

THE OBSERVER

The Independent Newspaper Serving Notre Dame and Saint Mary's

VOLUME 45: ISSUE 130

THURSDAY, APRIL 26, 2012

NDSMCOBSERVER.COM

University addresses LGBTQ concerns

Notre Dame announces it will not add sexual orientation to non-discrimination clause

By SARAH MERVOSH
Senior News Writer

Following public requests from students and faculty asking Notre Dame to improve inclusion of its gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and questioning (LGBTQ) community, the University announced Wednesday it would not add sexual orientation to its non-discrimination clause.

University Spokesman Dennis Brown declined to provide an explanation for why sexual orientation would not be added and would not say who made the final decision.

The announcement came in the wake of increased pressure to create a more inclusive atmosphere for LGBTQ members of the Notre Dame community.

Student and Faculty Senates recently passed resolutions asking for sexual orientation to be included in the non-discrimination clause. The Student Senate resolution also asked that the University publicly address why the phrase is not included.



PAT COVENEY/The Observer

Students march through campus in support of amending Notre Dame's non-discrimination clause to include sexual orientation on Jan. 28, 2010.

When asked when and if the University would provide such a public response, Brown declined to comment.

However, Notre Dame announced in a press release

it would take other steps to enhance inclusion of LGBTQ members. For example, the University plans to reaffirm and spread awareness about the University's existing non-

discrimination policies.

The University's handbook, *du Lac*, includes a "Spirit of Inclusion," which states that

see LGBTQ/page 6

Letter calls for bishop's response

By SAM STRYKER
Assistant Managing Editor

At least 143 Notre Dame professors and faculty have signed a letter requesting Bishop Daniel Jenky of Peoria, Ill., to re-



Jenky

nounce controversial statements he made in an April 14 homily, or to resign from the University's Board of Fellows, of which he is a member.

The group submitted the original letter over the weekend to University President Fr. John Jenkins and Richard Notebaert, University Fellow and chair of the Board of Trustees. The let

see JENKY/page 6

Author discusses state of religion in America

By ANNA BOARINI
News Writer

In a lecture sponsored by the Notre Dame Federalists Society, New York Times columnist and author Ross Douthat spoke about his new book, "Bad Religion: How We Became a Nation of Heretics" Tuesday afternoon in the Eck Hall of Law.

Douthat said his own unique religious upbringing influenced him to write his book.

"I grew up Episcopalian, but when I was about six or seven my mother was very sick and ended up attending some faith healing services, with guitars and singing, preaching and then people would come forward and would be prayed over," he said.

Eventually Douthat and his family converted to Catholicism.

"I was very pleased to become a Catholic," he said. "I was pleased to get the structure of Catholicism."

Douthat said he has an interesting perspective on religious life in America, specifically noting the parallel between his own religious experience and the American experience on a whole.

"The church-switching we did in the search of the one true faith, that's a pretty typical American phenomenon," he said. "About 45 percent of Americans have switched."

Douthat said he chose to begin his book by examining the 1940s and 1950s because it was a period of convergence in American Christianity, one that was followed by steep decline in mainline church attendance.

"I started the book in the 40s and 50s, the post-war revival of American life," he said. "This was a period of mass religiosity, the intellectual rebirth of religion."

Douthat said right now in American religious life, tension lies between the traditionally religious and the religious freelancers. He discussed this in his book by addressing four themes.

Currently, America is an extremely partisan country, regarding both religion and politics, Douthat said, and Americans have launched a movement for secular political reform.

The second cause of the weaken

see LECTURE/page 6

Priest addresses HHS mandate

By NICOLE MICHELS
News Writer

On Wednesday night, retired priest Fr. Edward Ruetz spoke to Call to Action Michiana about the United States bishops' stance on President Obama's healthcare plan, insisting their handling of the issue is flawed.

Call to Action is a nationwide Catholic group focused on altering the way the Church engages in the modern political sphere. According to its website, Call to Action demands Catholic political ideology first and foremost focused on "advocat[ing] for justice and building inclusive communities based on anti-racism and anti-oppression."

Ruetz traced the development of Catholic doctrine through history, concluding the bishops' call for the repeal of the recently-revised Health and Human Services (HHS) contraceptive mandate fails to abide by the 1965 Constitution on Religious Freedom.

"I believe that the U.S. Catholic bishops have not read the 1965 document on the Constitution of the Church in the modern world and that if they did, they would take a different stance on the HHS mandate," he



ASHLEY DACY/The Observer

Fr. Edward Ruetz lectures on the U.S. Catholic bishops' stance on President Obama's healthcare plan on Wednesday.

said.

The bishops' failure to abide by the Constitution's guarantee of religious freedom is alarming, because this article is supposed to define the behavior of all Catholics, Ruetz said.

"What I'm concerned about is that the bishops do not follow the Constitution on Religious Freedom ... Even though the

Church promulgated that this is what we should be living by, they are not abiding by it," he said.

The most important element of this Constitution is the way it supports social justice efforts in politics, which is maintained by allowing those of a different

see HHS/page 7

THE
OBSERVER

www.ndsmcobserver.com

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The Observer is the independent, daily newspaper published in print and online by the students of the University of Notre Dame du Lac and Saint Mary's College. Editorial content, including advertisements, is not governed by policies of the administration of either institution. The Observer reserves the right to refuse advertisements based on content.

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.

Post Office Information

The Observer (USPS 599 2-4000) is published Monday through Friday except during exam and vacation periods. A subscription to The Observer is \$130 for one academic year; \$75 for one semester.

The Observer is published at:
024 South Dining Hall
Notre Dame, IN 46556-0779
Periodical postage paid at Notre Dame
and additional mailing offices

POSTMASTER
Send address corrections to:
The Observer
P.O. Box 779
024 South Dining hall
Notre Dame, IN 46556-077

The Observer is a member of the Associated Press.

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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: WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE PLACE ON CAMPUS?



Christine Lewis

*freshman
Ryan*

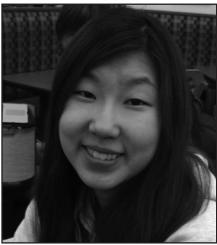
"DeBart lounge."



Julia Revord

*freshman
Ryan*

*"Lafunderground
(the LaFortune
basement)."*



Sun Hee Park

*junior
Pasquerilla West*

"My dorm."



Laura Thelen

*senior
Lyons*

*"The muffin
section at South
Dining Hall."*



Chris Torres

*freshman
St. Edward's*

*"Middle bench
in St. Edward's
Park."*



Allison de Luna

*sophomore
Farley*

*"The Wellness
Center, because
we had too
many parking
spots..."*

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



ASHLEY DACY/The Observer

Halftime performed its spring concert on the Washington Hall Mainstage on Wednesday night. The coed a capella group, founded in 2004, sings pop and rock covers.

OFFBEAT

Invite mix-up leads Swede to minister's dinner

STOCKHOLM, Sweden — Sweden's environment minister thought she had asked the country's former agriculture minister to attend a glam dinner. But the invitation went to the "wrong" Margareta Winberg - an ordinary Swede who jumped at the chance to mingle, even participating in the group photo.

Winberg, a 67-year old retiree from Sundbyberg outside Stockholm, told Swedish daily Dagens Nyheter that although she doesn't know much about the environment, she didn't hesitate in taking up Lena Ek on the offer last week.

She told the paper that she

wore black trousers and a blouse "with some things on," and that she met interesting people, "like that guy Blix," a reference to former chief U.N. weapons inspector Hans Blix.

Ek's spokesman said the minister found the situation "extremely funny."

Ukraine protests Dutch ad warning against Euro2012

KIEV, Ukraine — The Ukrainian Foreign Ministry is protesting a Dutch television ad that advises women to keep their husbands from attending the Euro 2012 football championship in June because they are likely to be seduced by Ukraine's beautiful women.

In the clip titled "Keep Him

Home," the Netherlands Energy Company offers a free beer tap to customers who sign up for its services. If Dutch men were able to tap their own beer, the ad implies, they would be more likely to watch the games at home instead of traveling to Ukraine.

An Internet search of "Ukrainian woman" shown in the clip yields dozens of photos of women in erotic outfits and poses.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Oleh Voloshin said Wednesday the ad was "humiliating and discriminatory."

Information compiled from the Associated Press.

IN BRIEF

The Graduate Student Union will host a blood drive today from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Hammes Notre Dame Bookstore. Donors could win \$1,000 vouchers to Edgerton's Travel or Visa.

Juan E. Mendez, United Nations Special Rapporteur for Torture and human rights activist, will give a presentation about his memoir "Taking a Stand: The Evolution of Human Rights" today at 12:30 p.m. in Room 1140 of the Eck Hall of Law.

Badin Hall hosts their Signature Event "Badin Breakdown: Karaoke" tonight from 5 to 7 p.m. on South Quad. Pizza and soft drinks will be provided.

RecSports will host the workout event "Zumba Thon" tonight from 7 to 9 p.m. on the front lawn of the Rockne Memorial. The free event is part of SUB Antostal Week.

Opera Notre Dame will perform "Sweeney Todd" tonight at 7:30 p.m. in DeBartolo Performing Arts Center. Tickets are \$7 for students.

College Libertarians will host a presentation called "Why Do Cops Support Drug Legalization?" tonight at 7:30 p.m. in Room 138 of DeBartolo Hall. James Gierach from Law Enforcement Against Prohibition will be speaking

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

53
50

TONIGHT



HIGH
LOW

44
33

FRIDAY



HIGH
LOW

56
40

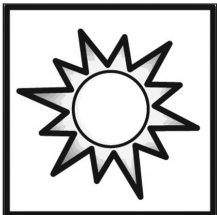
SATURDAY



HIGH
LOW

46
37

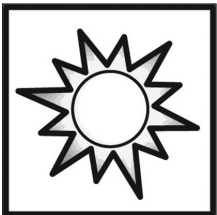
SUNDAY



HIGH
LOW

57
38

MONDAY



HIGH
LOW

61
43

SENATE

Group considers loft resolution

By MARISA IATI
Associate News Editor

Student Senate discussed Saturday's cancellation of PigTostal and the Office of Housing's decision to remove lofts from St. Edward's Hall at its meeting Wednesday.

Student body president Brett Rocheleau said police forces told him a neighbor alerted them that a party that was planned did not have a permit. He said people must request these permits at least 15 days in advance, so the students organizing PigTostal could not get one in time for the event.

"It was completely an isolated incident where basically the police force and the administration weren't looking to cancel this party," Rocheleau said. "They were working with it, they were expecting it to occur. So it's not going to keep coming up every weekend, these types of incidents."

Senate considered a resolution asking the Office of Housing to reconsider its decision to remove all lofts from St. Edward's Hall by the 2013-2014 academic year and replace them with modular furniture.

Sean Long, St. Edward's senator, said building the lofts is a First Year Orientation ritual for the residence hall.

Rocheleau said the Office of Housing considers the lofts a safety issue because they block the spots in the ceilings that release water in the case of a fire.

"By them knowing that this is occurring, they don't feel right letting it slide," he said.

The group passed the resolution after debate.

Senate passed a resolution requesting Auxiliary Operations to ask for student feedback about the Notre Dame ID card. It also passed resolutions asking for the creation of serve.nd.edu to centralize service opportunities and asking for revision of the Physical Education wellness program to initiate discussion about gender issues.

Senate passed a resolution amending the student government elections process.

The resolution stated, "For the purpose of petitions, the original signature of an undergraduate student shall be required to signify approval of the placement of a candidate or ticket on the ballot ... In the event that an election proceeds to a runoff, all tickets in the runoff may have a nominal increase in their funding equivalent to 20 percent of the funding initially allocated for the primary election."

Campus Ministry Liaison Ellen Carroll introduced a resolution requesting the University begin each home football game with a prayer. She said the football team would be a starting point, but the practice would ideally extend to other varsity sports.

"A lot of students who went to Catholic high schools, their sports games would start with a prayer," Carroll said. "People have been

talking about what would it be like to start Notre Dame football games with the same kind of thing."

If the prayer were instated, the exact wording would be determined through collaboration between various University offices, such as the Office of Campus Ministry and the Office of the President, Carroll said.

Rocheleau said the resolution is not meant to impose religion on anyone, and the prayer would not profess belief in any specific faith.

"It just says bless the players so no one gets hurt, no one gets harm, there's fair play," he said. "So I hope no one would ever feel that we're imposing our religion on anyone ... And we would make sure the prayer focuses on being generalized for all religions."

Senate tabled the prayer resolution and will discuss it again at the next meeting.

Student body vice president Katie Rose reminded senators if someone feels a discriminatory incident was not handled correctly by his rector, he can report the incident to someone in a position of greater authority.

"If you do have a problem, if you think you weren't treated correctly or a matter wasn't treated correctly, you can go to the head of the rectors, who is [Associate Vice President for Residential Life] Heather Russell," she said.

Contact Marisa Iati at miati@nd.edu

Community members discuss student safety

By MARISA IATI
Associate News Editor

Leaders from South Bend and local colleges discussed student safety and the relationship between the city and schools at a Community/Campus Advisory Coalition meeting Wednesday.

Mark Kramer, owner of Kramer Properties, which provides housing to many local college students including those at Notre Dame and Saint Mary's, said four larcenies occurred last weekend amid Blue-Gold Game festivities.

"[Larcenies have] really been happening in the last two or three weeks, I guess," Kramer said. "The students need to warn their fellow students to keep their laptops out of sight or out of the car ... It can happen anywhere."

Student body president Brett Rocheleau said student government has sent emails to the student body about protecting themselves from theft.

"In our Good Neighbor Guides that we give out to everyone at the beginning of the year, we're going to add a whole section about staying safe," he said. "Things like lock your door, don't think you're safe all the time and fall into that false sense of security."

Mike Carrington of the South Bend Alcoholic Beverage Board said students often host large off-campus parties this time of year because the weather becomes nice. He said excise and local police can become involved in these

situations.

"It's possible to come out with a bus and take everybody to jail, and we're not advocating for that," he said. "We want to avoid that ... When somebody shows up [at a student party] and says, 'Hey, you need to turn it down and close it down,' they need to understand that they need to do that."

Carrington said underage students who enter bars using fake identification cards are jeopardizing themselves and the business owners.

"If [students] want to have good places to go to and have them be safe and good places, then we need to have the cooperation of those [owners] and ... them not being inundated with students trying to get in with false IDs," he said.

St. Joseph County Sheriff Michael Grzegorek said cooperation between local colleges and the city has been "fantastic" recently.

Jeffrey Walters, Uniform Division chief for the South Bend Police, said his department was pleased with the relationship that has developed over the past few years between South Bend residents and college administrators, students and faculty.

"We've solved a lot of problems and I'm happy to report that we don't have a whole lot of issues right now," he said.

Contact Marisa Iati at miati@nd.edu

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Speaker warns of texting, driving

By KAITLYN RABACH
News Writer

Diveeta Thompson, an activist against distracted driving, spoke to students about the dangers of texting and driving Wednesday in the Student Center Lounge.

In the lecture, sponsored by the Office of Student Involvement, Thompson said drivers have a responsibility to themselves and to other drivers not to drive distracted.

"Driving is a privilege," Thompson said. "Distracted driving affects not only you as an individual but also everyone else on the road."

She spoke about the organization "Stop Texting AND Distracted Driving (STANDDD)" she founded after she lost her son to distracted driving in 2008.

"My son Rodney was a senior in high school and had a lot going for him," Thompson said. "He was reaching for his phone one night because someone had texted him. He was getting ready to read a message and lost

control of his car. He hit a utility pole and was killed instantly."

Since the death of her son, Thompson said she has made it her life's work to promote awareness about texting and driving.

"Unfortunately, it became my passion to stop distracted driving," she said. "Every time a family is touched with this issue it rivets me. I am happy to lend my voice to the cause, and I hope you will all do the same."

Thompson said it is important for individuals of all ages to join the cause but believes this is especially true for college students.

"Being young college students you have so much promise," Thompson said. "You all have such a bright future ahead of you. Is it really worth the risk to text and drive?"

As part of the presentation, Lieutenant Tim Williams of the Mishawaka Police Department also spoke on the issue.

Williams said a person driving while using her cell phone has the equivalent distraction level

of someone driving with a .08 blood alcohol content.

"When you are texting and driving you show the same signs that a person makes when they are impaired," he said.

Williams said the consequences of texting and driving are more than just a \$500 fine in the state of Indiana.

"If you are involved in a serious crash and we find out you were texting while driving you could face both jail time and hefty fines," he said.

He said any driver's primary responsibility is to make sure he or she drives safely.

"As a driver your responsibility is to the safe operation of your vehicle," Williams said. "It is not to the person on the other end of the phone or your passengers in the car."

First year student Morgan Carroll, who worked with the Office of Student Involvement to invite Thompson to campus, said texting and driving is a serious issue.

"I think it is important to be educated on this issue because it not only affects you as an individual, but also everyone on the road," Carroll said. "It is a real life problem, and I think that Thompson's lecture did a wonderful job of bringing this issue down to a personal level."

Thompson said she believes change starts with a voice. She has traveled the country lending her voice to the cause, and at the end of her lecture she asked everyone in the audience to lend theirs as well.

"Be a voice for us," Thompson said. "Be a voice for my son. Save a life."



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Contact Kaitlyn Rabach at
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Play tackles controversial topics, student labels

By ABI HOVERMAN
News Writer

The play titled "Playing, Dating and Maybe Mating," written and directed by senior Matthew Mancini, addresses Notre Dame student stereotypes and follows these characters as they navigate friendships, dating and hook-ups.

The show's online trailer mentions characters such as "The Bro," "The Best Friend" and "The Campus Catch."

"If people come they will be really surprised by the content and just how intricate all the characters are," Mancini said. "We really dove into so many different topics and issues on campus."

Sophomore producer Blair Arbuckle said the play, which will be performed Thursday, Friday and Saturday at 7:30 p.m. in Washington Hall, covers topics such as females on birth control, eating disorders and domestic violence.

"We have one character in specific that is interesting because you can see the different sides of his mind working," Arbuckle said. "There are two people playing his other roles ... demonstrating how you can have internal dilemmas and fights trying to find yourself and trying to deal with not only Notre Dame but life in general."

Arbuckle said despite the strong labels Notre Dame students place on each other, no one perfectly fits into these categories.

"We were just surprised by how all the stereotypes were broken," she said. "People aren't as one-dimensional as people think. There's no algorithm for anyone."

Mancini said the Gender Studies Program sponsors the play and all the directors and producers participate in the Gender Relations Center's "FIRE Starter" program, which aims to educate students about relationships and identity.

"Many of us participated in 'Loyal Daughters and Sons' last year," he said. "The producers and I are part of the creative team of 'FIRE Starters,' and it was our job to create a creative program for campus."

He said the theatrical venue appealed to him because it offered a freedom and creativity to explore taboo topics.

To properly address these issues, the creative team worked together to interview

students in November across campus, Arbuckle said. Mancini said he then compiled common stories and experiences to form the script, with rehearsals starting immediately after Spring Break.

"They're real stories but none of the characters are based off of one person," Arbuckle said. "We made a list of the different people we wanted to hit and then we went around and interviewed friends or whoever we could for about two weeks ... We all came back together and had a meeting and talked about

everything, all the different impressions. We took what we found, overriding themes and put them together to make characters."

Mancini said every Notre Dame student can identify with something he or she has struggled with as it is portrayed in the production.

"The overall theme is self-love and individuality, finding confidence with being you," he said. "I guarantee everyone that comes to the production will see someone they know or personally identify with. They'll relate with the characters."

Mancini said the cast is very diverse. Not all are FIRE Starters, and actors and actresses include political science, economics and even anthropology majors.

"It's all over the place. They were interested in doing

the play and it was kind of word of mouth," Mancini said. "I had worked with some of them before, but a lot of them were interested in being part of the production."

Arbuckle said she hopes the play fosters dialogue about the issues presented, many of which may be completely new and uncomfortable for the audience.

"It's more about getting it out there," she said. "It's unlike any play I've seen here because we say a lot that people keep to themselves and that people are afraid to say. We just want to put it out there and have it said, maybe for the first time you'll hear it out loud, but then ... we want you to go in your own direction."

Tickets for the play are available in the LaFortune Box Office for \$3.

Contact Abi Hoverman at ahoverma@nd.edu

"If people come they will be really surprised by the content and just how intricate all the characters are. We really dove into so many topics and issues on campus."

Matthew Mancini
director

"The overall theme is self-love and individuality, finding confidence with being you. I guarantee everyone that comes to this production will see someone they know or personally identify with. They'll relate with the characters."

Matthew Mancini
director

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Photo by Peter Ringenberg

Jenky

continued from page 1

ter appeared in The Observer’s Viewpoint section on April 23 with 95 signatures.

Members of the faculty and staff continue to add their signatures to the letter via email to its original signees.

The letter also requests the University issue a statement distancing Notre Dame from Jenky’s “incendiary statement.”

In his homily, the bishop criticized President Barack Obama’s healthcare policy and its impact on the Catholic Church. Jenky compared the current impact of such policy to other historical challenges the Church has faced, citing the regimes of Adolf Hitler and Joseph Stalin as examples.

“Hitler and Stalin, at their better moments, would just barely tolerate some churches remaining open, but would not tolerate any competition with the state in education, social services and health care,” Jenky said. “In clear violation of our First Amendment rights, Barack Obama — with his radical, pro-abortion and extreme secularist agenda, now seems intent on following a similar path.”

Under the revised contraception mandate, the responsibility for funding contraception was shifted from religiously-affiliated institutions to insurance companies, but will apply to self-insured employers.

In his homily, Jenky said Catholic institutions cannot cooperate with pro-choice legislation “under any circumstance.”

“No Catholic ministry — and yes, Mr. President, for Catholics our schools and hospitals are ministries — can remain faithful to the Lordship of the Risen Christ and to his glorious Gospel of Life if they are forced to pay for abortions,” he said.

In the letter to the editor, the signees said it was “profoundly offensive” that a member of the Board of Fellows should compare Obama’s actions to “those whose genocidal policies murdered tens of millions of people, including the specific targeting of Catholics, Jews and other minorities for their faith.”

“Jenky’s comments demonstrate ignorance of history, insensitivity to victims of genocide and absence of judgment,” the letter stated.

Patricia Gibson, diocesan chancellor of the Diocese of Peoria, released a statement April 19 that claimed Jenky’s statements were taken out of context.

“Bishop Jenky gave several examples of times in history in which religious groups were persecuted because of what they believed. We certainly have not reached the same level of persecution,” the statement read. “However, history teaches us to be cautious once we start down the path of limiting religious liberty.”

Calls to the bishop’s office Wednesday were not returned.

Associate Dean for the Arts Peter Holland wrote the initial version of the letter, which was edited and signed by profes-

sors and faculty before it was submitted to Jenkins and Notebaert.

“I was incredibly angered and distressed by Bishop Jenky’s comparison of anything President Obama has done to Hitler or Stalin,” Holland said.

Theatre professor Kevin Dreyer, who also signed the letter, said professors and faculty were upset media coverage of Jenky’s homily strongly associated the bishop’s statements with the University.

“The homily and the reporting seemed to us to be tying the words to Notre Dame,” he said “And that’s where the reaction came from. It was one of those situations where there was a very strong sentiment.”

Dreyer said his issue with Jenky’s statements is they are “adversarial,” and “cut off any discourse” that might take place in a university environment.

“This is not the image of Notre Dame,” he said. “Notre Dame is a place of civility, of discourse, of engagement, and it is the thing that I have come to value about this institution above virtually everything else.”

English professor John Duffy, a co-signer of the letter, said it is important to note the professors and faculty who submitted the letter are only looking to address Jenky’s statements, not to make a political statement.

“The letter does not take a position on healthcare reform,” he said. “It does not take a position on life issues. It does not take a position on the relationship of the U.S. government to the Catholic Church. The purpose of the letter is not to address any of those subjects. The purpose of the letter is to address the analogy Bishop Jenky made in his sermon.”

On Tuesday morning, professors and faculty received an email statement signed by Jenkins and Notebaert in response to the letter submitted. The email thanked the professors for the letter, but declined to comment on Jenky’s homily.

“As you might imagine, members of the Board of Trustees have taken positions on a wide array of issues through the years,” the email stated. “When the person does not appear to be speaking on behalf of Notre Dame, as is the case here, it has been and remains our policy to refrain from comment.”

Jenky, a 1970 graduate of Notre Dame, has served as a trustee and member of the Board of Fellows, the highest level of the Board of Trustees, since 2003. He previously served as director of Campus Ministry and rector of Dillon Hall.

University Spokesman Dennis Brown declined to comment on Jenky’s statements.

“Notre Dame does not comment on the personal views of Board members other than to say that they do not necessarily reflect those of the University,” he said.

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Lecture

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ing of mainline religion, Douthat said, is the sexual revolution.

“There isn’t that much to say, but it’s pretty obvious the ideals coming out of the sexual revolution do not mesh with Christian morals,” he said. “This is a social landscape where it is harder and harder to imagine a traditional Christian ethic.”

Money is the third factor contributing to the downward trend of mainline Christianity, Douthat said.

He said the Old Testament puts a heavy stress on the suspicion of wealth, which can be difficult to reconcile in a capitalist country like the United States.

“There is a general sensibility that makes the New Testament emphasis on asceticism easier and easier for Americans to just set aside,” he said. “This [focus on wealth] has affected the ability of the church to attract people to the ministry ... It seems like a much less attractive, lucrative and secure way of life.”



XULE LIN/The Observer

New York Times writer Ross Douthat discusses the downward trend of mainline Christianity during a lecture Wednesday.

Douthat said, globalization is the last cause of the decline of religion in America.

“At the end of imperialism, it meant Christianity became more attractive [in former co-

lonial nations],” he said. “That process undercut Christianity’s appeal in the West.”

Contact Anna Boarini at aboari01@saintmarys.edu

LGBTQ

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Notre Dame welcomes its LGBTQ community and seeks to create an environment in which “none are strangers and all may flourish.”

University President Fr. John Jenkins affirmed the Spirit of Inclusion in the press release.

“In all of our efforts, we seek within the context of Church teaching to better realize the ideals expressed in the University’s ‘Spirit of Inclusion’ statement — to create an environment of mutual respect, hospitality and warmth,” he said.

The University also condemns harassment and discrimination toward LGBTQ individuals in its discriminatory harassment policy, which is designed to protect current students and employees.

The non-discrimination clause primarily addresses discrimination against prospective students and employees in areas such as admissions, employment, scholarships and athletics. The current clause states that the University “does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin, sex, disability, veteran status or age.”

In response to student suggestions, the University will make ally training more widely available, improve hall staff training and continue communication between administration and student leaders regarding LGBTQ issues, according to the press release.

Notre Dame also plans to improve the structure and functioning of the Core Council for Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Students, a group comprised of administrators and students that advises the Vice President for Student Affairs on LGBTQ needs.

Brown also said some changes have already been made to improve inclusion of LGBTQ students, such as providing Core Council with permanent space in the LaFortune Student Center.

“There have been some things that have been done,”

he said. “That’s an example.”

Brown said the University plans to solidify a specific plan for enhancing inclusion of LGBTQ students in the upcoming months.

“Those are going to be things that will be in discussion with students over the summer and early in the fall semester to put details in place,” he said.

Vice President for Student Affairs Fr. Tom Doyle said Notre Dame has made progress over the past 15 years in its support for LGBTQ students and said the University appreciates student input on the subject.

“We’ve always emphasized the desire to continuously improve and to be responsive to student concerns,” he said in the press release. “The conversations between students and the administration both recently and over the past several years have been very important.”

Sophomore Alex Coccia, co-president of the Progressive Student Alliance (PSA), said the University’s release is a step in the right direction.

“With such a statement from the University, it is important that each individual respond according to his or her own vantage point,” he said. “I believe that it is important to acknowledge the initiative of the administration both to release a public statement regarding first steps for inclusive and to recognize expressed student suggestions.”

Coccia, who is also a columnist for The Observer’s Viewpoint section, is actively involved in the 4 to 5 Movement, an initiative of PSA in which allies promote an environment of inclusion for LGBTQ students, faculty and staff.

“I want to commend all of the students, faculty, and staff who, through the 4 to 5 Movement, have worked tirelessly

and at much personal expense this entire year for full inclusion of gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, and questioning members of the community,” Coccia said.

The 4 to 5 Movement released a video in February titled, “It Needs To Get Better,” in which students, faculty and staff call for a more inclusive environment for the LGBTQ community. The video has over 20,000 views on YouTube.

The video specifically asks that Notre Dame include sexual orientation in its nondiscrimination clause and that the University approve a gay-straight alliance (GSA) as an official club.

AllianceND, which is currently the campus’s unofficial GSA, applied for official club status in February.

Brown said the University’s decision regarding the nondiscrimination clause is separate from a decision regarding a GSA, which will be made through the Student Activities Office (SAO).

Director of Student Activities for Programming Peggy Hnatusko, who makes the final decision regarding club status, told The Observer on Tuesday that all applications for new clubs were still under review.

Hnatusko said she hopes all decisions regarding new clubs will be made by the end of the summer and will send letters to prospective clubs when the review process is finished.

However, Coccia said he received verbal commitment from an SAO representative earlier in the semester that a decision regarding GSA’s club status would be made by May 1.

Kristen Durbin contributed to this report.

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HHS

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faith to adhere to their personal belief system, Ruetz said.

“They are saying these actions are intrinsically evil, saying Catholic institutions would be violating their conscience in offering these services to people who are not Catholic,” he said. “However, they have a different conscience, and that’s where the conflict of personal rights comes up.”

Ruetz said the Constitution guarantees the right of every individual to follow the dictates of his or her conscience, free of coercion. Catholic institutions such as Notre Dame and the Church hierarchy should show respect for this right, he said.

“Every human being has the right of private conscience, and they’re trying to coerce that,” Ruetz said. “The right of private conscience within each human individual comes from their inherent human dignity. Therefore, the right of religious freedom has its foundation not in the subjective disposition, but in the very nature of the human being.”

Problems arise when the Church presumes to moderate the consciences of non-Catholics because that infringes upon their religious freedom, Ruetz said.

“[From the Constitution] it follows that he should not be forced to act in a manner contrary to his conscience ... But let’s look at the other side. What if the conscience of a non-Catholic tells

them it is inherently good to use these services?” he said.

Members of Call to Action Michiana debated these issues, focusing on analysis of the gap between Church rhetoric and the expressed desires of the people.

Call to Action member Tom Murray said he thought the bishops presumed too much when they expressed Catholics are against artificial contraception, and Catholics with a differing opinion should simply opt out of the artificial contraceptive services potentially provided by these insurance plans.

“Though we know that 90 percent of Catholics practice artificial birth control if they are able to, if artificial birth control was to be paid for by this enacted insurance program, it seems to me that if Catholics don’t want to use it, they’re free not to use it,” Murray said. “I don’t understand why the bishops are allowed to get away with the lie that they are speaking for all Catholics.”

Hank Mascott, a member of Call to Action, said he hoped for similar attitudes to prevail in Indiana, following the pattern of the 18 states that have already accepted Obamacare.

“Catholic institutions in those 18 states have somehow worked out compromises with state arrangements, and it has not caused this ‘brouhaha,’” Mascott said. “It would be interesting to go back and look at how the Church has negotiated its position within those states.”

Call to Action Member Br. John Dolan said he also believed careful analysis of the framework of the discussion will lead

to a more productive result.

“There are arguments and logic and reasoning on both sides, but the truth is somewhere in the middle,” Dolan said. “I thought the truth of this debate was that these sides are using overcharged emotional rhetoric.”

Ruetz said he agreed with hopes for a compromise between the dissenting political factions and he thinks Notre Dame would likewise agree to potential arrangements.

“I would hope that Notre Dame could agree with the compromises that have been made, that they would be able to compromise and accept the mandate like many colleges have done,” he said. “Social justice says that Notre Dame should look at the justice issue involved with offering these services to non-Catholic people who think the services are good actions.”

The bishops’ stance on the health care mandate represents a larger trend within the Church of strictly adhering to established doctrine, which Ruetz said disconnects the Church from the concerns of the people it serves.

“The hierarchy is losing touch with what is happening in the modern world ... It is not willing to look at [certain] issues and confront them,” Ruetz said. “It doesn’t want to bring them up because if they did they would have to look at women’s equality, same-sex marriage, homosexuality, married priesthood and the ordination of women.”

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TSA screeners charged in drug trafficking probe

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Duane Eleby, a suspected drug courier, was all set to sneak 10 pounds of cocaine through a security checkpoint at Los Angeles International Airport last February with the help of a former Transportation Security Administration employee and a screener.

Eleby, however, bungled the plan by going to the wrong terminal and was arrested after another TSA screener found the cocaine, which set in motion a series of undercover operations that led to Wednesday’s announcement that two former and current TSA employees had been indicted on federal drug trafficking and bribery charges.

A 22-count indictment outlined five incidents where the TSA employees took payments of up to \$2,400 to provide drug couriers unfettered access at LAX over a six-month period last year. In all, seven people are facing charges, including Eleby.

“The allegations in this case describe a significant breakdown of the screening system through the conduct of individuals who placed greed above the nation’s security needs,” said U.S. Attorney Andre Birotte Jr.

Among those arrested and charged are Naral Richardson, 30, of Los Angeles, who was fired by TSA for an unrelated matter in 2010 and accused of orchestrating the scheme; John Whitfield, 23, of Los Angeles, a current TSA screener; Joy White, 27, of Compton, who was terminated last year; and Capeline McKinney, 25, of Los Angeles, also a current screener.

It wasn’t immediately known if any of the four had retained attorneys. Authorities didn’t say what post Richardson, who began working for TSA in 2002, once held.

Eleby was given specific written instructions by White last February

to ensure his safe passage through the airport, according to the indictment. Instead of going to Terminal 6 where White, who was hired six years ago, was located, Eleby went to Terminal 5 where his plane was scheduled to depart, authorities said.

The plan, court documents show, was to have Eleby use a secure tunnel linking the two terminals after he was allowed through security by White.

Despite Eleby’s arrest, the smuggling scheme continued and federal agents set up a sting where informants were able to pass cocaine and methamphetamine through security checkpoints without further inspection.

In one case, after nearly 8 pounds of meth went through an X-ray machine, Whitfield and an operative met in an airport bathroom where Whitfield was paid \$600 for his efforts, court documents show.

In another instance, McKinney let more than 44 pounds of cocaine pass through her security checkpoint, authorities said.

None of the drugs ever made it to their final destination, authorities said.

Randy Parsons, TSA’s security director at LAX, said the agency is disappointed about the arrests but that it remained committed to holding its employees to the highest standards.

If convicted, all four employees face a minimum of 10 years in federal prison. Whitfield, who has worked at TSA since 2008, and McKinney, a seven-year veteran, are under suspension, authorities said.

There have been a handful of other arrests of TSA employees since the agency was created in response to the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks.

Last week, former TSA officer Jonathan Best pleaded guilty to conspiracy to distribute and to possess with intent to distribute oxycodone for his role in a painkiller trafficking ring. Another former TSA officer, a former New York police officer and a former Florida state trooper have already pleaded guilty.

Gingrich prepares to end campaign

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Newt Gingrich began taking steps Wednesday to shut down his debt-laden White House bid, setting the stage to endorse one-time rival Mitt Romney next week and rally Republicans behind their apparent nominee.

Gingrich had a friendly telephone conversation Wednesday with Romney and had started planning an event where he would throw his support behind the likely nominee, Gingrich spokesman R.C. Hammond said. The pair agreed to work together to unite conservatives against President Barack Obama.

“It’s clear Romney is the nominee and the focus should be on defeating Obama. We should not focus on defeating ourselves,” Gingrich told disappointed supporters in Kings Mountain, N.C., the morning after Romney tightened his grip on the nomination by sweeping primary contests in five states.

Gingrich also telephoned Republican National Committee Chairman Reince Priebus and supporters, such as Texas Gov. Rick Perry, in states with upcoming primaries to inform them of the decision he had been hinting at for days. Perry endorsed Gingrich when he ended his own White House bid in January but later Wednesday posted an endorsement of Romney on his campaign website.

Gingrich had been under pressure for some time to leave the race and clear a path for Romney.

“You have to at some point be honest about what’s happening in the real world as opposed to what you would like to have happened,” he told supporters at a suburban Charlotte, N.C., restaurant.

Gingrich declined to comment



Republican presidential candidate Newt Gingrich speaks in Cramerton, N.C., on April 25. Gingrich is preparing to end his campaign.

when asked about his plans multiple times during the Kings Mountain stop.

“There are times when the mountain gets bigger than your ability to climb it,” he said.

The White House acknowledged that the contest had come down to Obama and Romney.

“There seems to be a general acknowledgment that the process has moved to that stage,” press secretary Jay Carney told reporters traveling with the president.

As the White House ratchets up its focus on Romney, Gingrich will shift to helping Republican candidates across the country, paying off more than \$4.3 million in campaign debt and rebuilding his reputation among conserva-

tives.

Gingrich’s campaign tested conventional wisdom from the beginning. Could the 68-year-old grandfather — a politically divisive figure shamed by an ethics probe and subsequent reprimand, pushed out of congressional leadership and saddled with marital scandal — find acceptance among cultural conservatives?

His campaign was full of contradictions. He pointed to his 20 years as a congressman from Georgia, including four as House speaker, and claimed a political kinship with President Ronald Reagan. Yet he also contended to be an outsider and anti-establishment candidate.

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INSIDE COLUMN

To all the draftniks

Today is the day that many have been awaiting for the past two months — or more for some. The NFL Draft is here. Sure, it is overhyped, and most so-called “draftniks” are downright crazy.

Yes, there are the people who spent hours at the computer compiling lists of mock drafts while consciously ignoring personal hygiene. For every person like that, there is another who has tossed and turned over whether Ryan Tannehill is going to get Miami out of what has been a 10-year Marino hangover. Don’t even get me started on the people who actually listen to Todd McShay. So, yes, there are crazy people out there.

But let’s be honest. They are a good kind of crazy about a good thing.

First, the draft is something to pay attention to. It is, as apparently everyone at ESPN is brainwashed to say, the roots of a good team. Successful teams like the Packers, Giants and even those dreaded Patriots are the experts of using the draft to reload continuously.

Consider this, eight of the past nine Super Bowl champions have been led by a quarterback originally drafted by that team. Of those eight, six were chosen in the first round.

Then, there are teams that are consistently at the top of the draft, like the pre-2008 Detroit Lions or the Cleveland Browns. Year after year of terrible picks turn into years of sinking faces into emotionally charged ice cream and heartache (which seems a bit fitting).

More importantly, these draft fans are a personal favorite kind crazy. They are the nerdy, chubby kid that is obsessed with the hot girl who is as uninterested in him as draftniks love the combine. And trust me, they love the combine.

Weird metaphor aside, what I’m trying to say is that draftniks are toiling away time worrying about something over which they have almost no control. They chase after something that likely won’t end up in their favor. A few wrong moves here and there, and then everything goes straight downhill. Eventually, most people end up disappointed while trying to reconcile themselves with the “terrible” draft picks of their respective front office (which, by the way, will probably be the case for the wonderfully pitiful fans of the Dolphins.)

But then, there is that spark of hope, that moment when the girl falls for nerdy charm. Okay, fine, this happens as often as the Raiders make good picks and mostly in Jonah Hill movies, but it happens. And when it does it is life- or, in this case, franchise-changing.

When fans see everything align and fall into place, it’s pure excitement. It’s what makes fans great. It’s the crazy. More exactly, that crazy is unadulterated passion for something that is basically inconsequential. That kind of passion is rare and, if nothing else, respectable.

So, go get your draft on, draftniks. Let me go find my tub of Mel Kiper Hair Wax, and we’ll go to town tonight.

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

Ernst Cleofe
Sports Writer

Today is a celebration because today marks my final column in this great newspaper. For many campus liberals, this day has not come soon enough. Over the past four years, this column has been a bastion of conservative thought in these pages, and I appreciate all my fans and detractors that have silently agreed with and publicly dissented on my viewpoints. Through the ups and downs of the election cycle, the pressing issues of the day and even the occasional life commentaries, I have written many opinions that I hope you found engaging and provocative.

Conservatives across America are disturbed by what lies ahead for our nation. Many challenges have arisen, even in the short time I have been in school. I hope for my younger peers that Notre Dame remains a sanctuary where you can learn and progress without feeling too strongly the troubles of the real world. I would like to close my career like I began it — with a story about values that I hope will inspire and keep the fire in your heart burning one more day.

Great Grandpa Easley was alive at the turn of the century. He was just another American living in the heartland of Indiana. He suffered through the depression and raised a family that even sent one kid to college. Great Grandpa didn’t have much in terms of money or education, but he had a little plan and made reasonable life decisions. He would see to it that his family was educated and that his daughters were married to good husbands — the best way for females to gain financial stability at the time. Although he didn’t get to the top of anything, most people would count his life as a success. I certainly do.

Grandpa Jack Easley was another American success. Growing up under Great Grandpa’s roof, Jack didn’t have much either, but he had a good

Mark Easley

Elephant in the Room

A fond farewell

head on his shoulders and strong work ethic. He graduated high school, a place in which his father never stepped foot, and he became an electrical engineering student at Purdue. Grandpa Jack built tanks during the war and then moved on to air conditioning and automotive electronics. Jack got married and raised a family and like his father, made sure education was the top priority. All four of his kids became graduates of Purdue University, with two of them earning graduate degrees. Jack even started his own small business at one point, which he eventually sold. Jack wasn’t anything special, just another kid who made decent decisions along the way. He was never rich by any account but he was able to push himself and his family into a place where there were opportunities for the future.

Mark Easley Sr. didn’t grow up rich. Born in Indianapolis, he lived in a house that had four young mouths to feed and clothe. Mark was most like Jack in his school work and endeavors. He, too, followed his father into engineering. For 20 years, Senior pioneered the personal computer revolution in Silicon Valley, and was able to retire early. He didn’t inherit anything. He reaped the fruits of his labor through the opportunities that were presented to him.

When I was born in February of 1990, my family had come a long way. It took three generations and over 100 years to get me, the fourth generation of Easley to have the unlimited opportunity that everyone seems to be looking for, and I wasn’t even guaranteed success. For years I worked on my schooling, getting straight As year after year. While others got distracted, I always kept education as my top priority. I didn’t have to do it. I could have quit, but I had a plan for myself. I wanted to do something that no Easley had done before — attend a premier university like Notre Dame. I’m not smarter than anyone else, nor do I work

harder than anyone else. The reason why I am where I am is because I just don’t quit on my plans. I don’t quit on myself by making poor decisions.

Through college, I worked and sacrificed. Engineering is no cake walk. Courses are challenging and homework comes in piles comparable to mountains. I experienced many times where I wanted to give up or toyed with serious regrets of coming to Notre Dame in the first place. But I learned to take my beatings and turn to God, and somehow in the end, I came out the other side with a prestigious degree, experiences, knowledge and relationships that will never leave me. I am charged up more than ever to go out into the world and begin solving problems. The challenges I lived through here have turned into opportunities to be pursued out there.

The American Dream is not about rags to riches in a lifetime. It’s about sustained progress over generations, where the next has more than the last, where the values of hard work and family and education are passed on. It’s a long road and all people have their struggles, but, by default, living in this exceptional nation is your best chance of making it in the long term.

It’s not all about intelligence or money. It’s about taking good risks for personal betterment and not endangering your success with bad life choices. America’s middle class is filled with family histories similar to mine. If you want to have an American Dream, look to what others have done to achieve it and learn from their example. Knowledge, education and determination are the cornerstones of success.

Mark Easley is a senior computer science major, and you can follow his blog at www.markeasley.org and can reach him at measley@nd.edu

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

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Notre Dame and the LGBTQ community

On Wednesday, the Notre Dame News (ND Newswire) page featured an article stating that “Notre Dame enhances support for gay and lesbian students.” While the changes are a nice gesture of support for the LGBTQ community and their straight allies, they are not an adequate response to the problem. In the article, Fr. Tom Doyle is quoted, saying, “The University has made significant progress over the past 15 years in its support for gay, lesbian, bisexual and questioning students, but we’ve always emphasized the desire to continuously improve and to be responsive to student concerns. The conversations between students and the administration both recently and over the past several years have been very important.” If student concerns are so important to the administration, then the administration would seriously examine the reasons and understand the need for the inclusion of sexual orientation and gender identity in the official non-discrimination clause and the approval of an official gay-straight alliance. These are the things the students are asking for. The administration needs to listen to them before they claim that student concerns are so important.

Nathan Lamp
freshman
Siegfried Hall
April 25

QUOTE OF THE DAY

“Courage is fear that has said its prayers.”

Dorothy Bernard
U.S. actress

Submit a
Letter to
the Editor

Email obsviewpoint@gmail.com

WEEKLY POLL

How do you deal with finals-week stress?

Coffee breaks
Naps
Pick-up basketball
A visit to the Grotto

Vote by 5 p.m. on Thursday at ndsmcobserver.com

We the people

One never-ending argument in the realm of American politics is over the weight politicians should give public opinion. Should legislators follow public opinion? Or should they work to influence it? This debate is central to our democracy but usually receives far too little attention.

Adam Newman
*Scientia
Potentia Est*

When a politician finds himself or herself on the side of public opinion, they often justify their decision by evoking it. One notable example is John Boehner, the Republican Speaker of the House, when arguing against the health care bill.

His statement at the “health care summit” in February 2010 is just one example: “I think our job, on behalf of our constituents and on behalf of the American people, is to listen.

“And I spend time in my district, I spend time in a lot of places. I’ve heard an awful lot. And I can tell you the thing that I’ve heard more than anything over the last six or seven months is that the American people want us to scrap this bill.

“They’ve said it loud, they’ve said it clear.”

While Boehner used this argument for health care reform, he conveniently ignored it for many other policy issues when the polls clearly showed he was

against public opinion. According to a Gallup poll in December 2010, 54 percent of Americans supported granting children brought to America as illegal aliens legal status if they joined the military or went to college. This is the premise of a bill called the DREAM Act, but Boehner voted against the DREAM Act in December 2010. Another Gallup poll conducted in December 2010 found that 67 percent of Americans supported a law that would allow gay men and women to openly fight in the military. This is the entire premise of a repeal of the military policy “Don’t Ask Don’t Tell” (DADT), but Boehner voted against a repeal of DADT in December 2010. Boehner has also gone against public opinion on raising taxes for the top two percent of earners and privatizing Medicare among other issues.

Is John Boehner a hypocrite? I think so. But he is just one example of a politician who justifies a policy decision based on the American people when public opinion falls on his side, and conveniently ignores it when it is not. All politicians engage in this hypocrisy.

However, there is a more important question that usually isn’t asked: Why should politicians listen to the American people on complicated policy questions?

The average American is not an expert in health care, the military or immigration policy, so why should their

opinion matter? Winston Churchill was famous for saying the “best argument against democracy is a five-minute conversation with the average voter.” Many of the founders, most notably James Madison, were suspicious of popular opinion, which is why anti-democratic institutions, such as the Supreme Court, Senate and Electoral College were included in the Constitution.

Moreover, public opinion often contradicts itself. One famous example is that Americans want a balanced budget, but poll after poll shows that they are usually against cuts to Medicare, Medicaid, Social Security and defense. These programs, along with the interest on the national debt (which has to be paid) makes up nearly 70 percent of the federal budget. Given these constraints, it is almost impossible to balance the budget unless Congress ended all welfare programs and shut down most government agencies. While public officials may say they are simply following the will of the people, it really is closer to glorified cherry picking.

This leads me to the two trends that will define the 21st century for America.

The first is the growing cost of entitlement spending on Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid, which has put the federal government on the road to bankruptcy.

The second is the increasing threat of global warming, which will shift

weather patterns, increase extreme climates while also increasing the number and intensity of natural disasters. Dealing with these issues through a long-term approach starting now will allow us to avert disaster. Unfortunately, the solutions to dealing with both of these trends are immensely unpopular with Americans (cutting entitlement spending to balance the budget and raising energy prices to lower consumption and spur investment.) This means that as usual, the “can will get kicked down the road,” giving us less time to deal with these problems and making it more likely that future Americans will not share in the quality of life we have today. To put it simply, if our leaders were to follow the will of the American people on entitlement spending and global warming, these problems will turn into nightmares.

Given the reality of the situation, the difference between our country’s future being one of American renewal instead of American decline will not be politicians who follow the will of the people, but leaders who have the courage to save us from ourselves.

Adam Newman is a junior finance major. He can be reached at anewman3@nd.edu

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

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Compassionate condemnation

Dear Mr. Coccia,

Your attack on the Church’s Doctrinal Assessment of the Leadership Conference of Women Religious (LCWR) was not only erroneous but deeply disturbing. While the Church has handled conflict poorly in the past (in particular, the sex-abuse scandal you mentioned in your article), their investigation of the LCWR is neither unjustified nor uncompassionate, as you suggested in your article, “Catholic Compassion, not Condemnation” on April 25.

Firstly, you portrayed the “condemnation” of the LCWR as unreasonable without mentioning the source of controversy. The LCWR has preached wildly un-Christian theology, including an invective for “moving beyond the Church” or beyond Jesus. They have additionally (and bizarrely) objected to the fact that celebrating Mass requires an ordained priest and have preached messages contrary to the Church’s teachings on sexuality, according to the published Doctrinal Assessment of the LCWR. Clearly, their teachings do not coordinate with the Church’s teachings, and the problem must be rectified.

Secondly, your idea of “compassion” is gravely askew. Allowing the LCWR to deviate from Church teaching and consequently lead Christians away from the truth would itself be uncompassionate.

You imply that the Church ought to tell people what they want to hear in order to promote Jesus’ teachings — yet Jesus himself never told people what they wanted to hear, but rather what they needed to hear, public opinion be damned! A classic example is the story of the woman at the well, in which Jesus called her out for having five husbands. Certainly, the woman was shocked by this “condemnation,” but she consequently converted. Correcting her unrighteous behavior was the ultimate act of compassion. The Church acts in Jesus’ role in correcting the teachings of the LCWR and therefore acts with utmost compassion.

Finally, the underlying message of your article, that “the Church must consider the image it creates for itself in the United States,” in its teachings is deeply troubling. Suggesting that the popularity of the Church should dictate the extent to which it preaches the Gospel is absolutely insane. The Church exists to illuminate the truth, not to make people “feel a sense of belonging.” To forsake the truth in an effort to gain popularity and positive image is directly contrary to the Church’s mission. Furthermore, it stands in embarrassingly stark opposition to Jesus, who continued to preach the truth regardless of what the public thought of it — to the point of death!

Therefore, Mr. Coccia, I beg you to reevaluate not only your opinions about the LCWR’s actions, but your alarming underlying logic. The text of the Doctrinal Assessment of the LCWR can be found at

<http://www.usccb.org/news/2012/12-062e.cfm> for all those who are interested.

Caroline Jansen
freshman
Cavanaugh Hall
April 25

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Kevin Noonan

Scene Editor

It's the most wonderful time of the year. The smell of pine tar and freshly landscaped grass is in the air. The Yankees just purchased a small country in order to secure the rights to a single prospect. My Kansas City Royals have already decided that they'll be darned if the future is going to be this year. It's baseball season, a six-month-long Christmas season for all fans of the country's pastime.

Somewhere in the tomes of history, the gods of baseball and (usually) soul-sucking heathens that run Hollywood got together to form one of the greatest creations of mankind- the baseball movie.

Baseball movies can define childhood ("The Sandlot"), teach us a little math ("Moneyball") or even give the world a few hints about a movie star's future personality disorders (Charlie Sheen in "Major League").

But which ones are the best? It would be impossible to make a definitive list. Who could be arrogant enough to think he could make such a thing? Well, here's the top five.

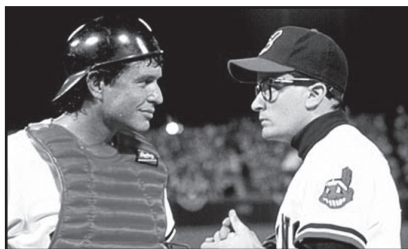


TriStar Pictures

"The Natural" 1984

Based on a novel by Bernard Malamud of the same name, "The Natural" brought to life the idea of a larger-than-life hero — Robert Redford's Roy Hobbs is almost a mythological figure in

the world of sports. The whole story is told as a biography, but has the feel of an oral history of early 1900s baseball. Hobbs builds his bat out of a tree that was struck by lightning, strikes out a fictional version of Babe Ruth at a carnival event, takes a bullet and mysteriously disappears but resurfaces with a different team, turns down a bribe to throw the big game and comes out of the hospital to play for the pennant. He's like a walking, talking fable of how life is supposed to be lived, and how baseball is supposed to be played.



Paramount Pictures

"Major League" 1989

One of the more irreverent baseball films, "Major League" pays tribute to the lowly Cleveland Indians. If this film were made today, it would be about the Royals (a single tear rolls down my cheek as I make this realization).

Their owner, a conniving and horrid woman, is determined to move the team to Miami, but needs to keep ticket sales low in order to do so. Her strategy is to put together the worst and cheapest team possible, with has-beens and never-will-bes, as the players comment in the film. Charlie Sheen is a slightly deranged ex-con with a rocket for an arm and Tom Berenger as an over-the-hill catcher with bad knees trying one last time to win it all lead an ensemble cast of unique characters that make the move hilarious.



Universal Pictures



"Field of Dreams" 1989

"If you build it, he will come." It's one of the most famous lines in movie history, and belongs to, in my humble opinion, the greatest baseball film of all time. The film is an ode to baseball in many ways, and follows Kevin Costner on his quest to find out who's going to come when he builds whatever it is. It turns out to be a baseball field in the middle of his cornfield, and the man he's waiting on turns out to be his father. It's another wonderful story of

reconnection and bonding through baseball, but more importantly it's a great story about baseball.

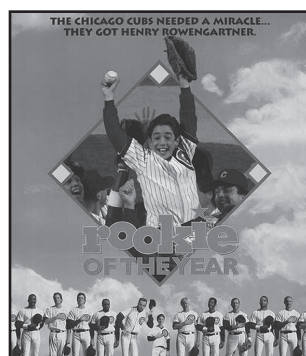
Contact Kevin Noonan at knoonan2@nd.edu
The views in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.



"Rookie of the Year" 1993

It's the movie that gave hope to a generation of young pitchers that they could one day fall down and somehow gain the ability to throw a 100-mph fastball because of it. Henry Rowengartner, played by Thomas Ian Nicholas, is a 12-year-old Cubs fan who breaks his arm trying to catch a fly ball.

The arm doesn't fully heal, and results in a funky arm motion that gives him a triple-digit heater.



20th Century Fox

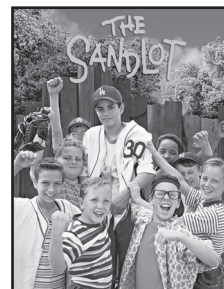
The Cubs quickly pick him up as a publicity stunt, but he proves to be a lights-out reliever. The season provides a growing experience for Rowengartner, as he learns from veteran Chet Steadman (Gary Busey), but also teaches Chet a little about how to enjoy life as well. The arm eventually heals, forcing Rowengartner to go back to his normal life (preventing him from being the youngest-ever Tommy John surgery candidate), but the journey provides for a family classic, and one of the best baseball films of all time.



"The Sandlot" 1993

In the opinion of some, the quality of a childhood can be quantified in a direction relation to the number of times you watched "The Sandlot." Whether or not that's true (I think it might be), it's still a fantastic film and a

must-see for any young kid who's trying to fit in. Scotty Smalls moves into a new town in the summer of 1962 with his mother and stepfather, and must integrate himself into the neighborhood on the sandlot where the local boys play baseball. He's terrible at sports in general, but Benny "The Jet" Rodriguez teaches him what he can, and he begins to fit in. The film created a number of popular cultural references (see: P.F. Flyers) and has inspired a generation of young baseball players, in addition to being a heartwarming story about growing up and making friends.



20th Century Fox

WEEKEND EVENTS CALENDAR

thursday 26

friday 27

saturday 28

sunday 29



ND Playwrights Now!
When: 8 p.m.
Where: Philbin Studio Theatre, DeBartolo Performing Arts Center
How Much: Free, but ticketed

The DeBartolo Performing Arts Center will feature readings of scenes written by Notre Dame students Thursday evening, as a part of the Film, Television and Theatre Department's spring semester playwriting course taught by Anne García-Romero. The evening will feature scenes from 13 different students.



Battle of the Bands
When: 9 p.m.
Where: Legends
How Much: Free

Head to Legends on Friday night for what will most certainly be entertaining performances by Notre Dame student bands. See the hidden talent in the kid you sit next to every day in class. Maybe you have a friend taking part who just doesn't want to tell you about his secret metal band dreams. Who knows what will happen, but it'll certainly be fun.




Vanessa Carlton
When: 10 p.m.
Where: Legends
How Much: Free

OMG VANESSA CARLTON!!! I would walk a thousand miles to see this concert. Too easy? Probably, but the point is that she's coming to campus, she has one awesome song, and hopefully she'll play it four or five or 10 times. She probably won't, but still head to Legends to hear her perform the song you've been getting noise complaints for all year.



End of the Week Beach Party
When: 5 p.m.—8 p.m.
Where: Behind St. Liam's
How Much: Free

In case you hadn't heard, Antostal is going on this week. But all the fun ends on Sunday with a big party by the beach volleyball courts behind St. Liam's. There will be island music and a pig roast. It'll be pretty chill. Come celebrate the end of the week and mourn the quickly approaching finals week.



Hoodie Stays Strong in Sophomore Effort

By DAN BROMBACH
 News Writer

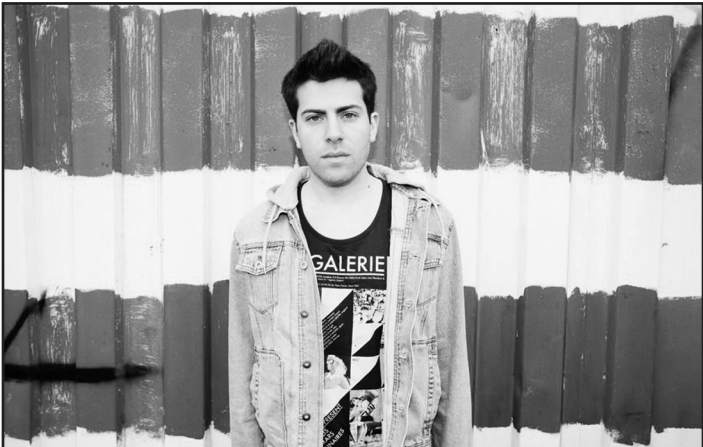
In an interview the night before the release of his new EP “All American,” rapper Hoodie Allen promised to personally call every fan that purchased the album in its entirety.

I would argue “All American,” an album fusing catchy, well-produced beats with Hoodie’s skilful wordplay and amusing pop culture references, is worth buying even if you have no interest in receiving such a phone call from Mr. Allen.

To all the students who attended this year’s SUB spring concert, I’ll be the first to admit Hoodie didn’t exactly blow me away. His flow sounded flat, his punch lines were off and it was difficult to hear him despite the fact few students had shown up yet, leaving Stepan Center emptier than the crowd at a WNBA game.

“All American” pushed this bad experience from my mind, however, giving me some great new songs I can’t wait to blast this summer.

Hoodie is at his finest in “No Interruption,” a highly entertaining song in which he and an unnamed woman arrange the “time and the place and the function” during which they will, um,



DianaLevine.com

engage in respectful conversation. You get the point.

The album’s third track “Eighteen Cool” is filled with the kind of great lines that made me a fan of his music in the first place. Rapping over a fairly simple beat, Hoodie takes a humorous stab at some kids from his old high school with whom he presumably didn’t get along very well. Throughout the song, he politely informs these kids they “peaked at eighteen” and that his success contrasts with their likely futures “bagging groceries.”

Hoodie takes a slightly more introspec-

tive approach in “No Faith in Brooklyn,” reflecting on his home of New York City and the implications of leaving it behind. The song’s intro, sung by Jha-meel, contains the lyrics, “If I move out one day/It will make me a better man/ But I don’t want to leave this place/No faith in Brooklyn.” Combine lyrical depth with a catchy, piano-infused beat and you have my favorite song of the album.

Listeners should be warned that Hoodie does some brief singing at points in the album. These segments aren’t terrible, but they can definitely be an awkward buzz-kill.

“All American” is an overall impressive effort from one of those most promising and hard-working rappers in the game today. Hoodie’s sound has certainly become more ‘party-friendly’ since his earlier mix tapes, but contrary to conventional hipster wisdom, artists who change their style are not necessar-

ily struck by lightning or dragged to hell by a demon wearing a flannel shirt and skinny jeans.

Hoodie has come along way since “You Are Not a Robot” vaulted him to fame in 2010, and I can’t wait to see where his future will take him as he continues to grow and mature as an artist. For now, I’m content to just sit back and put his latest album on repeat.

Contact Dan Brombach at dbrombac@nd.edu

“All American”

Artist: Hoodie Allen
 Studio: Self-Released
 Producer: RJF
 Top Tracks: “No Interruption,” “No Faith in Brooklyn,” “Eighteen Cool”



SPORTS AUTHORITY

Champions League final brings disappointment

There is good news based on these past two days in sports: The world will not end in 2012. Why not? Because Barcelona and Real Madrid are not meeting in the Champions League final.

The Ma-yans were pretty close in their prediction though. Except they, like the rest of us, didn't think there was any way a 10-man Chelsea could have upset Barcelona at the Camp Nou — although they probably could have predicted John Terry's red card.

With wins in the last two days, Barcelona and Real Madrid would have met in the UEFA Champions League Final on May 19 in Munich. It would have been El Clásico to end all Clásicos. The biggest rivalry in all of sports, on the biggest stage in club soccer: It would have been too much.

The rivalry goes beyond sports — as soccer does better than any other sport — and ventures into the realm of nationalism and regional rivalry.

Barca represents the Catalans, who have constantly fought for independence from Spain. The region supports its own language and culture and manifests itself in the Blaugrana. Alternating blue and red stripes, Lionel Messi and a beautiful, fluid attack — that is Barcelona.

Real represents the central Spaniards. The region includes basically anyone who calls himself a Spaniard, creating the Spanish language and culture we know today. And all of this is most clear in Los Blancos. Immaculate white with gold trim, Cristiano Ronaldo and a powerful, high-octane attack — that is Real Madrid.

It would have been perfect. But it would have been too much.

So Chelsea and Bayern Munich saved the world, stealing victories from Barca and Real so that we could all live to see another day.

Last week in west London, Chelsea wrestled a 1-0 victory away from Barcelona much to the surprise of the Barca bandwagon and the soccer world in general. But there was no way Chelsea could go onto the heralded grounds of the Camp Nou and do it again.

Things looked even more bleak for the Blues on Tuesday, when

Captain Controversy, himself, John Terry decided to see how far Barcelona forward Alexis Sanchez's leg would bend. Terry's antics earned him a red card, leaving the Blues without their captain and top defender against the pack of wolves led by Messi and Xavi.

But a 10-man Chelsea did its best impression of the Italian national team, throwing every player within 10 meters of the penalty box and just defended for the game's entirety. Then, the impossible happened in stop-page time with Barca mounting a furious attack: Fernando Torres scored a goal for Chelsea.

And just like that, the dream matchup was ruined, with Chelsea somehow advancing to the 'ship in Munich.

To make matters worse, Real Madrid couldn't even add some excitement to the championship. It would have still been a great final, with Real coach Jose Mourinho up against his old team for the trophy. But Los Blancos couldn't get past Bayern Munich on Wednesday, losing in dreadful penalty kicks. Ronaldo scored two goals, but missed his penalty kick to start the round — apparently distracted by his suddenly messy hairdo. And Bayern stormed out with the win.

We expected to see an epic Barca-Real showdown for the biggest trophy in soccer, and instead we get two teams who have no shot at a league title. In fact, Chelsea probably won't even make the Champions League next year, yet will have a chance to win it this year.

Instead of seeing the likes of Messi, Ronaldo, Xavi, Sergio Ramos, Carles Puyol and Iker Casillas vying for a Champions League title, we will see the Chelsea and Bayern reserve squads, as the two will lose a combined seven starters for the championship game due to an absurd accumulation of yellow and red cards.

If we had gotten our way, the final would have ended the debate as to who sits at futbol's throne. Instead we will have to enjoy the final for what it is worth: just another good game rather than "El Clásico Clásico" — no that is not a typo — that would have done wonders for the sport.

It would have been perfect. To see that game, I would just have let the world end.

¿Cómo se dice, 'do-over'?

Contact Andrew Gastelum at agastell1@nd.edu

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



Andrew Gastelum

Associate Sports Editor

NFL

Falcons trade for CB Samuel



Former Eagles cornerback Asante Samuel runs with the ball during a game against Atlanta. The Falcons traded a seventh-round pick to Philadelphia for Samuel.

Associated Press

ATLANTA — Asante Samuel was willing to restructure his contract to play for the Atlanta Falcons.

"I wanted to be a Falcon, so we made it work," Samuel said.

The Falcons gave up only a seventh-round draft pick Wednesday when they acquired the four-time Pro Bowl cornerback from the Philadelphia Eagles.

The Falcons announced the trade after Samuel agreed to restructure his contract to a three-year, \$18.5 million deal. His contract with Philadelphia called for him to earn \$9.9 million in 2012 and \$11.4 million in 2013.

The Falcons were 10-6 last season and 13-3 in 2010, but lost their first playoff game each season.

"The Falcons already have an excellent team and excellent coaches and schemes and talent and all that good stuff," Samuel said in a telephone interview. "I'm just going to add to the bunch to get the one common goal."

Samuel noted he's already had a warm reception from Falcons fans on his Twitter account.

"I'm getting (followers) every second of the minute," he said. "It's fun. Everybody is excited and pumped up. It feels like I'm a missing link, so we'll see how this thing goes."

The 31-year-old Samuel gives Atlanta a strong but high-priced trio at cornerback with Dunta Robinson and Brent Grimes under new defensive coordinator Mike Nolan.

Grimes, who signed his franchise tag tender Tuesday, will

make \$10.262 million this season. Robinson will earn \$6 million.

"Asante has established himself as a very productive player during his career," Falcons general manager Thomas Dimitroff said. "He is a proven player in this league and we feel that this move upgrades the talent of our roster and improves our football team."

Dimitroff was New England's director of scouting when the Patriots selected Samuel in the fourth round in 2003. Samuel set a career high with 10 interceptions for the Patriots in 2006.

"He was a big part of making this deal happen," Samuel said of Dimitroff. "He's excited, too, you know? He knows what I bring to the table and I'm going to come in there confident."

"I knew he had a lot of familiarity with me. We talked every time we played each other. It definitely had a lot to do with it and he definitely made me comfortable."

The Falcons are left with five picks but no first-round selection in the NFL draft.

Samuel became expendable when the Eagles signed Nnamdi Asomugha and acquired Dominique Rodgers-Cromartie last July, giving them three Pro Bowl cornerbacks. But the team couldn't find a suitable deal for Samuel, so they kept him and used Rodgers-Cromartie in the nickel spot.

While Asomugha and Rodgers-Cromartie struggled in a new defense and new roles, Samuel was the most consistent of the trio. The outspoken Samuel probably sealed his fate in Philadelphia when he criticized the front office at the trade

deadline, saying management was "playing fantasy football with the owner's money."

Perhaps the biggest surprise was the Falcons only lost a seventh-round pick in the trade.

"I wish Philly nothing but the best," Samuel said. "I love the organization and Eagles Nation. I know it was sad to see me go. I know everybody can't figure why this is happening and why it is going this way, but this is business."

Philadelphia coach Andy Reid said Samuel "has been a very productive member of the Eagles for the past four years and we appreciate all that he has done for our organization."

"We obviously feel good about our cornerback situation moving forward with Nnamdi Asomugha and Dominique Rodgers-Cromartie as our starters. Those two played very well together in the latter part of the season and we anticipate that will continue as we head into the 2012 season."

The Eagles, who were looking to clear payroll, now have 10 picks in the draft, including three of the top 51.

Samuel has 45 career interceptions in nine seasons, fourth among active players. He had only three interceptions in 14 games last season, but his 38 interceptions since 2006 lead the NFL.

"We just improved our team today," Falcons coach Mike Smith said. "Asante Samuel is a good football player and you can never have enough good players on your team. Our game has become more of a passing game, and you have to have the players who can neutralize how offenses are trying to attack you."

CLASSIFIEDS

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Mitchell: Oh my God, there's Sandy.

Cam: Sandra Bullock?

Mitchell: Yeah we're such good friends, I just call her Sandy.

Mitzi [to Phil]: Haven't you ever seen an NBA game? Oh in your case I mean the WNBA.

Gloria [punches guy]: Nobody calls him grandpa!

Luke: I do.

Mitchell: Okay birthday boy, what's it gonna be, rom-com or horror? Or we could do both and watch Maid in Manhattan.

MLB

A's score three runs in 14th, beat White Sox 5-4

Associated Press

OAKLAND, Calif. — The White Sox head back to the Windy City from a solid road trip with a pair of milestones to celebrate alongside their home fans.

They nearly had one more win to take along, too.

With two of the American League's top pitching teams dueling it out for a third straight day, Kila Ka'aihue blooped a winning single in the 14th inning soon after Yoenis Cespedes' tying two-run homer, and the Oakland Athletics rallied past the White Sox 5-4 on Wednesday.

A 4-2 trip will have to do. It featured Phil Humber's perfect game Saturday at Seattle, then Paul Konerko's 400th career home run Wednesday to tie the game in the ninth.

"We had a lot of chances," Konerko said. "It was nice to

get back in the game and give ourselves a chance at getting the win but it just wasn't in the cards."

Josh Reddick hit a one-out single in the 14th, then Cespedes delivered his fifth homer of the season against Hector Santiago (0-1) after Chicago took the lead in the top half of the 14th. Ka'aihue came through with the big hit in a game that lasted 3 hours, 56 minutes.

"You relish that, you look forward to it when you're taking your BP and your work," Ka'aihue said. "You prepare to get that big hit. You don't work on grounding out and flying out. It wasn't the hardest ball I've hit in my life. It won the game for the team, that's all that counts."

Jim Miller (1-0) struck out Brent Lillibridge for his first major league win after being called up earlier in the day.

Alexei Ramirez hit a go-ahead two-run double with two outs in the top of the 14th on a day "Take Me Out to the Ball Game" played twice to go along with a 14th-inning stretch.

After a pair of gems from Chicago starters this trip — Humber pitching the 21st perfecto in major league history, then Jake Peavy's three-hit shutout Monday — this day became about the terrific White Sox bullpen until Oakland finally got to the relievers.

Konerko sent the first pitch from A's closer Grant Balfour onto the left-field steps to start the ninth. Konerko became the fourth player in franchise history to reach the 400- or 500-homer mark while wearing a White Sox uniform, joining Frank Thomas, Jim Thome and Andruw Jones.

"Everybody likes the round numbers," Konerko said. "When it comes to that kind of stuff, I think when I'm done playing and look back, that's when it might hit home more. But when you're in the middle of the grind and you're grinding every day and working, you tend not to think about that stuff, and you probably shouldn't."

It looked like the White Sox would take this one after scoring two unearned runs in the top of the 14th.

But Cespedes showed why the A's gave the prized Cuban defector a \$36 million, four-year contract.

"I was lucky enough to hit home runs to decide games. This was not the first time," Cespedes said of his time growing up in Cuba. "The team is a very young team, but the way we play together we're going to get very far this season."

Dayan Viciedo reached on third baseman Eric Sogard's fielding error and Brent Morel sacrificed him to second. Eduardo Escobar flied out and Alejandro De Aza walked before Miller relieved Jerry Blevins to face Ramirez.

The A's saved themselves in the 13th with a two pretty de-



Athletics pitcher Jarrod Parker fires a pitch in the third inning of a 5-4 win against the White Sox on Wednesday in Oakland, Calif.

fensive plays. Catcher Kurt Suzuki caught pinch-runner Lillibridge well off second base, then shortstop Cliff Pennington chased down Alex Rios' double that skipped into the Oakland bullpen and made a quick throw to Sogard, who then relayed to Suzuki just in time to get a sliding Gordon Beckham.

Konerko's fourth homer of the year spoiled an impressive A's debut by Jarrod Parker, who struck out five in 6 1-3

innings following his call-up from Triple-A Sacramento.

The 23-year-old Parker, making just his second career start, exhibited the poise and improved command the A's hoped he would after sending him down this spring to work some things out.

Reddick's two-out double to right-center in the sixth brought home speedy leadoff hitter Jemile Weeks, who started the rally with a one-out single. Cespedes followed with an RBI single.

The White Sox responded with Kosuke Fukudome's RBI double in the seventh that Cespedes got his glove on in center but couldn't control, and Rios just beat a late throw home to Suzuki.

But Chicago missed a chance to tie it when Fukudome was caught stealing on a squeeze attempt after Morel couldn't deliver a bunt on a 2-1 count.

"It's like you've seen that hundreds of times, long games and anything happens," White Sox manager Robin Ventura said.


He knows his team will return home for a seven-game homestand to plenty of fanfare as the Red Sox arrive for four. Humber starts Thursday's series opener.

"It's nice. I don't know how long it lasts," Ventura said of good feelings still surrounding Humber. "It was a good bonding thing for the team."

Home plate umpire Jerry Layne took a foul from Escobar off the left shoulder in the fifth and was briefly examined by the A's training staff before staying in the game. Layne returned to the box and playfully grabbed Escobar's bat and jokingly pretending to swing it.

"We had a lot of chances. It was nice to get back in the game and give ourselves a chance at getting the win but it just wasn't in the cards."

Paul Konerko
White Sox first baseman



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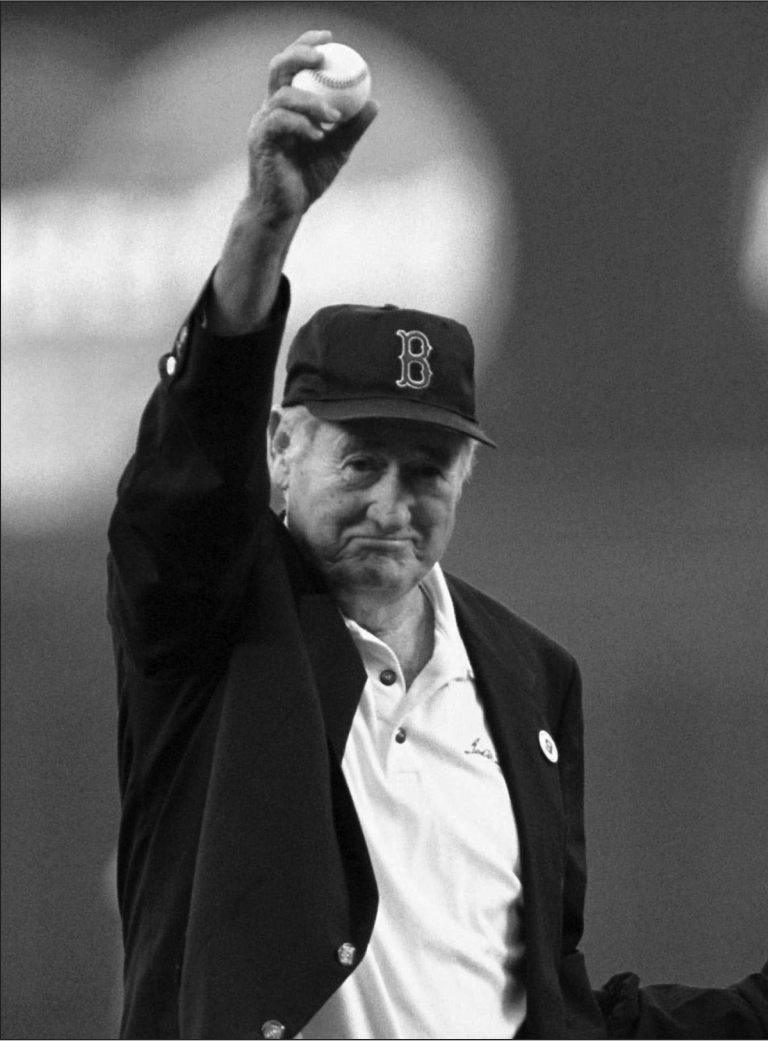


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MLB

Ted Williams memorabilia to be auctioned in Boston



Boston Red Sox Hall of Famer Ted Williams winds up to throw out the ceremonial first pitch before a 1999 game in New York.

Associated Press

BOSTON — He was a skilled fisherman, a veteran of two wars and an accomplished hunter. Oh, and Ted Williams also played baseball.

Fans seeking to buy items once owned by the legendary Red Sox slugger traveled to Boston’s Fenway Park on Wednesday for a preview of the first major auction of sports, military and personal memorabilia documenting Williams’ life.

The preview runs through Friday at the world’s oldest baseball park and home field of the only team that Williams played for during his 1939-1960 major league career. The auction will be Saturday and some of the proceeds will benefit The Jimmy Fund, a charity affiliated with Boston’s Dana-Farber Cancer Institute for which the slugger helped raise money during his lifetime.

Williams, the last major league hitter to bat .400 — posting a .406 average in 1941 — enjoyed a diverse life, including as a U.S. Marine in World War II and the Korean War, a member of the fishing hall of fame and a skilled hunter. He flew 39 combat missions in Korea and took enemy fire three times, including during an encounter that forced him to land his stricken jet on its belly.

“There’re not many elements of his life that did not exude the same excellence as he did on the baseball field,” said David Hunt, whose company, Hunt Auctions Inc., is selling the memorabilia on behalf of Williams’ daughter, Claudia Williams, of Hernando, Fla. “And that is really unique ...

He’s sort of like the John Wayne of baseball and sports of that time period and I think that’s evidenced by all these artifacts that documents his life.”

Among the nearly 800 items up for auction is a baseball in pristine condition that Babe Ruth autographed for Williams with the inscription “To my pal Ted Williams, From Babe Ruth.” That unique ball is expected to go for between \$100,000 and \$200,000, Hunt said.

The ball, which was stolen from the family’s Florida home in the 1970s and not recovered until 2005, had a special place in Ted Williams’ heart, his daughter said.

“It influenced his personalizations to so many kids in the future, as he always loved the way Mr. Ruth signed the ball, ‘Your pal,’” Claudia Williams wrote in an email to The Associated Press.

Others items include Williams’ 1949 American League MVP award valued between \$150,000 and \$250,000, a silver bat for winning the AL batting championship in 1957 valued between \$100,000 and \$200,000, as well as bats and jerseys that the slugger used, Hunt said as workers unpacked the memorabilia for display at a luxury suite at Fenway Park.

“These objects really just chronicle this man’s life and, I think, show how great he was, not just as a baseball player,” Hunt said.

Baseball fans who viewed the memorabilia include Malcolm Merrill, 82, whose son arranged a surprise trip from Hopkinton, N.H., to Boston to check out the

collection.

Merrill said the experience brought a flood of memories from the 1950s when he used to watch the slugger play or listen to the game on the radio. It was, however, memorabilia highlighting Williams’ role as a U.S. Marine at war that made Merrill emotional.

“Just to see him in uniform and to see some of the photographs that were taken with Ted in the Marines almost brought tears to my eyes — to think that he would give up his career . to be in the service of our country ... made me emotionally, you know, surprised ...” Merrill said, trailing off as he struggled to control his emotions.

Carol Barton traveled from Lynnfield, north of Boston, to see the collection. She said she was thrilled to see Williams’ household items, golf clubs, letters from presidents and even a wooden duck collection that revealed the personal side of the legendary hitter.

“Ted was a hero. He was a real ballplayer back when the real American pastime, I hate to say it, but not like these multimillion-dollar guys who only play half a game,” Barton said. “To me, he was just Mr. Baseball, but seeing all the personal checks that, of course, were saved for his autograph, and his own belongings — I mean furniture from his home . his favorite books, and all the awards that he won — it’s unbelievable, it’s a thrill being here.”

Claudia Williams says her dad’s intent was always to auction the items for charity.

“I’m rather certain, in his last year with the Red Sox, he earned less than \$100,000,” she said. “So, my dad was always amazed at the sale prices garnered from sales of sports memorabilia.”

Hunt said the auction caps a process that began nearly six years ago when his company did some appraisals for her.

Claudia Williams, Hunt said, had discussed selling some of the items with her father and brother, who both supported the idea. That occurred before Ted Williams died in 2002, followed by his son in 2004.

The 10-year anniversary of Williams’ death at age 83 and Fenway Park’s ongoing 100th anniversary

celebrations provided an ideal timing for the auction, Hunt said.

“Claudia kept things that are important to her, donated things to museums ... Why not do this in celebration of his life, benefit the charity that he loved and make it a positive thing for everybody,” Hunt said.

Claudia Williams said: “I am incredibly proud of my father. My father lived a wonderful life, and did all he could for his fans, his country, and his family.”

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NFL

Payton to coach son's youth football team in 2012

Associated Press

AVONDALE, La. — Sean Payton played a round of golf with tour pro Ryan Palmer, posed for photos with his ever-supportive fans and then spoke about his eagerness to get back to coaching football as early as this fall.

No, not pro football. Payton said he's staying in constant contact with NFL officials to ensure he doesn't run afoul of the rules of his season-long suspension

in connection with the league's bounty investigation of the Saints. However, Payton's son, Connor, who will soon turn 12, will be playing football in suburban Dallas in the fall. Whether the younger Payton's team runs the double-reverse known as the Superdome Special remains to be seen, but his father plans to be on the sideline and very involved.

"One of the things I'm looking forward to doing this fall is helping coach my son's football team

and doing a few things that you normally wouldn't be able to do" while coaching in the NFL, Payton said Wednesday after playing in the Zurich Classic pro-am.

"I look forward to cutting the oranges, hauling the Gatorade and watching my son play every game — and being a part of calling plays for his offense and doing some things like that that really get me excited and I know get him excited."

While Payton seems to be coming to grips with his suspension, and appeared gratified support at the course from fans — some of whom wore "Free Payton" T-shirts — he was annoyed by recently reported wiretapping allegations against the Saints.

"It's hogwash," Payton said about the allegations that general manager Mickey Loomis' Superdome booth was wired so he could eavesdrop on opposing coaches.

The allegations, made public in an ESPN report Monday, have spawned a joint Louisiana state police and FBI probe. The alleged activity covers a period between 2002 and 2004, before Payton took his first head coaching job in New Orleans in 2006.

"It's garbage," Payton continued. "Obviously, I wasn't here, but I know Mickey Loomis well enough and I would consider him a close friend and professionally one of the best general managers in sport. ... If you really study what he does in the booth, he listens closely to the broadcast, watches the games and for him to begin to try to dissect that language and everything — just the way it was reported was awful, I'll say that."

Payton's suspension began April 16 and runs through the



Saints coach Sean Payton signs autographs Wednesday at TPC Louisiana in Avondale, La.

Super Bowl, which, incidentally, is in New Orleans. During that time, Payton may not even have casual, non-football conversations with anyone on any NFL team without at least notifying the league office.

The pro-am was one such event where Payton had to be careful because Saints running back Mark Ingram attended the event and hit some balls on the driving range. If Payton finds such extensive restrictions upsetting in any way, he did not let on about that after his round of golf.

"It's unimportant how I feel. Really it's just the terms of the suspension and it'll be easy to follow and pay attention to," Payton said. "I told (NFL executive) Ray (Anderson) when we first began talking that we'll talk frequently."

Payton said he phoned Anderson after recently running into linebacker Akin Ayodele at a restaurant and also called about whether he could play in the Saints Hall of Fame golf outing in May. He was given the OK to take part in that as well.

Payton said he'll watch the NFL draft closely, albeit on TV, likely while sitting at home like a fan. He said there were no "24-hour meetings" in his final days of work and that he simply reminded his experienced staff to do their jobs as they have during the past few seasons, which had included three straight playoff ap-

pearances and a Super Bowl title. "This team is weatherproof," Payton said in an apparent allusion to the uplifting role the club played in New Orleans since Hurricane Katrina hit in 2005. "It was built with the right type of players and right type of coaching staff, from the front office and ownership on down to handle the challenges ahead. We've handled them before. We'll handle this one."

Payton was gracious whenever he was approached by fans and signed autographs, including one on a woman's "Free Payton" shirt.

"It's humbling. It's overwhelming," Payton said. "We've got the greatest fans in sport. ... There's that bond that's been uniquely formed. It certainly started long before we ever arrived, but it's gotten stronger since Katrina and the Super Bowl and so there's a close relationship."

Payton said he suspects there will be moments this fall when he's watching the Saints and struggles with the fact that he cannot be with the club, but said those feelings won't overwhelm him because of the enjoyment he'll get from being with Connor and teenage daughter Meghan.

"Often times with what we do, the time we get to spend with our children is limited," Payton said. "So I'm looking forward to taking advantage of that."

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Wednesday, Oct. 17	The Fresh Beat Band Children's Concert		

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SMC SOFTBALL

Belles' doubleheader postponed due to rain

Observer Staff Report

Due to inclement weather, Saint Mary's non-conference doubleheader at Manchester College in Fort Wayne, Ind., was postponed Wednesday and rescheduled for Thursday at 3:30 p.m..

The Belles (24-10, 9-5 MIAA) will play their last non-conference games of the season against the Spartans (18-18, 7-7 HCAC).

Weather forecasts Thursday in the Fort Wayne area call for temperatures in the low-60s with overcast skies in contrast to the mid-50s temperatures coupled with rain that forced cancellation of Wednesday's games.

Thursday's games, however, are not as critical for the Belles

as their doubleheader to close MIAA play Saturday at home against Alma College at 1 p.m.. In order to clinch a top-four finish and a spot in the conference tournament, the Belles must win at least one of two games against Alma (23-9, 9-3 MIAA), the second place team in the MIAA.

Saint Mary's took over the fourth spot in the conference standings after a doubleheader sweep of last-place Kalamazoo on Saturday. In the two contests, which were shortened to a mercy rule, the Belles outscored Kalamazoo (2-27, 1-14) 23-0.

Saint Mary's will attempt to squeeze in a pair of games against Manchester College Thursday, starting at 3:30 p.m. before concluding their regular season Saturday.

TRACK AND FIELD

Team heads to Iowa for Relays



ALEX PARTAK/The Observer

Irish sophomore Aijah Urssery sprints during the Meyo Invitational on Feb. 4 at the Loftus Sports Center. Urssery won the 60-meter dash at the Invitational.

By JOSEPH MONARDO
Sports Writer

Entering their last competition before the Big East outdoor championships, some Irish athletes will get a jump start on the weekend as they travel to Des Moines, Iowa, for the Drake Relays.

Last weekend the Irish captured eight individual victories at the Polytan Invitational at Indiana University while senior middle distance runner Johnathan Shawel and junior middle distance runner Jeremy Rae turned in impressive performances as the only Irish representatives at the Mt. SAC Relays in Walnut, Calif.

This year's installment of Drake University's track and field event is the 103rd running and is the largest ever with 120 events spread over four days. The meet welcomes both high-school and college athletes and will also feature some of the world's top pole-vaulters in a special event.

Notre Dame will use the Drake Relays primarily as a final tune-up before the conference championship, sophomore sprinter Patrick Feeney said.

"Mostly everyone who is going has qualified," he said. "[Most of us going to Iowa] are just running relays, mainly, because Big Easts is next week so [the coaches] kind of just wanted us to get fresh for that."

Feeney will compete in the 4x400-meter relay for the Irish at Drake, alongside junior sprinter Brendan Dougherty, senior middle distance runner Mitchell Lorenz and freshman sprinter Chris Giesting. The Irish foursome hopes to turn in its lowest time of the year against top competition, Feeney said.

"In the [4x400-meter relay], we want to beat the fastest time we have run this year because there are definitely a lot of good teams that are going to be there," he said. "Arkansas is going to be there, Minnesota, Florida, and they all have teams that have gone 3:05, 3:06, some of them even 3:03. Our best is 3:07, so we will definitely be able to compete with [them]."

Still, Notre Dame's main focus is on the Big East championships, which begin May 4 in Tampa, Fla. Senior pole-vaulter Kevin Schipper is among the Irish athletes expected to

compete for a conference title. Schipper has won four titles during the 2012 outdoor season and is currently ranked third in the Big East with a high mark of 5.4 meters. On the women's team, junior middle-distance runner Rebecca Tracy enters the Drake Relays after capturing a pair of victories at Indiana last weekend.

As the Irish prepare for the conference event and continue on to the NCAA national outdoor championships in June, the Drake Relays will act as a measuring stick, Feeney said.

"These are probably the fastest people we have run with ... so it will definitely push us," he said. "Hopefully we can stay up there with them, because if we want to go to Nationals those are some of the same teams we are going to be seeing."

Some Irish athletes not competing in Iowa this weekend will make the trip to Hillsdale, Mich., for the Hillsdale Gina Relays, which begin Friday. Irish competition at the Drake Relays begins today in Des Moines and continues through Saturday.

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GRANT TOBIN/The Observer

Irish senior pitcher Steve Sabatino delivers a pitch during a 6-2 loss to Cincinnati on April 15 at Frank Eck Stadium.

Irish

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pewa freshman right-hander Jordan Foley struggled early, throwing 10 consecutive balls and walking four in the first. But Foley, who was drafted by the Yankees in last year's Major League Baseball Draft, settled down through his 109 pitches in 4 2/3 innings.

Notre Dame's middle of the lineup didn't do much to pressure the freshman, going a combined 2-for-7 with no RBIs. The Chippewas walked eight Irish batters, but Notre Dame was unable to capitalize with the extra baserunners.

"I think the whole thing changes in the first few innings if we get a timely hit, and we didn't. And they did," Aoki said. "They got their timely hits when they needed to and they converted guys that they bunted over. We had guys in scoring position that we couldn't convert. It comes down to them playing

better than we did."

The Irish tried to stage a comeback, pulling within one in the fifth on an RBI-double by junior center fielder Charlie Markson. But Central Michigan added a run in the sixth and two more in the seventh on an RBI-walk by MacKenzie.

First pitch, which was originally scheduled for 5:35 p.m., was moved up to 4:35 p.m. in an attempt to avoid a pending thunderstorm. Rain began to fall hard in the third inning and lasted through the sixth as umpires elected to continue the game. But Aoki was quick to avoid blaming the weather for his team's struggles.

"I would like to think we are a little tougher than that," Aoki said. "But I think the bottom line is that we played poorly, they played better, they deserved to win and we deserved to lose."

The Irish will try to bounce back Friday as they host St. John's for a three-game series.

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Winter

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against the Pirates (20-27, 2-14) and kept the lead. After getting a run in the first inning, the Irish exploded for five runs in the second that gave Winter the cushion to pitch dominantly and earn the 8-0 win.

"We had a great team win and we did a great job all over the field," Maldonado said. "[Winter] got a great start and we strung together a few hits."

Maldonado led the Irish with two hits and two RBIs, while senior infielder Dani Miller added a home run. For a team whose season has been focused

around defense, the offense was the big difference that sparked the team's success.

"The key to the game was hitting and being smart about our choices against their pitchers," Maldonado said.

Problems with the weather caused a slow start to the second half of the doubleheader for the Irish. After Seton Hall

tied up the game in the top of the fifth inning, the Irish had another big inning to seal the win.

In the fifth inning, the Irish scored four runs to put themselves ahead by the final 5-1 margin. Miller hit another home run during Notre Dame's fifth

inning run, pushing her home run streak to three games.

"In the second game, it took us awhile to get started,"

Maldonado said. "But after we started to get hits, we started to play better and it showed in the fifth inning."

The sweep aids Notre Dame's goal of making the Big East tournament and finishing the rest of its Big East schedule undefeated.

"We need this win to keep our momentum going especially after the way the game went," Maldonado said. "These were big wins especially because we want to finish the season undefeated."

The day was a big test for the Irish, but the team still finished with two impressive wins.

"We had a long game, and even though it was tough, I think it didn't affect us at all," Maldonado said. "We stayed focused throughout the game, and each time we stepped on to the field, we didn't seem like it had any effect on us."

The Irish continue their Big East schedule with three games at Providence this weekend.

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ASHLEY DACY/The Observer

Irish freshman second baseman Jenna Simon awaits a pitch in Tuesday's 7-1 win over Michigan State at Melissa Cook Stadium.

Sophs

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Trumbetta, Matt Harbrecht, Eddie Linczer, Aaron Zeese and Jon Chepkevich, had a hard time penetrating Hoops’ defense, which resulted in turnovers and early foul trouble as they tried to stop the fast breaks.

“We played a better team today,” Super Sophs captain Trumbetta said. “We had a decent run and we’re happy to get [to the Sweet 16].”

Although his team had the upper hand for the majority of the game, Hoops We Did It Again captain Bauer was not impressed with his team’s play. “We played bad actually,” Bauer said. “This was the worst game we have played so far. This is the first game where we have given up double digits.”

Going forward, Hoops We Did It Again is looking to hit its easy layups and free-throws.

“We just missed a lot of shots today,” Bauer said. “We need to make our free-throws and put-backs off of offensive boards.”

No. 1 The Legacy of Alex Klupchak def. No. 16 CZ for Days

In a law-school showdown, No. 1 The Legacy of Alex Klupchak, named after former tournament-participant and the 2011 Bookstore Basketball MVP, controlled the game against No. 16 CZ for Days and earned the bragging rights with a 21-6 win.

The Legacy of Alex Klupchak began the game with a massive block on a three-point attempt that ended up flying out of bounds and into the side street, setting a precedent of hard de-

fense from the start. The Legacy of Alex Klupchak matched its strong defense with a hard-nosed offense, taking most of its shots in the paint.

“We play well as a team, we play hard and we play good defense,” former Ferris State basketball player and graduate student Bryan Pasciak said. “Good defense and old man know-how won us this game.”

Joining Pasciak on the top-seeded team are graduate students John Rompf, Zander Shadley, Fritz Shadley and Mauri Miller.

Before the reseeding, CZ for Days was ranked No. 64. In their run to the Sweet 16, the team was able to defeat the No. 1 team. They had to keep facing the toughest teams as The Legacy of Alex Klupchak was originally seeded No. 2 overall.

“It was fun to be in it and get some early wins,” graduate student Patrick Cassidy said. “We were getting top-of-the-line competition and hope that [The Legacy of Alex Klupchak] will represent the law school.”

Cassidy led fellow graduate students Jason Cellier, Jason Torfin, Mike Grathwol and Kristian Weir on CZ for Days.

On the winning team, Rompf — “The Old Man” or “Seasoned Vet” as his team fondly calls him — remained diplomatic about The Legacy’s chances going further in the tournament.

“There are a lot of good teams out there,” Rompf said. “There are five or six teams who could easily win this.”

No. 5 Team Trill def. No. 12 Howard Street Foodmart

In a turnover-laden, physical contest, experienced No. 5 Team Trill relied on a combination of skilled guard play and

physical presence in the post to outlast No. 12 Howard Street Foodmart 21-16, returning to the Elite Eight.

With the courts still slick from a rainstorm, both teams struggled to maintain possession of the ball early in the first half. Team Trill jumped out to an early 5-1 lead behind the strong cuts and sharp jump shooting of senior guards J.P. McCabe and Joe Mezyk. The team maintained a five-point cushion for much of the half, taking an 11-5 lead into halftime.

Howard Street Foodmart senior forward Kyle Obendorf said the wet court made it difficult for his team to generate offense in the first half.

“The conditions certainly didn’t help,” Obendorf said. “Usually, we look to get in the post and work it around a lot, but it’s easier to turn the ball over when you’re passing a lot in these kinds of conditions.”

Howard Street Foodmart gained some momentum early in the second half, scoring the first four points out of the break behind some long-range shots from senior forward Matt Knapke. This momentum was soon put to a stop by imposing Team Trill senior forward Will Gesicki, who made several low-post shots, en route to leading all scorers with nine points. Gesicki also spurred the team’s defense with multiple blocks.

Gesicki credited the guard tandem of McCabe and Mezyk for his success in finding open shots.

“It was the first team we played that had two pretty tall guys, but we did a pretty good job with Joe [Mezyk] setting screens down low,” Gesicki said. “I made some pretty easy layups because they would both

jump for Joe, and I was just wide open.”

With the victory, Team Trill advances to the Elite Eight for the second consecutive year. Gesicki said he is confident his team can break through to the Final Four this time around.

“We’re definitely hungry to get on, move to the Final Four, and eventually make the championship,” Gesicki said.

No. 10 One More Time for Old Time’s Sake def. No. 7 The Twine Ticklers

In a game loudly interrupted by Mother Nature, No. 10 One More Time for Old Time’s Sake kept its dreams of a Bookstore championship alive for at least one more day by rallying to a 21-19 comeback win over No. 7 The Twine Ticklers.

The game got off to a fast-paced start, as both teams utilized a strong perimeter game and saw many of their long-distance jumpers fall. The Twine Ticklers broke a 7-7 deadlock by feeding the ball to lengthy junior center Erik VanEperen, who scored four of the final five points of the half and led the team to an 11-7 halftime lead.

“I just try to work hard without the ball, and my teammates find me when I’m open,” VanEperen said. “They do a really good job of giving me an opportunity to get open shots, and it’s just a major part of our offense.”

Juniors Matt Kilgannon, Joe Williams, James McClay and senior Matt Cirillo joined VanEperen on the Twin Ticklers.

The second half had barely come to a start when the skies opened up, and the teams were forced to the sidelines for a fifteen-minute delay. Coming out of the break, One More Time for

Old Time’s Sake senior captain and forward Brian Schafer decided to switch his team’s defense from a 2-3 zone to a man-to-man.

“We went man [early] in the first half and they tore us apart,” Schafer said. “But I felt once the weather changed, it was a little bit more wet out and they struggled to shoot the ball, so the man-to-man was more effective.”

The defensive switch proved effective initially, as One More Time for Old Time’s Sake cut the lead to 14-13. But Williams soon opened the lead back up to four with an array of jumpers.

Despite the deficit, One More Time for Old Time’s Sake maintained its focus on settling for good perimeter looks and began to chip away at the Twine Ticklers’ lead. A coast-to-coast basket by Schafer off a steal tied the game at 18 and a subsequent made free throw by Schafer gave the lead back to the No. 10 seed. Senior guard Ed Redden iced the game for One More Time for Old Time’s Sake with a layup off a forced turnover, giving his team the improbable comeback win. Schafer and Redden have seniors Joe Idaszak, Wes Howard and Corey Scott as teammates on One More Time.

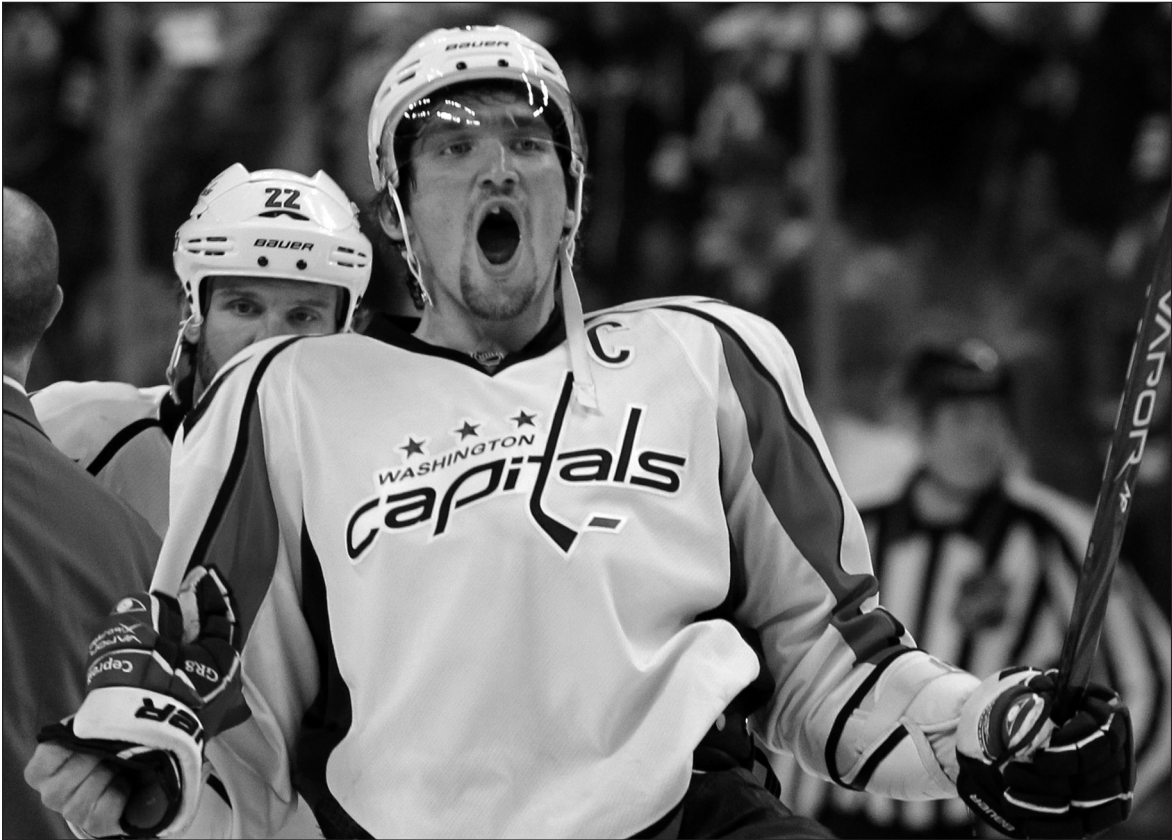
“We’re the underdog, originally being seeded 14th, so winning this round was getting past where we expected to be,” Schafer said. “We’re just going to do the best we can moving forward.”

Bookstore basketball action continues tonight with Elite Eight action beginning at 5 p.m.

Contact Isaac Lorton at ilorton@nd.edu and Brian Hartnett at bhartnet@nd.edu

NHL

Capitals beat Bruins 2-1 in overtime to advance



AP

Capitals forward Alex Ovechkin celebrates Washington’s 2-1 overtime victory in Game 7 of its first-round playoff series against the Bruins in Boston on Wednesday.

Associated Press

BOSTON — Joel Ward slammed home a rebound at 2:57 of overtime to give Washington a 2-1 victory over Boston on Wednesday night, sending the Capitals to the second round of the playoffs and end-

ing the defending Stanley Cup champion Bruins’ hopes of a repeat.

Rookie Braden Holtby stopped 31 shots for Washington in Game 7 — the seventh one-goal game of the series. Matt Hendricks scored the Capitals’ other goal.

Tyler Seguin scored, and Tim Thomas made 26 saves for Boston.

It was the first time in NHL history that a playoff series had seven games determined by one goal. Four of the games went to overtime, and two others were decided with less than

two minutes left in regulation.

Hendricks scored midway through the first period, and Seguin tied it in the second. It stayed that way through a scoreless third, with Washington killing off a penalty in the final 3 minutes to send the game into overtime.

Patrice Bergeron had a chance to win it in the first minute of the extra period, but he couldn’t get off a solid shot from Holtby’s right. Two minutes later, the Capitals broke into the Boston zone with former Bruin Mike Knuble leading a 2-on-1.

Knuble shot, and Thomas left the rebound out where Ward could reach it with his backhand.

The building fell silent as the Capitals celebrated just their third postseason series win since a run to the Stanley Cup finals in 1998. Some fans littered the ice with debris, but the Bruins waited for the post-game handshake.

Thomas, bringing up the rear, gave Holtby a tap on the shoulder and said, “Great job, kid.”

No team has repeated as Stanley Cup champions since the Detroit Red Wings in 1997-98.

The Capitals earned more than 100 points in the previous three seasons, leading the NHL with 121 in 2010, but had little to show for it once the postseason started. They won just two series over that span and have not made it out of the

Eastern Conference semifinals since 1998, when they made it to the Stanley Cup finals but were swept by Detroit.

This year’s regular season wasn’t as successful.

But the playoffs have a chance to be even better.

Entering the postseason as a No. 7 seed, the Capitals won three times in Boston — they also won Games 2 and 5 — to earn a berth in the Eastern Conference semifinals. Their second-round opponent won’t be determined until after Game 7s Thursday night between Ottawa and the New York Rangers, and Florida and New Jersey.

The Bruins needed an unprecedented three Game 7s to win the Cup last year, including the 4-0 victory over Vancouver that gave the Original Six franchise its first title since 1972. Thomas also had a shutout in the Game 7 win over Tampa Bay in the Eastern Conference finals.

But that streak ended midway through the first period when Carlson shot from right point and Hendricks tipped it past Thomas’ right shoulder to give the Capitals a 1-0 lead.

The Bruins tied it with 5:33 left in the second when Holtby kicked Andrew Ference’s shot wide to his left to Johnny Boychuk, whose shot trickled through the goalie’s pads and into the crease. Seguin dove for it, with two defenders crashing on top of him, and swiped it into the net to make it 1-1.



GRANT TOBIN/The Observer

Irish senior midfielder Jordy Shoemaker attempts to elude a defender in a 12-11 win over Vanderbilt on April 18 at Arlotta Stadium.

Wildcats

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four first-half goals, Northwestern took a 12-3 lead into halftime.

The game could have been even further out of reach if not for the outstanding play of Irish junior goaltender Ellie Hilling. Hilling made seven saves in the first half — several from point-blank range — to keep the Wildcats within striking distance.

Hilling, who had a few former teammates from Brighton High School in Rochester, N.Y., in the Northwestern lineup, said she had mixed feelings about the prospect of shutting down her friends.

“I think it kind of hurts me a little bit,” Hilling said. “Instead of just playing like they’re anyone else, I have in the back of my head that I know them and I don’t want them to score on me. So, instead of just reacting, I’m thinking ‘[Shoot], I don’t want them to score on me.’”

Northwestern continued to bring its ‘A’ game in the second half and further built up its lead behind the play of senior attack Shannon Smith. Smith, the defending Tewaaron Award winner, led all scorers with five points on the evening, and kept the high-flying Wildcat offense in gear as they

cruised to the 10-goal win.

While the loss was certainly a disappointment to Notre Dame, Irish coach Christine Halfpenny said before the game her team was fortunate to get a tune-up against such an elite team before the postseason begins.

“We know darn well that [if] you see them in the regular season, you’re pretty lucky,” she said. “A lot of people have to go through them to win a national title.”

The Irish will return to action at home this weekend against Cincinnati. The team will honor its seniors at that game, including attack Mag-

gie Tamasitis, who was selected as a nominee for the Tewaaron Award before Wednesday’s game.

In a possible Tewaaron jinx, Tamasitis was kept off the scoresheet Wednesday for the first time since her freshman year, ending a 51-

game scoring streak. Tamasitis was one game shy of breaking the school record, held by former Irish midfielder Caitlin McKinney, but now the two will share the honor.

Tamasitis’s achievements will be honored Saturday, along with those of her seven fellow seniors. The game will take place at Arlotta Stadium and begins at noon.

Contact Jack Hefferon at whheffero@nd.edu

Plot

continued from page 20

NCAA tournament.

This season’s novel tells the story of a preseason top-20 team with a new head coach and unproven and youthful contributors. But as the season has worn on, the Irish have climbed up the rankings instead of sliding down.

So, simply put, despite the loss to top-ranked Northwestern, Notre Dame is still headed in the right direction.

The difference can only be one thing — Christine Halfpenny.

Don’t get me wrong, former coach Tracy Coyne did great things for the program she initially started, including a Final Four trip in 2006. It’s just that Halfpenny has changed the culture — and, thus, the results — around the program.

The energetic former William & Mary coach has brought both a younger vibe and a high-scoring spread offense to the team that has translated to a 12-3 overall record and a 5-2 Big East mark.

Need proof Halfpenny’s system works?

The Irish have scored 10 or fewer goals just three times this season while last year they saw seven such performances. Despite the loss of All-American midfielder Shaylyn Blaney, the Notre Dame offense is averaging two more goals per game. Six Irish players have registered more than 20 points so far this season, highlighted by senior attack Maggie Tamasitis’ 50 as-

sists and 19 goals.

For as much firepower and flashiness as the Irish offense possesses, the defense is stellar as well, anchored by junior goalkeeper Ellie Hilling. Now with two years of starting experience under her belt, Hilling has strung together career performances this season in helping the Irish to a 4-0 record in games decided by two goals or fewer.

And the stats are only part of the story — the results are the other part.

The Irish have taken care of business against teams they are on the same level with. In beating the Stanfords, the Vanderbilts, the Cornells and

the Ohio States of the women’s lacrosse world, Notre Dame is finally playing up to its potential. While the overall success of the program may be judged by its performance against elite competition, wins over equal competition show much-needed and wanted progress.

So don’t worry about a loss to Northwestern — Halfpenny and the Irish are headed in the right direction.

In 2011, the Irish missed the NCAA tournament. In 2012, the final chapter has yet to be written.

Contact Matthew DeFranks at mdefrank@nd.edu

AA

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The Contribution of Richard P. McBrien

APRIL 27, 2012

3:00 P.M.

MCKENNA HALL

Speakers:

CHARLES E. CURRAN

M. CATHERINE HILKERT, OP

Panel Presentation:

MODERATOR: ROBERT A. KRIEG

PANELISTS: KRISTIN M. COLBERG, EDWARD P. HAHNENBERG AND BRANDON PETERSON

CROSSWORD

WILL SHORTZ

- Across

1

The Rhinemaidens in the "Ring" cycle, e.g.

8

Cracks up

15

Hot stuff

16

Went for on a gut feeling

17

Wing part

18

Their images are out of this world

19

Entrees for one of Dion's backup singers?

21

Ballpark figs.

22

"Who's there?" reply

23

Weapon in some raids

26

W.W. II arena

27

Late-night TBS show

29

Old royal

30

Discounts at garages?
- 34

Laulau side dish
- 35

Singer
- 36

Severely reduced wagers?
- 43

Circus sounds
- 44

"... ____ wed"
- 45

Like a line whose slope is zero: Abbr.
- 48

Sweetheart
- 49

Forum garb
- 51

____ Valley
- 52

What mechanics may do as part of a tuneup?
- 56

Irish lass
- 58

Ones requesting seconds?
- 59

Primed
- 60

Not so fast
- 61

Showed reverence for, in a way

Down

1

One making camp?

2

White-collar worker

3

Antique desk feature

4

Celebrity couples, usually

5

Rookie: Var.

6

Big campaign topic: Abbr.

7

"Great" part for Duvall

8

Danger for wearers of high-heel shoes

9

O. Henry Award winner for "In the Region of Ice" (1967) and "The Dead" (1973)

10

China's Zhou ____

11

Valentine letters?

12

Wearer of a crown since 1952

13

Absorbed the cost of

14

Some A.L. batters

20

"South Park" boy

24

Ringo's drumming son

25

Grp. with a complex code

27

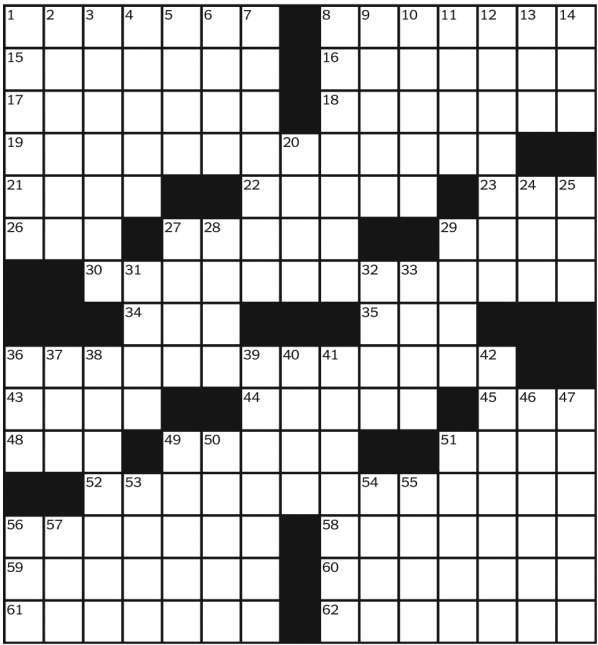
Shorten

28

1930s migrant

29

Casse-____ (French brainteaser)



- Puzzle by Alan Arbesfeld

31

Many downloads

32

"Bramble ____" (book of Robert Bridges poems)

33

Casino collector

36

Certain tooth

37

Flat-headed tool

38

Current principle

39

Start chowing down

40

Opposite of legato: Abbr.

41

U2 member

42

Disturb

46

Met expectations?

47

Brawl in the backwoods

49

In a tough spot

50

Plain

51

Silents star Nita

53

Palindromic magazine title

54

Small knot

55

Very, informally

56

Ear piece?

57

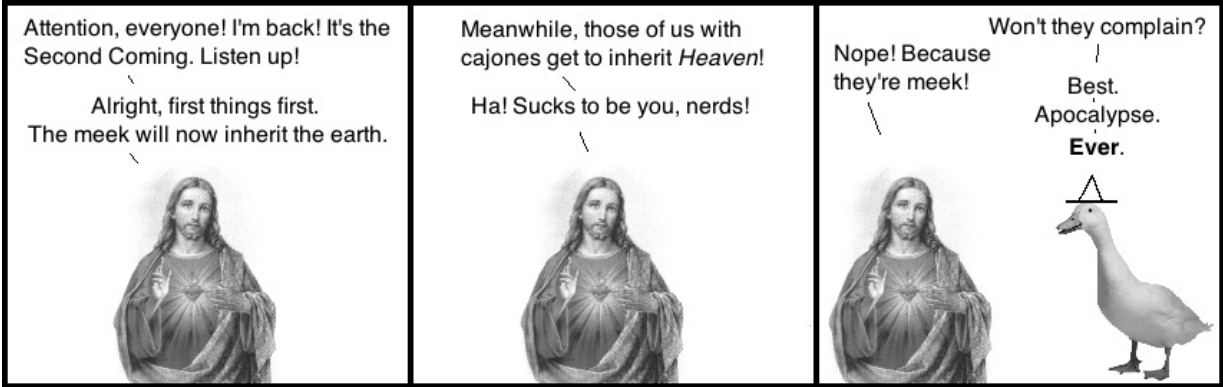
Celebrity widowed in 1980

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ALEX GRISWOLD and LEE HAGGENJOS



ExpND

JON REPINE



HOROSCOPE

EUGENIA LAST

Happy Birthday: Get serious about your future. Take what you have done in the past and market your skills to better suit the current times. You can secure a position that will allow you to make financial gains and improve your status amongst your colleagues. Praise what others accomplish, but play ruthlessly in order to get ahead. Your numbers are 6, 14, 21, 26, 30, 37, 43.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Communication will enhance your love life. Discussing concerns will allow you to make the changes necessary to build a healthy and strong relationship. Interviews, sharing ideas and working alongside your peers will lead to advancement. ★★★★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Take action. You need to move forward and take on any challenge with courage and conviction. Your efforts will not go unnoticed and should help you attract the type of support you want. Networking will help you discover important knowledge. ★★★★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Emotional matters will surface and must be taken care of before they spin out of control. Concerns regarding personal finances will force you to make a choice that will alter the way you do things or how you live your life. ★★★★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Don't wait for others to join in. Make constructive changes. A partnership or proposal is likely to be offered if you are progressive and productive. Once you make up your mind, stick to it, or someone will lose confidence in you. ★★★★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Being stubborn will hinder you. Work out differences you have with peers or colleagues first, or you will be frowned upon. Your ideas are good, but you have to sell them with charm and prove that you are on the right track. ★★★★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Don't let personal matters slow you down. Focus on what's important. Learning, improving and accomplishing things that will help you advance should take top priority. Invest in the skills and services you can offer. ★★★★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Enjoy the company of people who share your interests. A business trip will pay off. Sign up for a course to pick up information or skills that will enable you to diversify what you have to offer. Love is in the stars. ★★★★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Ask for advice and discuss financial options with someone you trust. You may have to work out an arrangement with someone that will enable you to cut your costs. Creative accounting and budgeting will pay off and strengthen your reputation. ★★★★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Not everyone will give you trustworthy information. Find out the facts firsthand before you make a move. Changes at home will encourage better relationships with the people you are emotionally or professionally in partnership with. ★★★★★

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Keep your thoughts to yourself. Impulsive statements will lead to trouble. Put energy and effort into making improvements to your surroundings and your physical and financial well-being. Action will be far more affective than words. ★★★★★

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Make a commitment to the people who count in your life. Steady progress can be made if you set guidelines that will help you stay on course until you reach the finish line. Don't set unrealistic goals. Love and romance are on the rise. ★★★★★

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Listen carefully and you will not make a mistake or misinterpret what's being said. It's important to understand what's expected of you and what you will get in return before you make a decision to accept or decline an offer being made. ★★★★★

Birthday Baby: You are imaginative, creative and diverse. You are altruistic and scholarly.

JUMBLE

DAVID HOYT
JEFF KNWEK

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

USPOY

GITFH

TACIVY

TCLIHG

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Find us on Facebook <http://www.facebook.com/jumble>

Can you help me? I think I broke my wrist. Can't you see we're busy? Go stand over there!

AFTER GETTING TO THE EMERGENCY ROOM, HE WAS HOPING FOR SOME ---

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

Ans:

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: GRUNT ELDER SHRINK APIECE
Answer: The ships left the port in a — CRUISE LINE

THE OBSERVER

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WOMEN'S LACROSSE

Beaten by the best

Northwestern wins top-10 matchup, 17-7

By JACK HEFFERON
Sports Writer

After climbing near the top of college lacrosse rankings with four straight wins, No. 6 Notre Dame looked to challenge for the peak in its game against No. 1 Northwestern on Wednesday. The Irish were unable to knock the Wildcats off their throne, losing to the perennial powerhouse, 17-7.

Notre Dame (12-3, 5-2 Big East) actually jumped out to 1-0 lead when sophomore attack Lindsay Powell scored the first of her team-leading three goals, but Northwestern (15-1, 4-1 American) would quickly respond. The Wildcats, who have won six of the last seven national championships, found their form through the play of junior attack Erin Fitzgerald and jumped back into control. Powered by Fitzgerald's

see WILDCATS/page 18



GRANT TOBIN/The Observer

Irish senior attack Maggie Tamasitis pressures Vanderbilt senior goalie Natalie Wills in a 12-11 win over the Commodores on April 18 at Arlotta Stadium.

Despite loss, 2012 is still different for ND

In 2011, Notre Dame lost to Northwestern, Loyola and Syracuse. In 2012, Notre Dame lost to Northwestern, Loyola and Syracuse.

But if you think the story is the same as a year ago, you would be wrong — dead wrong.

Last season's book told the story of a preseason top-10 squad with an experienced coach and two program-changing All-Americans. The plot fell apart as the team dropped games to inferior teams and missed the



Matthew DeFranks

Associate Sports Editor

see PLOT/page 18

BASEBALL

Irish fall 9-4 to Chippewas

By ANDREW GASTELUM
Associate Sports Editor

Notre Dame's recent starting-pitching success came to a halt Wednesday afternoon as Central Michigan out-slugged the Irish 9-4 at Frank Eck Stadium.

Led by its strong starting rotation, Notre Dame (22-17) had won five of its last six coming into the midweek test against the Chippewas (18-24). But the Irish struggled on the mound on a cold and rainy night, as Notre Dame went through eight pitchers on the evening.

Freshman right-hander Matt Ternowchek started the game for the Irish, but only lasted 1 1/3 innings, giving up five runs on six hits. The freshman squandered an early two-run lead with a four-run second inning.

After the first two Chippewa hitters reached base in the second inning, redshirt freshman second baseman Pat MacKenzie tied the game on a two-RBI single up the middle. MacKenzie came into the game hitting in the ninth spot with only five RBIs on the season, but proved to be a key contributor to the Central Michigan victory with four RBIs.

Central Michigan junior shortstop Jordan Dean added to the Irish woes with three RBIs, highlighted by a two-RBI double in the second inning, which ended the day for Ternowchek, down 5-3.

"In a midweek game, you want to try to get a few guys in there anyways. Going into it we knew we were going to throw a lot of pitchers," Irish coach Mik Aoki said. "We were



GRANT TOBIN/The Observer

Junior infielder Frank DeSico receives a throw at second base in a 6-2 loss to Cincinnati at Frank Eck Stadium on April 15.

hoping that Matty would give us three or four [innings] and turn it over to the pen. But I thought Matty didn't pitch very well. His stuff was soft and he got behind in counts. He is usually a little better than that. He didn't really have it and quite

frankly the whole team didn't have it."

After Ternowchek gave up a run in the first inning, the Irish responded quickly with a three-run bottom half. Chip

see IRISH/page 16

BOOKSTORE BASKETBALL

Tournament continues with Sweet 16 action

By ISAAC LORTON and BRIAN HARTNETT

Sports Writers

No. 5 Hoops We Did it Again def. No. 12 Super Sophs

The rain was harsh, and so was the offense and defense of No. 3 Hoops We Did It Again as it went on to defeat No. 14 Super Sophs 21-12 in a Sweet 16 game Wednesday night.

Hoops We Did It Again compiles four freshmen in Zoe

Bauer, George Stainko, Darrell McIntyre and Won Edwards, as well as Notre Dame sports properties employee Beau Bauer. The higher-seeded team started off with style on a fast break with a behind-the-back pass and a smooth layup. Most of Hoops' points were on fast breaks, coming off steals and quick outlet passes.

Super Sophs, a team composed of sophomores Chris

see SOPHS/page 17

ND SOFTBALL

Winter leads squad to sweep over Pirates

By ERNST CLEOFE
Sports Writer

Facing not only a Big East opponent in Seton Hall, but also the length of a mid-week double-header with long rain delays, the Irish pulled out two good efforts to sweep the Pirates on Wednesday. The Irish stood behind stringent defense and the continued hotstreak of sophomore pitcher Laura Winter.

Winter continued her dominant pitching performances after throwing a no-hitter Saturday. She provided a steady force on the mound with a complete game

in the first game and six innings-pitched in the second game. Winter ended the day with 17 strikeouts, only giving up six hits.

Senior outfielder and captain Alexa Maldonado said Winter is a sparkplug for the team.

"She's done an unbelievable job recently," Maldonado said. "We work off her energy, and when she has been on the mound, she's brought intensity. We played a great all-around game and it helped us pull out a big win."

In the first game, Notre Dame (29-13, 10-3 Big East) struck first

see WINTER/page 16