrived to great fanfare, finding out the games had been advertised across the town. The Irish arrived on the dust-covered rugby grounds early on Saturday to join the hundreds of other rugby players competing on the five different fields.

Notre Dame’s first game was against Oklahoma. Coming out strong, the Irish scored numerous tries against the Sooners. Tries were made by sophomore Clare Robinson, junior Ashley Okonta, freshman Shannon Kenny and sophomore Elizabeth Peterson, followed by four successful point-after kicks by freshman Claire Kozlowski. With seven minutes left in the second half, the referee consulted team captains about a mercy ruling, but the Sooners refused to give up time playing against the Irish, losing 33-0.

Notre Dame’s second game of the tournament was against host Wayne State. The game began and no substantial gains were made on either side. Near the end of the first half, as Wayne State began approaching the try zone, Notre Dame maneuvered the ball out and ended the half with no scores on either side.

As Notre Dame took the field for the second half, constant contact and a Wayne State try forced the Irish to not give up. Okonta then made a break and ran the length of the field, dodging several Wayne State defenders, to score the first Irish try. Kozlowki followed with a beautiful point-after kick to tie the score. Wayne State scored their second try at the end of the game to win 10-7.

The Irish faced Mankato for their third game of the day. After two grueling games and one loss, the Irish came back with a vengeance. The first half ended 0-0, with both teams fighting to continue on in the bracket. The Irish came back from half-time with a big push for the first score of the game after having the ball held up in the end zone three times. Kozlowski followed with a successful point-after. Mankato pushed back with a score, but missed the kick. The Irish then put all their effort into defense to prevent Mankato from another score and won 7-5.

The Irish ended Saturday with a special Palm Sunday Mass at the local Catholic church. The pastor held a special Mass with just the rugby team and a few parishioners. Freshman Colleen Tigani and senior Erin Connor were Eucharistic Ministers and other teammates participated in the Passion reading. The priest concluded the Mass by encouraging the team to attend as many Holy Week services as possible and then commented on how proud he was to tell all the other priests that he said Mass for the Irish.

On Sunday, Notre Dame returned to play its final qualifying game against Iowa State. With tries for both teams and

successful kick-after points for both, the game was tied in a vicious battle through the end. The overtime was a five-minute sudden death period. A break-away run by Okonta won the game for the Irish. The Irish scored the try for a final score of 12-7 to qualify for the championship game.

The championship game was against Northern Iowa, the Midwest’s No. 1 team. Northern Iowa, fresh after not playing earlier in the day, came out strong and lived up to its No. 1 ranking. The Irish pushed back hard but were overwhelmed, dropping a 56-0 game.

Cycling

The men’s C road race at Michigan State kicked off the festivities Saturday morning. Featuring five miles of dirt roads each lap, Michigan State’s European-inspired course presented unique challenges to riders all day long. After an uneventful first lap, Irish junior David Pratt, sophomore Luke Tilmans and freshman Jim Snitzer hit the dirt section hard, hoping to shed down the size of the field. They formed a break of 12 going into the final lap and gapped four more riders before the final mile. The C leadout train allowed Pratt to dominate the sprint finish by several meters and take Notre Dame’s first C road race victory of the season. Snitzer followed in third and Tilmans crossed the line fifth. Freshman Mike Chifala finished comfortably in a small chase group behind the leaders.

Snitzer won the C individual time trial by over 1:30 with a time that was 11th fastest of any category that day. On Sunday, Notre Dame’s season-long stranglehold on the C field continued. Pratt completed the weekend sweep, propelled by the work of his teammates. After many failed attempts at breakaways throughout the course of the race, the peloton was intact for a field sprint. Taking third wheel before the final two turns, Pratt shot out of the pack to win the race and get his second win in two days. Snitzer took third and Tilmans fourth, again putting three ND riders in the top five. To date, the C squadron has won three straight mass start races in a row, as well as notching seven more podium finishes.

With graduate student Andrew O’Donnell moving up to the big show, the men’s B squad was down a man but still looked to continue its season-long dominance. In the road race, a three man breakaway quickly went up the road and, rather than giving Notre Dame the opportunity to win another race, the peloton was content to let the move go, despite the best efforts of freshman John Pratt. Senior Nate Lee led out junior Brian Hurley for the field sprint and they took two of the top 10 spots.

In the Time Trial, the B squad shook off its tired legs from working in the road race, with Lee taking first and John Pratt and Hurley finishing second and fourth, respectively. Looking to snag another win after a disap-

pointing road race, the B team was aggressive in Sunday’s criterium winning multiple prime point sprints. Halfway through the event, John Pratt rode himself into the winning break and with Lee and Hurley blocking the chasing field there was never any doubt Notre Dame was picking up another victory. John Pratt easily sprinted out of the break for the win while Lee led out Hurley for sixth place.

Coming in over 18 minutes ahead of the main field, a break-away containing Notre Dame junior Joe Magro led the men’s A race from nearly start to finish. As early attacks spread riders thin across the central Michigan countryside, dirt flew as Marian and Lindenwood sent waves of riders off the front of the peloton. Riding well in his first A race, O’Donnell kept Magro out of trouble on dirt sections and in contact with the leaders. Ten miles into the race, a group containing four Marian riders, three Lindenwood riders, and one Purdue rider finally broke free of the field.

With an enormous kick, Magro soloed across the gap and the breakaway quickly pulled over five minutes clear. Outgunned at the finish, Magro tried to slip away on the left 300m from the line, but was caught 60m from the finish and held on for eighth place. Showing his time trialing strength, O’Donnell placed third in the individual time trial Saturday afternoon, beating multiple professional riders and only missing the win by 20 sec

see CYCLING/page 13

THE OBSERVER

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ND SOFTBALL

Maldonado leads underclassmen on and off the field

By ERNST CLEOFE
Sports Writer

Senior outfielder Alexa Maldonado hopes her career can begin just how it started: with a Big East championship. Maldonado, the team's captain, was not the same leader she is now when she started her career. As a highly-rated player coming out of Short Hills, N.J., she had experience as a four-year letter winner and a two-time team captain in high school. The college level, however, is a completely different challenge. Maldonado had success early as a freshman, but there was still room to grow. Irish assistant coach Kris Ganeff said the growth came quickly. "I would definitely say... her game has always been at the top. She's always been able to play at 100 percent. She doesn't know any other level," Ganeff said. "What she has done over the four years is her mental side of the game has really come along. As a freshman, you saw her go from a freshman to a senior mentality wise and that was a huge growth for her." That growth has helped her become the leader that the team looks to for support. Ganeff points to Maldonado's

mentality and playing style as part of her success as a leader. "Alexa is definitely a leader. She does a great job being a captain. A lot of it [is because] she has come very far in her mentality. She's been able to lead the team in all aspects," Ganeff said. "She always kind of leads by example with her play, and now she can lead with her words and people follow her because she does the right thing consistently on and off the field." In line with Ganeff's perspective, Maldonado looks to lead with her performance on the field. After her second consecutive first team all-Big East performance last season, she is again performing well on the field. Maldonado is leading the team in on-base percentage, while second in batting average and total hits. Her success has not only provided tangible results, but has set an example for her

teammates, as well. "I use my confidence and my demeanor on the field to guide them and make them look up to me," Maldonado said, "I lead by example, mostly." On top of the growth during her freshman year, Maldonado experienced one of her top moments in softball during her rookie campaign when the Irish won the Big East championship. In her final year, she's looking for the opportunity to help bring back that feeling. "Winning [the] Big East [championship] my freshman year was my favorite moment so far," Maldonado said. "It was an awesome team win and it was really exciting once that last out was made on the field, sprinting in from the outfield and jumping in with your team." The team has a long way to go to win the Big East and make the national tournament, but Maldonado is aiming high. "I just want to do better than I have in previous years. Everything I've gotten in the past years should be expected," Maldonado said. "I want to be the best I can for this team and hopefully lead them to regionals

"I use my confidence and my demeanor on the field to guide them and make them look up to me."

Alexa Maldonado
senior

"I just want to do better than I have in previous years. Everything I've gotten in previous years should be expected."

Alexa Maldonado
senior



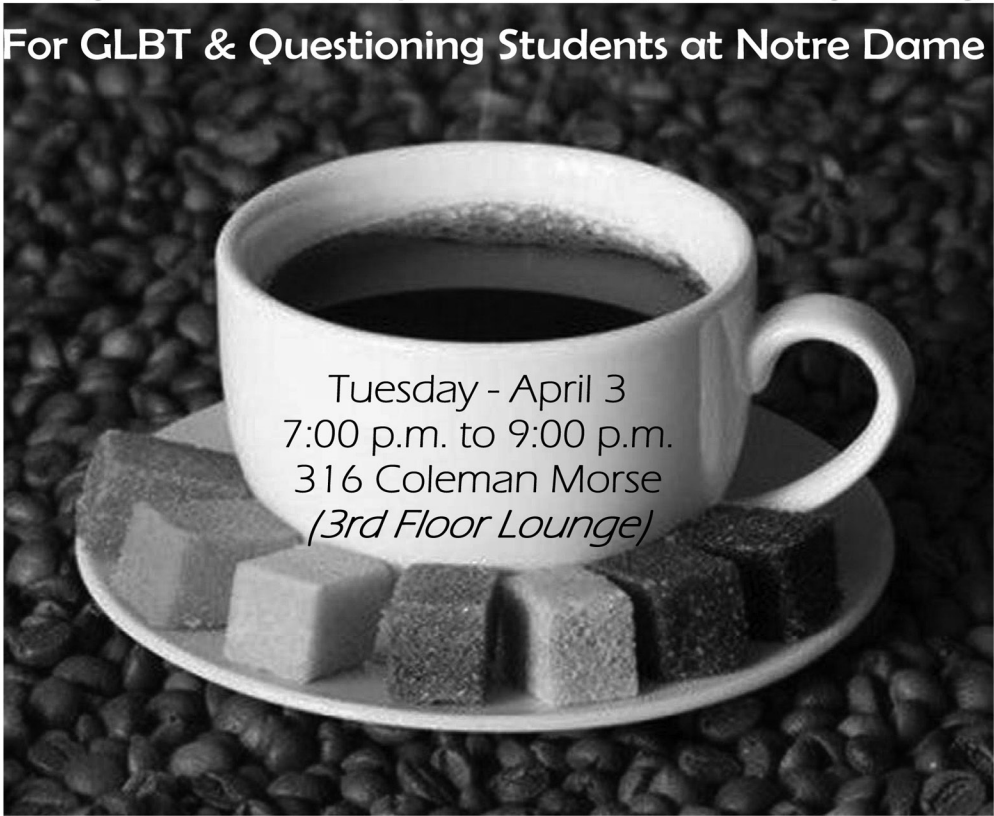
JULIE HERDER/The Observer

Senior outfielder Alexa Maldonado hits the ball during Notre Dame's 7-2 win over UConn on Sunday.

and hopefully the World Series." In order to make a serious run at the NCAA tournament, Maldonado and the Irish will have to continue the level of play they've established during their current six-game winning streak. The Irish hope to keep continue their hot-streak when they host Northwestern on Wednesday. Contact Ernst Cleofe at ecleofe@nd.edu

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MLB

Greinke flops in final game against White Sox

Associated Press

GLENDALE, Ariz. — Zack Greinke was hoping to end his spring training with a strong outing. It didn't happen. Greinke surrendered six runs — five earned — over three innings in his final spring start Monday at Camelback Ranch, but the Milwaukee Brewers still walked away with 13-7 win over the Chicago White Sox. Greinke was left shaking his head after the right-hander gave up five hits, struck out two and walked three. "It was such a mess you can't really think about it too much," he said. "It felt like not a baseball game really going on out there." Greinke, who coming in had allowed only two earned runs in 19 1-3 innings this spring, downplayed the windy conditions. "It was more getting behind in the count and throwing meatballs, and letting them crush the ball," he said. "It was pretty stupid." However, Greinke said he isn't too concerned. "I was looking forward to making a good start," he said. "It was just a bad one. They were taking a lot of pitches. I was getting behind then not making quality pitches." Manager Ron Roenicke was

also unconcerned. "He's been so lights out in the spring, let's get this one out of the way and he'll get back on track and do what he's been doing," Roenicke said. White Sox starter Gavin Floyd allowed four runs in 4 2-3 innings in Chicago's final spring game in Arizona before Opening Day. Floyd gave up seven hits, struck out four and walked two. Dayan Viciedo hit a solo homer off Greinke for his second long ball in as many days for Chicago. Brooks Conrad hit a solo home run for Milwaukee off Floyd — his fourth homer of the spring. Floyd's problem inning was the second, when he allowed three runs. "The second inning, I got in the stretch and started rushing a little bit, got behind a lot of hitters, but bounced back," Floyd said. "Even the hits they got, they were good pitches, and I got weak contact for the most part. I made a couple of mistakes with two strikes, but overall I felt strong. Even when things went wrong, I was able to get refocused." The White Sox will play two exhibition games against the Astros on Tuesday and Wednesday in Houston. The team departs with its Opening Day roster set, but without a regular closer.

BASEBALL

Irish focus on fixing flaws in non-conference matchup

By VICKY JACOBSEN
Sports Writer

Notre Dame's game against Toledo on Tuesday won't be a matchup of undefeated or top-ranked teams. It's not a renewal of a geographical or historical rivalry. It won't show up on either team's conference record.

But Irish coach Mik Aoki said the Irish (16-10, 4-2 Big East) are taking the contest as seriously as any other game on the schedule.

"The danger that you could run into is that the players think that the game is less important because their team is not in our conference," Aoki said. "That's one of the things we have to make sure we stay on guard about because every single game counts. It's really important in order to make the NCAA tournament at the end of the year, so we have to make sure that regardless of who the opponent is, conference or non-conference, we bring the same intensity and attention to detail to every game."

Although the Rockets (12-14, 3-3 MAC) have been a respectable team in recent years, Aoki

said he'd rather focus on fixing Notre Dame's flaws than worrying about Toledo's strengths.

"It's kind of the same old song and dance for us — we need to make sure that we're worrying less about the opponent than we are worrying about ourselves," Aoki said. "[We need to make sure] that we're ready to compete at a high level."

For Toledo coach Cory Mee, the game will be something of a homecoming. Mee was a four-year starter for the Irish from 1989 to 1992, playing catcher, second and third base. He also served as a volunteer and assistant coach for the Irish before he became the Rockets' head coach in 2003.

Mee will send freshman Alec Schmenk to the mound to face his alma mater. This will be Schmenk's second start; the right-hander has put together a 4.38 ERA and 0-1 record in seven appearances this season.

His opposite number will be right-handed junior Patrick Veerkamp, who is 2-0 with a 4.80 ERA in 15 innings this season.

Although the Irish bullpen was taxed against USF over the weekend, Aoki expects most of

the pitchers to be ready to go if need be.

"The only guys who would be unavailable are the three starters and then [freshman] Patrick Connaughton. Everyone else would be available," Aoki said. "They were used in small bursts here and there, except for [Connaughton], and threw five or maybe six pitches or something like that. Outside of [senior Will] Hudgins, [junior Adam] Norton, [sophomore Sean Fitzgerald] and Connaughton, we should have everyone in our bullpen available, so we'll try to get guys in there as the situation dictates."

Aoki said a midweek win also improves the team's trajectory as they head into their weekend series.

"It helps your team to feel good about itself," Aoki said. "It either continues or starts hopefully a little bit of momentum, a little something to build upon."

Veerkamp will throw out the first pitch against Toledo at 5:35 p.m. Tuesday at Frank Eck Stadium.

Contact Vicky Jacobsen at
vjacobse@nd.edu



DILLON WEISNER/The Observer

Irish junior pitcher Breck Ashdown delivers a pitch during Notre Dame's 3-2 win over Pittsburgh on March 24.

MEN'S TENNIS

Pecor overcomes old injuries to dominate his sophomore year

By PETER STEINER
Sports Writer

If facing adversity only makes one stronger, then sophomore Billy Pecor is the perfect example.

After facing injuries during his freshman year and a brief period at the end of February during matches against Marquette and Indiana, Pecor has now won four straight singles matches at No. 4 singles and three of his last four doubles matches with senior Sam Keeton at No. 3 doubles.

"He has two bad knees that bothered him all last year and he didn't play a single dual match last year," Irish coach Bobby Bayliss said. "Then, perhaps from over compensation on the serve by not wanting to use his legs, he got an injury around the scapula. That was a problem because he couldn't raise his hand higher than his shoulder for a while."

Because he missed significant time due to the injuries last season, Pecor was granted a medical redshirt by the NCAA, giving him three more years of eligibility after this season. After missing the match against the Hoosiers earlier this year, Pecor returned to the court March 3. Since then, he has compiled singles victories against Ohio State, Maryland, South Florida and Ball State.

"Lots of work in the training room, lots of rehab and solid practices [have led to my recent success]," Pecor said. "I'm just playing well. I'm striking the ball pretty well and gutted out some matches. The win over spring break was pretty shaky, but I'm working hard and trying to do my best."

In Pecor's first match back, the Irish faced their toughest opponent all year: No. 2 Ohio State. Playing at No. 3 doubles, Pecor and Keeton took down redshirt

sophomore Peter Kobelt and junior Connor Smith 8-6 to clinch the doubles point for the Irish. Pecor followed up the exciting victory by defeating No. 44 red-shirt junior Devin McCarthy 4-6, 6-3, 1-0 (10-7) — the only Irish singles victory of the day.

"We were both going at it the entire match," Pecor said. "It was pretty long match, a pretty grueling match."

"We all started off on a good note because we won the doubles point . . . That set us off on a good start heading into singles, but I just tried to use the same energy that I had and pass that onto my singles. I was able to do that and finish well."

Pecor's victory not only handed McCarthy his third loss of the spring season, but also displayed Pecor's potential if he is able to maintain a high level of play, Bayliss said.

"With Billy's game, the sky is the limit," Bayliss said. "He hits the biggest ball on the team. There are not many people he can't overpower. Devin McCarthy from Ohio State is a big, strong guy that knocks people off the court and Billy knocked him off the court."

"I'm just looking for him to become a little more proficient around the net and more consistent in general."

While Pecor has battled injuries throughout his collegiate career, there is another challenge that he must continually overcome. As a civil engineering major, Pecor must balance his heavy academic workload with the time commitment that comes with being a varsity athlete.

"He's taking a really hard class load this semester and I think there have been days where he has kind of dragged in here with three hours of sleep," Bayliss said. "He's had to fight through some of those things, but that's all part of the deal."

With four matches remaining before the Big East championship, Pecor and the team have a clear goal in mind.

"We want to finish very strong

the rest of the season," Pecor said. "We want to win the Big East back in Tampa Bay in April and we want to win the first two rounds and go the final side of

the NCAA tournament and hopefully go further than that."

Contact Peter Steiner at
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Year

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tenure. Add to that extreme level of aged talent the experience gained from last year's title-game loss (and the proverbial chip that has grown on Diggins' shoulder since), and you have a recipe for success.

The Irish have been on a beeline for the national championship since the final buzzer sounded in last year's title-game loss. It has been a great campaign, with nothing but minor bumps along the road. If there is ever a year that the Irish can add another title to the 2001 installment, this is it.

And yet, this is Brittney Griner's year. The 6-foot-8 junior has lead the Bears within one game of the first 40-0 season in Division I basketball. If there is ever a team that could complete the perfect season through 40 games, Baylor is that team.

So what happens when

two teams seemingly fated to capture the national championship meet on a collision course? The answer is obvious: One team will be bounced from its trajectory while the other breaks through and makes history. At the same time, no substantial answer is

available yet — it will play out over the course of tonight's game.

Certainly, a loss would be more disappointing for the Irish. If the best senior class in program history cannot add another banner to Purcell Pavilion, what Irish team will? Diggins will be back next year, along with McBride and Achonwa, but the likelihood

of winning the national championship only decreases from here. Baylor's top six scorers, meanwhile, have another year of eligibility, making this season more of a prelude to "the year" for the Bears than anything.

For the losing team, the moment will pass and the 2011-2012 season will become a source of regret

So what happens when two teams seemingly fated to capture the national championship meet on a collision course? The answer is obvious: One team will be bounced from its trajectory while the other breaks through and makes history.



MATT SAAD/The Observer

The Irish get pumped up before Notre Dame's 80-49 victory over Maryland in the Elite Eight on March 27. Notre Dame will take on Baylor in the national championship Tuesday at 8:30 p.m.

and a topic of conversation on media day next year. But for the winning team, the 2011-2012 season will take on an infinite amount of added significance, forever to be known as "the year."

Contact Joseph Monardo at jmonardo@nd.edu. The views expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.

Champs

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the basket.

"I think we'll be able to run the stuff we have and really maybe have to make that extra pass, which we've been really good at all year long," McGraw said.

"[Griner is] a game changer on the defensive end," Novosel said. "So we just have to be smarter and engaging her and dish-ing off and just to not go in there and go right up into her."

Sophomore guard Odyssey Sims, junior guard Jordan Madden and senior guard/forward Terran Condrey form a strong supporting cast around Griner.

In Sunday night's matchup with the Cardinal, Stanford held Griner to 13 points on three-of-nine shooting. But the trio of guards consistently hit shots when the Cardinal doubled down on Griner. Condrey had 13 points, Sims finished with 11 and Madden had nine.

The Irish fell 94-81 to Baylor in Waco, Texas, on Nov. 20. In that match-up, Notre Dame had no answer for Griner. She scored 32 points on 14-of-18 from the field, with 14 rebounds and five blocks. The Irish guards were able to produce offensively, with junior guard Skylar Diggins and Novosel scoring 27 and 28, respectively.

Since that game, both teams have improved drastically. Each team was playing in only its fourth regular season game of the year at the time.

"I think we've gotten a lot better," McGraw said. "I think we're a lot smarter. I think our shot selection is much improved, and I think defensively we're a lot better."

The Lady Bears did not see any particular reason the early season matchup would have

an effect on either team's approach to tonight's game.

"I wouldn't say it's an advantage," Griner said. "We played them, and they know us and we know them."

Another key matchup will be the battle of the point guards between Diggins and Sims. In the first game against Baylor, Sims scored 25 points and had six assists.

"Odyssey is what makes them go," Diggins said. "She's a great point guard. She does a great job getting to the line. She's 40 percent from the three-point line, so you have to honor that. And she's also good at getting to the basket."

Both coaches agreed that all the preparation, all the practice and all the coaching would eventually boil down to execution.

"It's going to be players making plays," Baylor coach Kim Mulkey said. "It's not going to be anything that Muffet does or I do. It's going to be those guys on the floor making plays. Whoever makes the most plays will win the basketball game."

Notre Dame faces Baylor tonight at 8:30 p.m. in Denver's Pepsi Center. The game will be aired on ESPN.

Contact Matthew Robison at mrobison@nd.edu

Muffet McGraw
Irish coach

Kim Mulkey
Baylor coach

"It's not going to be anything that Muffet does or I do. It's going to be those guys on the floor making plays. Whoever makes the most plays will win the basketball game."

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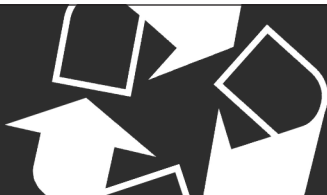


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FOOTBALL

Defensive dynamos

Defensive ends will make all the difference

By ALLAN JOSEPH
Editor-in-Chief

It started back on Feb. 2, 2011 — National Signing Day — when highly-recruited defensive linemen Stephon Tuitt and Aaron Lynch signed to play for Notre Dame and Irish coach Brian Kelly. It continued during the 2011 campaign, when Tuitt and Lynch saw plenty of playing time, especially after senior defensive end Kapron Lewis-Moore went down with a knee injury.

“It” is momentum. And if Lynch and Tuitt are to be believed, the Notre Dame defensive front has a lot of it heading into the 2012 season.

“[We] know that we have the ability to really do some magic here,” Tuitt said. “When it comes down to it, it’s all practice, practice, become a better player. When the fall season comes, we do our talking with our pads.”

Tuitt said he and Lynch thrive on a friendly competition that pushes each to be better.

“Lynch is a great player. He has some stuff that I can’t do, and I have some stuff that he can’t do,” Tuitt said. “Competing against each other, through the bads and goods, being by each other’s side, it always takes our game to the next level. Being able to go play with each other, we learn stuff from each other.”

That competition has been intense at times, but Lynch said that has formed the defensive front into a group of leaders. “If you don’t play with an intensity and a passion, I feel like you shouldn’t be on the field,” Lynch said. “If you’re on the field, every person has to be a leader. Everybody has to push everybody.”

Despite the competition, the defining characteristic of the defensive line, and the defense as a whole, has been unity, Tuitt said.



JULIE HERDER/The Observer

Irish graduate student safety Jamoris Slaughter races down the field during a March 30 practice. Slaughter recorded 45 tackles in 2011.

“Everybody here has respect for each other,” he said. “Everybody here has loyalty towards each other. Everybody here plays their butts off for each other. That’s one thing I’m learning — having fun with my defense.”

Tuitt missed the end of the 2011 season with a bout of mononucleosis, but fully recovered by the spring semester and will play more snaps after the graduation of defensive end Ethan Johnson. Despite his increased workload, Tuitt said he is ready for the grind.

“When it comes down to it, I’m ready to answer the bell,” he said.

While Tuitt will see plenty of action on the defensive front, Kelly said there will be plenty of depth behind him. “We’d like to be able to be at least six [deep,]” Kelly said. “[Playing] seven on the defensive line is great depth and we think that we can get there. We’re giving guys a lot of chances to show that they can be number one. We’re getting a lot of guys into action.”

Tuitt said he thinks all of those players will come together to form a cohesive unit.

“It’s all going to fit together like a puzzle, and we’re going to take off,” he said.

Contact Allan Joseph at
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Irish need leaders to emerge for success

Spring represents a fresh start across college football. The days get brighter and the snow melts away. So too does the negativity of the previous season.

Even with the second annual four-way Irish quarterback derby, optimism abounds. Coaches talk about the progress the team has made, players discuss strides made in strength and conditioning and writers produce article



Andrew Owens

Assistant
Managing
Editor

after article that convince fans a BCS season is assuredly on the way — even without a starting quarterback or sufficient experience at receiver and cornerback.

When it comes to forming expectations for next season, spring practice doesn’t matter.

Don’t get me wrong — when it comes to the development of a football program, spring practice is invaluable. The coaching staff only gets so many practices with its squad between the end of one season and the start of another, and these 15 sessions make up a good chunk of that time.

Fans, however, should not raise expectations because of what they hear in interviews or what they see in five-minute practice recap videos produced by the football program itself.

I’m still waiting for a coach to come out and say, “Our guys don’t have the heart to play championship-caliber football. I’ve been very disappointed in the progress of our team since the end of the season.”

Why would he?

Regardless of perceived momentum heading into the season, a team is only one 99-yard fumble return for a touchdown away from wiping it away.

For the Irish to truly turn the page and have a strong 2012, players need to step up. There are enough quality coaches that the groundwork is being laid for success. If the program is to evolve into the elite contender that has been promised but not delivered for several years, the players need to take the next step.

Veterans like graduate student safety Jamoris Slaughter and junior receiver TJ Jones are critical to the program’s trajectory.

Why those two in particular?

Slaughter and Jones play at positions with little experience entering 2012. Not only does Jones need to mentor Notre Dame’s youth at receiver, he first needs to elevate his game and realize what type of player he wants to be. Michael Floyd is gone. With it is the offense’s ability to rely on one player when the unit is sputtering (though senior tight end Tyler Eifert will have something to say about that).

Slaughter has shown signs of developing into a big-play defensive back primed for a terrific final season donning the blue and gold. On opposite sides of Slaughter and fellow starting safety senior Zeke Motta are two new starters at the cornerback position who need to grow up quickly before facing the likes of Matt Barkley and Landry Jones.

This is before you even factor in Notre Dame’s lack of a proven quarterback. It’s a gargantuan — though not impossible — task to overcome the lack of a leader at the quarterback position.

Maybe one of the four signal-callers contending for the starting job will surprise everyone. Confidence is almost as contagious as a lack of confidence, and half the battle is finding a quarterback on whom to depend.

Notre Dame could be very mediocre in 2012. It could be a top-20 team. Unfortunately for the Irish and their fans, patience needs to be their second most important virtue. Not turning the football over is the first.

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



JULIE HERDER/The Observer

Irish sophomore defensive end Aaron Lynch completes a drill during practice March 30. Lynch led the Irish with 5.5 sacks in 2011.

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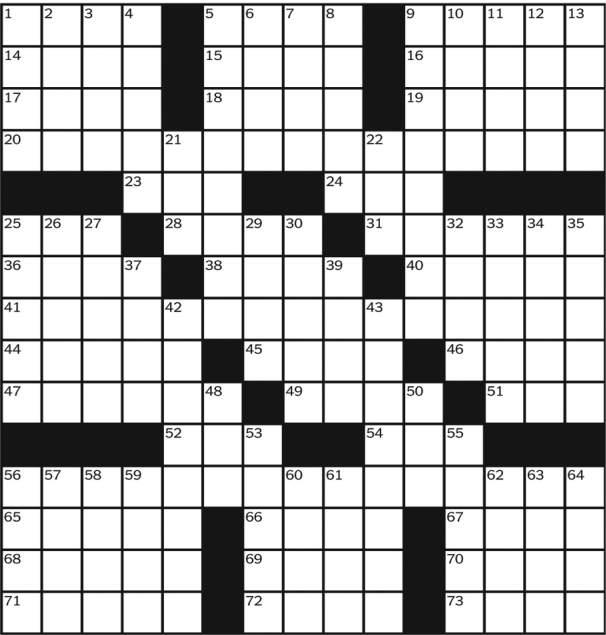
Most egregious

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Glasgow lovely



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Absorbs, with “up”

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HOROSCOPE

EUGENIA LAST

Happy Birthday: Initiate new ways of doing things. Incorporate interesting and unusual pastimes into your routine. You need to expand your interests and your concerns. Get involved in causes you feel strongly about and you will connect with people who can contribute to your success. Strive for equality in all you do and you will find peace of mind. Your numbers are 1, 5, 12, 18, 22, 30, 41.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Take time out for you. Pampering or doing something you enjoy will ease your stress and help you think clearly about your plans. New options will open up if you diversify. Finding new ways to utilize your skills will pay off. ★★★★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Don't take the words or actions of others to heart. Make whatever changes you feel are necessary, but do so secretively. It's better to have everything in place before you share or present your plan to those eager to criticize. ★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Dig in and help someone in need. The experience you gain and the impression you make will pay off. Uncertainty at home may lead to a family feud. Be prepared to mediate in order to keep the peace. ★★★★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Don't let anyone take advantage of your kindness and generosity. You can offer suggestions, but not handouts. A service you have to offer should be marketed properly so you can make a little extra cash on the side. ★★★★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Too much will lead to disaster. Emotions will skyrocket and love troubles will lead to excessive behavior if you don't remain calm and assess your situation realistically. If you aren't being treated properly, move on. An alternate route looks positive. ★★★★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You need a little adventure in your life. Embark on a new hobby or travel somewhere you've never been. Focus on love, self-improvement and striving for a better and healthier lifestyle. Take the initiative and make things happen. ★★★★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Review your personal and professional position. You can alter your status if you offer your time or expertise to others. Giving back to your community or helping to raise money for a good cause will enhance your reputation and bring opportunities. ★★★★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Don't let the little things bother you when you have so much to gain by jumping in feet-first and testing the waters. Whether it's your personal or professional life, you will excel if you take an all-or-nothing approach. ★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Not everyone will be honest with you. Ask questions if you feel you are being given the run-around. Make whatever changes are required to make your home and personal life better. A new approach to an old project will bring good results. ★★★★★

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Invite friends over or fix up your home to better accommodate your needs. What you have to offer others can turn into a profitable venture. Include the people you enjoy spending time with most in your moneymaking plans. ★★★★★

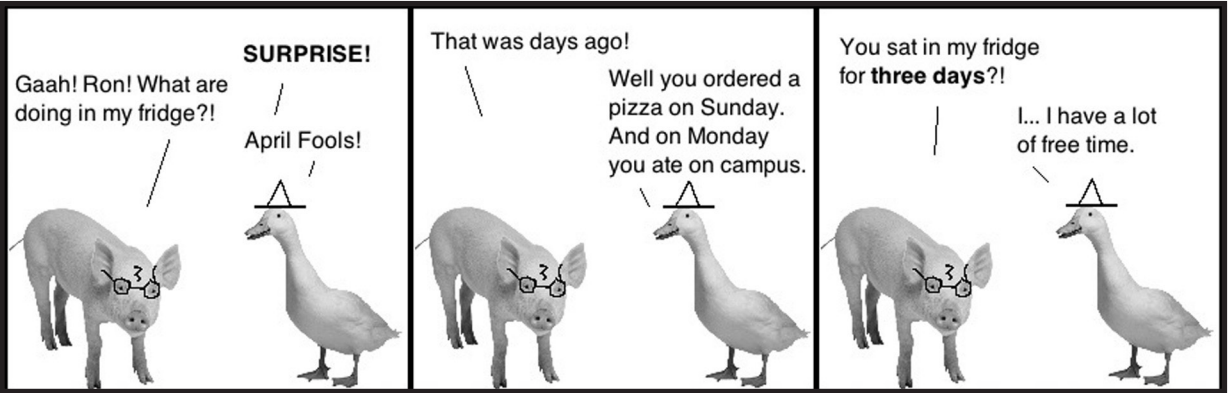
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Put what you want in writing and consider the pros, cons and consequences before you begin. You may need to fine-tune your ideas to fit your current situation. You can make positive changes if you are fully prepared. ★★★★★

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Don't let your anxiousness lead you in the wrong direction. You aren't likely to get the best advice. Bide your time and rely on experience to guide you now. Invest your time, energy and attention in love and romance. ★★★★★

Birthday Baby: You attract good fortune. You are persuasive, optimistic and unique.

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by David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

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

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DALANS

SPOOEP

Print answer here: (Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: VALET GIDDY TATTOO SHIFTY
Answer: He was nervous about making a free throw with one second left, but he would — GIVE IT A SHOT



THE OBSERVER

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Once more

Irish return to title game for second consecutive year

By MATTHEW ROBISON
Sports Writer

DENVER — One year ago, Notre Dame squared off against Texas A&M in the national championship game in Indianapolis and left heartbroken. Tonight, the Irish get their shot at redemption.

"I think last year was a little bit of an upset to get here, and now we feel like we were the higher seed," Irish coach Muffet McGraw said. "We should have gotten here."

Standing 6-foot-8 and right between Notre Dame (35-3) and its second national title is superstar center Brittney Griner and Baylor (39-0), the undefeated favorite.

Baylor has a chance to do something no other team in the history of college basketball has done: win 40 games in a season.

For graduate students Devereaux Peters and Brittany Mallory as well as graduating senior Natalie Novosel, tonight's game will be the last in an Irish uniform. Each has had a distinguished career at Notre Dame, but winning a title would be the ultimate capstone.

"It's a great feeling," Mallory said. "We, us seniors and the whole team, really just wanted to get back here. We had this chance last year, and didn't come up. We came up short. And we're just excited to be here and we're looking forward to the chance to get that back."

For perhaps the first time since they faced Connecticut on Jan. 7 in Purcell Pavilion, the Irish will be the underdog, a position they embrace.

"We're back to being the underdog. Finally," McGraw said. "It's taken us a long time to get our green jerseys on. And we can now be even more loose and the pressure is all on them."

The obvious challenge for Notre Dame is Griner's presence inside. Her 6-foot-8 frame, even longer wingspan and polished post skills make her nearly impossible to defend one-on-one. The Irish will have to double down and make someone else beat them.

"She's an extraordinary player," McGraw said. "I think she changes the game. She changes a lot of things."

In the four-guard system McGraw employs, the emphasis is not on the post. Thus, Notre Dame may not be as affected by Griner's presence as much as some other teams. But the star certainly changes the way teams attack

see CHAMPS/page 17

NCAA NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

No. 1 Notre Dame (35-3)

vs.

No. 1 Baylor (39-0)

Pepsi Center, Denver

8:30 p.m. on ESPN

Experience drives Notre Dame's championship run

For the second year in a row, the Irish captured a victory over Connecticut in the Final Four and are headed to the national championship game.

The only difference is, this year is "the year."

Last year, the second-seeded Irish toppled Tennessee and Connecticut on the way to a title date with Texas A&M. For emphasis, Notre Dame beat the two undisputed powers in women's basketball in consecutive games in the NCAA tournament. If there is a better way for a team to announce itself as having arrived, it hasn't been discovered yet.

After terrorizing a pair of top seeds, the Irish only had to dismiss the No. 2 seed Aggies to cut down the nets. They shed the underdog role which they had taken on so effectively in the Elite Eight and Final Four and became the favorites to win the National Championship game. Throughout the course of the tournament, the Irish changed "Connecticut's year," or "Tennessee's year," to "Notre Dame's year."

But then they lost, and the year was over. The moment passed and the Irish were left with nothing but runner-up status.

This year, on the other hand, has been Notre Dame's year from day one. Returning all-world junior point guard Skylar Diggins, whose popularity skyrocketed to idol status during the 2011 tournament run, the Irish entered the season as early favorites to reach the national championship game.

Along with Diggins, the Irish welcomed back two graduate students in forward Devereaux Peters and guard Brittany Mallory, who seemed to be using their final year of eligibility in 2012 as a result of some act of fate rather than of unfortunate injuries. Even more, senior guard Natalie Novosel was back to make another run at a title. Novosel's toughness and versatility on the offensive end have sustained the Irish all year, none more so than when she forced overtime against the Huskies with a put-back layup in the final seconds of the national semifinal game Sunday.

Sophomore guard Kayla McBride and sophomore forward Natalie Achonwa performed admirably in supporting roles all season, as did senior guard Fraderica Miller.

Irish coach Muffet McGraw has referred to Peters, Mallory, Novosel and Miller as possibly the best outgoing class to come through Notre Dame during her 25-year



Joseph Monardo

Sports Writer

Irish senior guard Skylar Diggins celebrates Notre Dame's 83-75 victory over UConn on Sunday.

PAT COVENEY/The Observer

see YEAR/page 17

Baylor's Sims serves as unheralded complement to Griner

By CHRIS MASOUD
Senior Sports Writer

DENVER — Contrary to popular belief, the Baylor offense is more than just the lob pass to six-foot-eight junior center Brittney Griner. In fact, three Lady Bears finished with more field goals than Griner in their victory over Stanford in the national semifinals Sunday night, including dynamic sophomore point guard Odyssey Sims.

An Associated Press All-American second team selection, Sims orchestrates the Baylor attack from the backcourt — a perfect complement to Griner's dominance in the post.

"I think she's the key to the game. We'll throw different things at Brittney, but Odyssey's what makes them go,"

Irish junior guard Skylar Diggins said. "She gets out, she gets steals and she's going to be aggressive. I think we have to make sure we pay attention to her. We have to shade her side. We definitely have to be able to pressure her too and not give her as easy looks to pass."

Sims averages 14.7 points and 4.5 assists per game, while shooting a blistering 40 percent from 3-point territory on the season. Her ability to spread the floor, penetrate the lane and find the open shooter has drawn comparisons to Diggins, Notre Dame's own southpaw all-American point guard.

"I think it's an interesting matchup [with them] both being left-handed," Irish coach Muffet McGraw said. "I think Skylar is a great defender, great passer ... And I think Sims is a

great player also. I think she's a huge key to their team. She has really, really done a lot of great things this year. It's not just because she can throw the ball to Griner. I think she can do a lot on her own as well."

Griner's monster 32-point, 14-rebound performance led Baylor in its 94-81 victory over Notre Dame on Nov. 20, but Sims made an almost equal impact. The sophomore guard finished with 25 points, six assists and six steals with Diggins defending her.

"They've played together on [Team] USA basketball this summer. Odyssey was the youngest player on the team," Baylor coach Kim Mulkey said. "I think you'll see two of the finest point guards in the country. I anticipate that it won't be any different than when Odyssey

guarded [Diggins] and played against her at our place."

Baylor junior forward Destiny Williams, who played with both Sims and Diggins last summer on Team USA in the Women's World University Games, said the two point guards' similarities are remarkable, but still gives the advantage to Sims.

"Playing with Odyssey, she's growing and she's maturing into a fine basketball player," Williams said. "I think Odyssey's defense is amazing. When she picks it up, I think the whole team picks it up. I think their IQs are about the same, just two point guards that are great players going at it. I enjoyed playing with both of them, but I'd rather have Odyssey."

Diggins also had an out-

standing performance in the southpaws' last meeting, finishing with 27 points and three assists. After defending Diggins in the regular season and playing with her over the summer, Sims said the respect between the two offensive captains is mutual.

"She's just great all-around. She has great court vision, she can pick it up and dribble and she can pull up too — that's what makes her so great. She makes everyone around her better," Sims said. "We played [Team] USA basketball together, two great players playing on the same team. She was a great teammate and I'm looking forward to the challenge on Tuesday."

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