

A new design



Allan Joseph
Editor-In-Chief

Turn the page.

That's the goal of this newly redesigned Observer — to get you to turn the page. And then to do it again, and again and again.

In years past, our design had a tendency to get in the way of our stories. The way we inserted headshots into stories made text look funny, our headlines weren't very good and our printed copy was just a strain on the eyes. No longer.

The new design starts at the top of this page with our brand-new logo. That logo, however, doesn't mean much without the words to its right — our original mission statement. From our very first issue 46 years ago, we've tried to live up to our mission of uncovering the truth and reporting it accurately. Today, we're putting that mission back where it belongs — at the top of every paper we produce. The new logo reflects that sense of uncovering and invites you to — what else — turn the page.

While the format and layout of the paper has remained largely unchanged, we've updated to a more modern set of fonts to make our award-winning coverage easier to read. We've also reduced the number of distractions in the text of articles, made Page Two more relevant to your day-to-day life (check out that events calendar!) and found a way to add a Sudoku puzzle.

I hope you'll find this new design at once fresh and familiar. While you probably did a double-take the first time you picked it up, it shouldn't take you long at all to adjust to our new layout. If you do have feedback for us, please don't hesitate to drop us a line.

We've got some great things planned for the year ahead, and we think this design will help us bring them to you in a more user-friendly way. But don't just take my word for it.

Turn the page.

Contact Allan Joseph at
ajoseph2@nd.edu

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

SMC students robbed at gunpoint

Suspect approached women on Notre Dame Avenue near campus, demanded cash

By **MEGAN DOYLE**
Managing Editor

A man with a pistol robbed three Saint Mary's students at gunpoint in the early hours of Sunday morning, police reports stated.

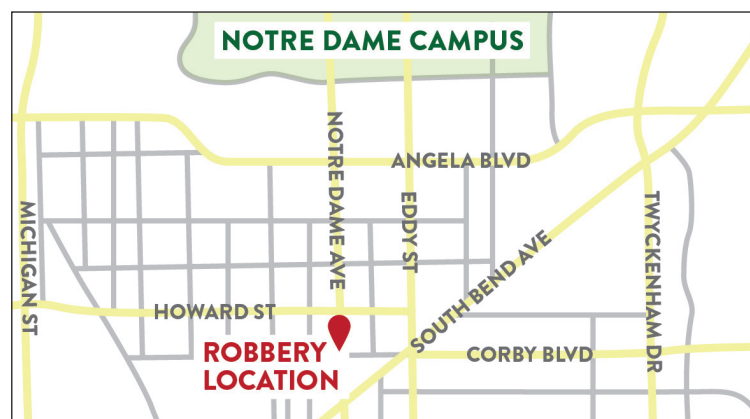
Capt. Phil Trent of the South Bend Police Department said the three women were walking on the 900 block of North Notre Dame Avenue near Howard Street around 12:30 a.m. Sunday morning when the suspect approached them.

One of the victims said the girls were walking from

a friend's house to Brother's Bar & Grill in Eddy Street Commons. The Observer is not naming the woman because she was the victim of a crime.

"I've always felt safe in the area," she said. "It was more a complete and utter shock, but also kind of a feeling that I would have done whatever he asked me to do. ... If people had told me to run, I wouldn't have been able to run. It was that type of scared. It was very surreal."

The girls were approaching Howard Street when they noticed a solitary figure

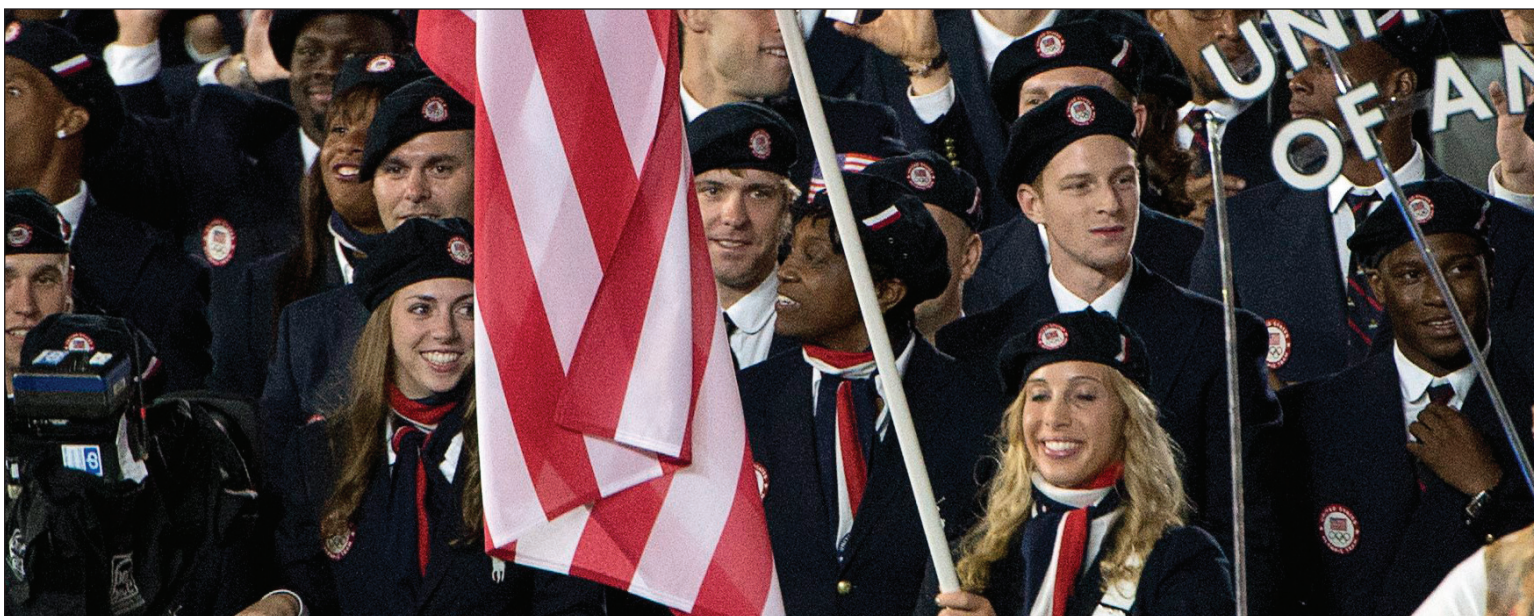


BRANDON KEELEAN | The Observer

walking in their direction. The victim said she grabbed her friend's hand to make sure the two other girls were aware of him as they walked

down Notre Dame Avenue. When she thought he might pass them, he changed

see ROBBERY **PAGE 8**



AP

Former Notre Dame fencer Mariel Zagunis leads the American Olympic delegation into the opening ceremonies of the Olympic Games in London on July 27. Read more about Zagunis' experience at the front of Team USA in our Olympics In Focus section.

Former student faces murder charges

By **MEGAN DOYLE**
Managing Editor

Editor's Note: A version of this story appeared Aug. 10 on ndsmcobserver.com

A former Notre Dame student from Michigan was charged with open murder Aug. 9, less than 24 hours before a search team recovered the body of his missing father, police said.

Patrick Mikes Jr., 21, pleaded not guilty to the charge Aug. 9 through his attorney at his arraignment at the 52-4 District

Court in Troy, Mich., according to court records.

Mikes Jr. would have begun classes as a senior this week.

Patrick Mikes
Former Notre Dame student



University spokesman Dennis Brown said Mikes Jr. is no longer enrolled at Notre Dame as of Aug. 2. Brown did not

comment specifically on this case, but he said the administration reserves the right to immediately suspend any student charged with a felony.

Mikes Jr. and his younger brother reported their father missing July 29, according to a press release from the Troy Police Department. The brothers told police they had last seen their father the morning of July 27 as he left for a bike ride.

As police began to investigate the disappearance, they found evidence of a violent

encounter in the family's basement and named Mikes Jr. as a suspect in the case.

Capt. Robert Redmond of the Troy Police Department said DNA recovered from the basement prompted his officers to arrest Mikes Jr. in what had at that point turned into a murder investigation. Based on that evidence, police arrested Mikes Jr. on Aug. 8 for his father's murder. An "open murder" charge allows the trial jury to decide whether the crime is first- or

see CHARGES **PAGE 6**



SCENE **PAGE 13**



OLYMPIC IN FOCUS SECTION **INSIDE**



FOOTBALL **PAGE 24**

THE OBSERVER

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

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

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

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Corrections

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

QUESTION OF THE DAY:

What was your most awkward Frosh-O experience?

*Have a question you want answered?**Email obsphoto@gmail.com***Ben Brockman**

Freshman

Keough

"Once when serenading the girls' dorms, I was the only one to do the motions. I looked like a chump."

**Connor Brandt**

Sophomore

O'Neill

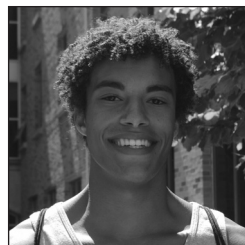
"Losing my keys."

**Meg Cahill**

Junior

Ryan

"The whole thing."

**Kail Walker**

Freshman

Keough

"Running out of things to talk about with girls."

**Sarah Tonti**

Junior

McGlinn

"Domerfest."

**Shane Hannon**

Junior

Alumni

"Splitting dates on the way to Domerfest."



JULIE HERDER | The Observer

Students serve themselves at a campus-wide picnic Tuesday evening on DeBartolo Quad. The picnic followed the annual Opening Mass at the Joyce Center and was open to all students, faculty, staff and family.

THE NEXT FIVE DAYS:

*Want your event included here?**Email obsnews@gmail.com***Wednesday****CSC Info Night**

Geddes Hall

6 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Students explore CSC seminars.

Hamlet

DPAC

7:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.

Last production in the week-long Shakespeare Festival.

Thursday**First Visit**

Basilica, Grotto

9 p.m. -10 p.m.

Campus Ministry introduces freshmen to ND sites.

Movie on Quad

North Quad

9:30 p.m. - 11 p.m.

"The Lorax" is on the big screen outside. Popcorn provided.

Friday**Family Swim Assessment**

Rockne Memorial

5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Water activities at the pool.

Hamlet

DPAC

7:30 - 9:30 p.m.

Last production in the week-long Shakespeare Festival.

Saturday**Biathlon**

Boat House

10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

RecSports biathlon at St. Joe's Lake.

Men's Soccer

Alumni Stadium

7:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.

ND vs. Duke

Sunday**Women's Soccer**

Alumni Stadium

1 p.m. - 3 p.m.

ND vs. East Carolina

Moderni-TEA

Snite Museum

2 p.m. - 4 p.m.

Sip tea and converse about modern art.

Former assistant coach will not serve jail time

Observer Staff Report

Former Notre Dame assistant football coach Corwin Brown will not serve any jail time for hitting his wife and holding her hostage in a seven-hour armed stand-off with police last August, according to the Associated Press.

St. Joseph County Judge Jane Woodward Miller agreed Tuesday to permit

Corwin Brown
Former assistant football coach



Brown to avoid prison after his wife, Melissa, said separating her husband from his family and the counseling he is currently receiving

would do more harm than good.

Brown's wife also said she did not feel victimized in the situation, according to the Associated Press report.

Miller sentenced Brown to consecutive two-year prison sentences, which she suspended, placed him on probation and ordered him to continue to undergo counseling.

On Aug. 12, 2011, St. Joseph

County Police responded to a call from Brown's wife about domestic violence at the former coach's home. At the time, The Observer reported she told officers her husband threatened her with a gun in his pocket earlier in the day. Police remained outside the Brown home for seven hours while a SWAT team negotiated with an armed Brown, according to police reports.

Brown, 42, pleaded guilty but mentally ill in June to felony confinement and domestic battery charges as part of a plea agreement.

Brown was a member of the Notre Dame football coaching staff from 2007 to 2009. He then served as a defensive backs coach with the New England Patriots during the 2010 NFL season, but he was relieved of his team duties in February 2011.

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LaFortune reveals new restuarant combination



JULIE HERDER | The Observer

Notre Dame Food Services announced last April that starting this fall, Taco Bell and Pizza Hut would occupy the space formerly leased by Sbarro.

By **TORI ROECK**
News Writer

Parts of LaFortune Student Center will be unrecognizable to returning students as a result of significant changes the University implemented this summer.

Building manager Brian Fremeau said these changes signify the University's commitment to offering good services to the Notre Dame community.

"Our department values continuous improvement, and all of these changes are part of that mission to provide the best service to our students," Fremeau said. "We seek ongoing feedback

on ways in which we can better meet the needs of students, and the summer is often the best time to implement those changes."

The most highly anticipated change is the new Pizza Hut and Taco Bell combination franchise in the basement, Fremeau said. In April, Food Services announced the duo would lease the space previously occupied by Sbarro.

"There has been plenty of enthusiasm around the opening of Taco Bell [and] Pizza Hut Express, as I'm sure Notre Dame Food Services can attest," he said.

Sophomore Ethan Beaudoin has only been on campus for a

few days, but he said he has already taken advantage of the new restaurant.

"I've been here three times already," Beaudoin said.

He also said he plans to go to Taco Bell "two to three times a week."

Sophomore Nate Cook said the new restaurant is a big improvement from Sbarro, especially the Taco Bell side.

"I like Taco Bell a lot, more than Sbarro," Cook said. "Sbarro pizza wasn't really that fresh. It was kind of old and had been sitting there for a while, so Taco Bell's a lot fresher."

Sophomore Brent Murphy said adding a Taco Bell in addition to a pizza place provided more choices for hungry students.

"Pizza was already an option at Reckers," Murphy said.

Freshman Catherine Owers was one student ambivalent to the addition.

"I've never had them before, and I'm not inclined to go use them now," Owers said. "I feel like there are enough other options."

Owers said she would have rather seen a healthier restaurant replace Sbarro.

"I think healthy is better, generally speaking, but it's not like there are no other healthy options," she said.

The new hot spot for Flex point spending is not the only change to student center.

Fremeau said making changes

to assist disabled students and faculty that comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) was an important part of the University's efforts to improve LaFortune Student Center.

"We worked with the University Architect's office on a barrier removal project to make the building more accessible and meet ADA compliance standards," he said. "This involved the replacement of doors and door handles of offices and meeting rooms throughout the building, drinking fountain and counter height adjustments and other details."

The elevator will also soon be replaced to conform to ADA standards, Fremeau said.

Other changes include a cell phone charging station now located in the Main Lounge and new renovations to the Brother Gorch Pool Hall in the basement, a project that is still in progress, he said.

"We're very pleased with the projects that have been completed so far and we're looking forward to completion of those that are still ongoing," Fremeau said. "It's always exciting to offer new spaces for students, especially since LaFortune Student Center is such an important part of student life."

Contact **Tori Roeck** at vroeck@nd.edu



JULIE HERDER | The Observer

Cashiers at Taco Bell await customers on the first day of classes in the newly renovated space in the basement of LaFortune Student Center.

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Write News.

Email us at
observernewseditor@gmail.com

SMC seniors to house pets

By JILLIAN BARWICK
Saint Mary's Editor

This fall, Saint Mary's seniors are not the only residents of Regina Hall South. The hall has opened its doors furry friends as well.

Senior Mara Scott, who lives in Regina South, said is thrilled to be able to spend more quality time with her cat, Oonaugh, who is named after an Irish Celtic goddess.

"At first I was planning on living in another dorm," Scott said. "But once I heard Regina South was allowing pets to live in rooms, I was hooked. I knew I wanted to live in Regina South."

Scott adopted Oonaugh from the Humane Society in January when the organization was waiving adoption fees.

"I own cats and rabbits at home, so having a pet all on my own was something that I really wanted and really looked forward to," Scott said. "Oonaugh



Photo courtesy of Sarah Miesle

Senior Meghan O'Rourke spends time with Kelli, her beagle which will live with her this fall on campus.

for a perfect dog like him," Gambill said. "He is about 10 years old, and he will be arriving at Saint Mary's sometime next week."

Gambill said Spencer's training and good behavior would make him the perfect pet for dorm life in Regina South.

"I instantly fell in love with Spencer," Gambill said. "This will be a great experience for all of us living in the dorms with our own pets. More responsibility is a good thing for seniors to take on."

Five cats and three dogs now reside on several floors of Regina South, resident advisor Autumn Nelson said.

"The students were required to register their pets before moving in," Nelson said. "They also had to register them with the county."

A veterinarian from the Morris Animal Hospital is also working with the residents of Regina South, Nelson said.

"At first I was worried about smells and noises coming from the newest residents to Regina,

but so far it has been smooth sailing," Nelson said. "I can definitely tell that the animals will adapt to dorm living pretty quickly."

Scott said she is also pleased with how the transition is going with the pets in the dorm.

"By showing the College and the students on campus that living with pets is beneficial to us and our pets, I believe that more students will want to live in Regina South with their pets in the years to come," Scott said.

As Gambill waited for Spencer to move into Regina South as well, she agreed the hall's new policy has been a good one so far.

"Everyone on campus has been so supportive of pets being allowed to live here," Gambill said. "It's a truly great feeling knowing you will have someone you can count on to be there when you get back to your dorm everyday."

Contact Jillian Barwick at
jbarwi01@saintmarys.edu

Charges

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

second-degree murder.

"You have to go through a huge burden of evidence to show a murder charge when you don't have a body," Redmond said. "We met that burden. ... So finding the body wasn't necessary for the trial or [a possible conviction], but we continued looking for the body obviously because it was the right thing to do."

Redmond said Tuesday he still does not know of a motive in the case. In an earlier press release on the investigation, he stressed Mikes Jr.'s younger brother is not a suspect in the case and is cooperating with police in the investigation.

Redmond said the nearly two-week search for a body ended Aug. 8. A search team recovered Mikes Sr.'s remains, as well as his bike, from a cornfield in Oakland County.

Autopsy results determined the cause of death to be blunt force trauma to the head, Redmond said. Mikes Jr. is scheduled to appear in court again to address the murder charge Monday. He is current being held at the Oakland County Jail without bond.

Mikes Jr. was also charged

Aug. 1 with three felony counts of illegal use of a financial transaction device, meaning he illegally used a credit card that did not belong to him. Media reports from the Detroit News and the Detroit Free Press stated Mikes Jr. used his brother's credit card without his knowl-

"The University's thoughts and prayers are with the Mikes family during this difficult time."

Dennis Brown
University spokesman

edge Aug. 26, the day before he reported his father missing. Police have not indicated that any connection between those fraud charges and the most recent charge for open murder.

Brown said Mikes Sr., was a 1979 Notre Dame graduate.

"The University's thoughts and prayers are with the Mikes family in this difficult time," Brown said.

Contact Megan Doyle at
mdoyle11@nd.edu

"Everyone on campus has been so supportive of pets being allowed to live here."

Jess Gambill
senior

has really warmed up to me since her adoption, and she will be a great companion while we are away from home at Saint Mary's."

Senior Regina South resident Jess Gambill adopted a miniature pinscher from Pet Refuge when she moved into the residence hall.

"His name is Spencer, and I had been searching all summer

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Grads aim to make positive impact in community

By DAN BROMBACH
News Writer

Many recent Notre Dame graduates drove away from the dome in the spring, but seven members of the Class of 2012 stayed in South Bend in hopes of attracting more young professionals like themselves to the area after college.

As part of the Notre Dame Engineering, Science and Technology Entrepreneurship Excellence Masters (ESTEEM) program, these students have spent the past two years working with the project, called “En Focus.”

The recent graduates decided to stay in the area for another year to work with En Focus, invigorate the South Bend community and combat the “brain drain” that draws young people away from the city.

Graduate Andrew Wiand said the organization hopes to make a constructive impact in the community by bringing fresh and innovative solutions to some of South Bend’s less efficient programs.

“We’re going to bring

technical solutions and a ‘get the job done’ attitude to some things that might not typically work for the city, like schools, hospitals or transportation,” Wiand said.

Seventy percent of the program’s effort will be dedicated to technical and consulting projects, while the other 30 percent will focus on finding ways to bring community events and Notre Dame students to downtown South Bend, Wiand said.

Wiand said these projects aim to create opportunity in South Bend, fostering an atmosphere that will draw busi-

nesses and young talent from Notre Dame and around the nation.

environment Notre Dame kids want to go to,” Wiand said. “We want to create an atmosphere that attracts people and makes them stay, and in order to do that we need to create opportunity.”

Deciding to stay after graduation and focus on development in South Bend stemmed from an informal conversation with the seven graduates during last year’s spring break, Wiand said.

“We were sitting in a North Carolina bar watching the University of North Carolina play Duke in basketball when we began discussing a

“We’re going to bring technical solutions and a ‘get the job done’ attitude to some things that might not typically work for the city, like schools, hospitals or transportation.”

Andrew Wiand
2012 Notre Dame graduate

nesses and young talent from Notre Dame and around the nation.

“Right now we don’t necessarily have that innovative

potential program to innovate South Bend’s economy,” Wiand said. “We got to talking about things we can do for South Bend, and then pitched

“I wanted to stay in South Bend to bridge the gap between the University and the city that I’ve perceived for years now. As a double Domer from South Bend, I feel I can approach the issue from both sides.”

Andrew Wiand
2012 Notre Dame graduate

our idea to the director of the ESTEEM program, David Murphy. He took the idea into action, put together a board of directors, got us sponsored and got us work to do.”

A Notre Dame graduate who grew up in South Bend, Wiand said he hopes to improve community relations with the University through his work at En Focus.

“I wanted to stay in South Bend to bridge the gap between the University and the city that I’ve perceived for years now,” Wiand said. “As a double Domer from South Bend, I feel I can approach the issue from both sides.”

Sponsors will provide the graduates with a stipend while they work to increase cost efficiency and spur increased development of the South Bend economy.

“Our broad goal is to provide value for these sponsors and for the community, whether it be through cost reduction, increased performance or through a focus on innovation,” Wiand said.

Wiand said he and the six other graduates will move on after working for a 12-month period but would like to keep the program sustainable in the future by recruiting Notre Dame graduates to take their places.

Ultimately, Wiand said he hopes En Focus will help South Bend thrive and adapt to a rapidly changing economic climate.

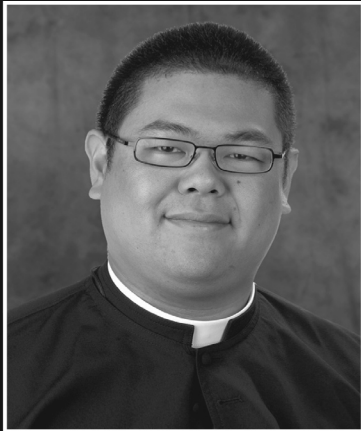
“I think we can make South Bend a 21st century city,” Wiand said.

Contact Dan Brombach at dbrombac@nd.edu

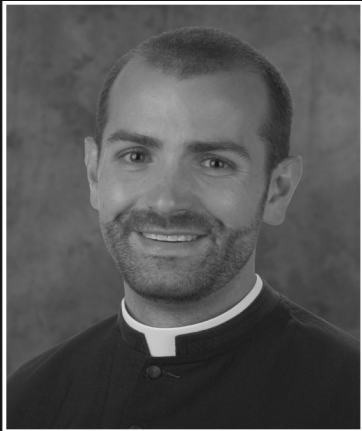
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Constitutions of the Congregation of Holy Cross. 5:43

holycrossvocations.org

Food services director dies

By **MEGAN DOYLE**
Managing Editor

Editor's Note: A version of this story appeared Aug. 10 on ndsmcobserver.com

David Prentkowski, director of food services at Notre Dame, died Aug. 9 at his home in a drowning accident, a University press release stated.

The accident also claimed the life of his 18-month-old granddaughter, Charlotte Chelminiac.

"Dave and Charlotte's tragic deaths are a shocking and

David Prentkowski
Director of Food Services



heartbreaking loss," University President Fr. John Jenkins said. "Dave's energy, devotion and courage will continue to inspire the Notre Dame family even as his death and the Prentkowski family's grief are in our prayers."

David Harr, associate vice president of auxiliary operations, said he knew Prentkowski as a friend and colleague for 32 years.

"Dave had a quiet demeanor but a presence about himself when he walked into a room or operation," Harr said. "He would always advocate in the best interest of the student while keeping his staff involved with the decision-making process from beginning to end."

Students were always the most important focus of Prentkowski's initiatives, Harr said.

"During Dave's tenure, Food Services experienced tremendous growth and enhancement and he deserves credit for modernizing a somewhat antiquated food service program when he

arrived in 1990, as well as addressing the changing needs of students through expansion of the campus retail food program," Harr said. "Dave's leadership with the renovation of the South Dining Hall in 1998 and enhancements made to that dining program remains a strong anchor for Food Services today."

Prentkowski won almost every possible award in the food service industry, and Harr said the National Association of College and University Food Services even named an award after the former director.

"He would always come back (when he won an award) and thank his staff to make them part of the recognition and achievement," Harr said.

Last fall, Prentkowski was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. Even as he was struggling with the disease, Harr said the director remained focused on serving the University and its students.

"When Dave came to me last fall to share the news about his pancreatic cancer, I asked him at the end of our meeting what I could do for him from this point on," Harr said. "He clearly said, 'Business as usual.' Dave did not want any extra attention or sympathy. I know that I speak on behalf of the entire Notre Dame community that Dave will be deeply missed."

St. Joseph County Police responded to the Granger home just after 7:20 p.m. on the evening of Aug. 9, a department press release stated. Preliminary autopsies ruled the cause of death for Prentkowski, 55, and his granddaughter to be accidental drowning. There is no evidence of foul play, police said.

"Officers at the scene were told that the 55-year-old had taken the 18-month-old for a walk while his wife prepared dinner," the release stated. "When the wife saw that

the two had not returned from their walk after some time, the wife sent the couple's adult son to look for them."

Prentkowski's son had just returned from checking the surrounding neighborhood when he noticed the two in the bottom of the backyard pool, police said. He and a friend jumped into the pool and pulled the two victims from the water.

Officers called to the home performed CPR on the victims, but both were pronounced dead within several hours of the accident.

Prentkowski had served as the director of food services at Notre Dame since 1990. He graduated from Purdue University in 1979, and he had also worked at Stouffer's Hotel in St. Louis, the University of Utah and the University of Michigan.

"A seemingly omnipresent and indefatigably cheerful presence wherever meals were being planned, prepared, enjoyed and shared at Notre Dame, Prentkowski twice was honored by Notre Dame's student body with its Irish Clover Award for contributions to student life, in 1998 and earlier this year," the release stated.

Even during his treatments for pancreatic cancer, he served as an honorary chairperson of Notre Dame's 2012 Relay for Life, which raises funds for cancer research. He often spoke openly about his illness with colleagues and friends.

"I've always tried to be the positive person and get them to talk," he said, quoted in the University's press release. "The more people learn about it, the more people hopefully will contribute to cancer research on any disease that's out there."

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Robbery

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

direction.

"He came straight at us and pulled out a gun, told us to get on the ground and give him all our money," she said. "He was cursing at us, like, 'Give me your f***** money.'"

The victim said she and her friends did as they were told.

"He told us to run before he shot all of us," she said. "That was probably the scariest thing he said."

The victim, a resident of South Bend, ran to her family's house nearby and called 911 from her home. Trent said the suspect fled south down Notre Dame Avenue.

The women described the suspect as a black male in his late teens or early twenties, and he was wearing khaki shorts and a white t-shirt.

Trent said the women were not able to describe the victim in more detail to identify him further.

"They were petrified, and it was dark," he said.

When they left their friends' house, the victim

"A few bucks on a cab is a lot better than a situation like this happening again. It could have been so much worse. We got lucky."

Robbery victim

said the women had been warned not to walk, and friends had advised them to

call a cab instead.

"I thought, 'Oh, I'll save a few bucks on a cab and just walk. It will never happen to me,'" she said.

Now, the victim, an off-campus senior, said she would think twice before

"Even a group of three at 12:30 at night when it's pretty lonely out there, that can still be high risk."

Capt. Phil Trent
South Bend Police
Department

walking through the neighborhood late at night again.

"A few bucks on a cab is a lot better than a situation like this happening again," she said. "It could have been so much worse. We got lucky."

Trent advised students to use public transportation or find a ride from a friend when traveling through the city late at night.


"If (students) don't know the character of the area they are walking through, they should not do it," Trent said. "Definitely try to secure a ride without having to walk long distances."

While walking in a group is safer than traveling alone, he said this incident is an example of the way a late-night walk, even in the company of other people, can go wrong.

"Even a group of three at 12:30 at night when it's pretty lonely out there, that can still be high risk," he said.


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Wildfires destroy homes in Northern California

Associated Press

MANTON, Calif. — Dozens of buildings, many of them likely homes, have been destroyed in a fire burning outside the Northern California community of Manton, fire officials said Tuesday night.

Fire crews assessing the rural area determined Tuesday that 50 buildings had been destroyed, state fire spokesman Daniel Berlant said.

Officials didn't have an accurate count yet of how many of the structures were homes,

but Berlant noted the buildings were spread across a vast rural area of mostly residential homes.

The blaze, which was sparked by lightning on Saturday has consumed more than 33 square miles and continues to threaten hundreds of homes.

Nearly 1,900 firefighters were battling the fire in rugged, densely forested terrain as it threatened 3,500 homes in the remote towns of Shingletown, Manton and Viola, about 170 miles north of Sacramento.

As the wildfire raged near

Lynn Rodgers' home of less than a year, the evacuated resident said Tuesday she remained optimistic — in spite of her growing frustration and fear.

"Yeah, but what can you do? Everything is in God's hands — and the firefighters," said Rodgers, who lives in Shingletown.

Like Rodgers, many other evacuees were anxious to hear the latest information from officials. Dozens of people, as well as about a dozen dogs, were waiting at the Redding gym.

"The evacuation part? It's hard because I don't know what's happening to the house up there," said Jimmy Hall, a Shingletown resident whose family spent another night sleeping on cots.

"It's my dad's house...There's a lot of things in there," Hall added. "I've heard that my friend is still up there protecting his house. It's just hard. Look at how we're sleeping."

Eric Kiltz, an emergency services coordinator for the American Red Cross, said "there's more frustration than anxiety, and people, for the most part are grateful they have a safe and secure place to stay, even though their home may be lost."



Brook McDonald, left, and Linda McDonald, right, pack their belongings Monday at their home in Paynes Creek, Calif.

Family questions son's death



Chavis Carter's mother Teresa, left, is comforted by her mother Anne Carter Winters, right, during a vigil for Chavis on Monday.

Associated Press

MEMPHIS, Tenn. — Chavis Carter's family hasn't accepted the official explanation for his death: that he was on meth when he fatally shot himself while his hands were cuffed behind him in the backseat of a patrol car in Arkansas.

The family portrays the 21-year-old as a bright, young man who aspired to be a veterinarian, who liked shopping for sneakers and playing basketball. As questions swirl about how and why Carter died, his family also has been demanding more answers from authorities.

"If he did it, I want to know how it happened," his grandmother, Anne Winters Carter, said in an interview. "And if he didn't do it, then we want justice."

Jonesboro, Ark., police have faced criticism because they say officers searched Carter twice but didn't find a gun before they noticed him slumped over and bleeding in the back of a patrol car July 28. Questions about race have cropped up too, because Carter was black and police said the two officers who stopped the truck he was in are white, as were the other people in the vehicle.

The local branch of the NAACP has called for a thorough investigation, and the FBI has said it's monitoring the case. Carter's grandmother and his mom, Teresa Carter, are also working with a high-profile legal firm that represented O.J. Simpson.

The Rev. Jesse Jackson is supposed to weigh in on the case Wednesday in Memphis before leading the family in the latest prayer vigil in Jonesboro.

Some of the family's supporters marched through Jonesboro on Tuesday. One woman had a sign that read, "Stop the lies!! No suicide." That march came a day after

a candlelight vigil was held for Carter in Memphis and police released an autopsy report from the Arkansas state crime lab that deemed his death a suicide.

Carter had a past — court records show he had an arrest warrant stemming from a drug charge in Mississippi — but his family says there was more to his story. They described him as a good kid who liked bugs and animals.

"He used to always say, 'The world gonna know my name,'" said Bianca Tipton, one of Carter's friends. "Now the world do know his name."

After graduating from high school in 2010, Carter got some general courses out of the way and was planning on taking classes at a college in Arkansas this fall.

He used to go shopping for sneakers with his grandma. Jordans were his favorite, especially a blue and white pair.

"Everything had to match," Winters Carter said.

The ruling that his death was a suicide was confounding to her and others who knew Carter. It's not just that he was searched and handcuffed. They note that Carter was left-handed but was shot in his right temple.

"If he's double-locked and ... he's shot in his right temple, but he is left-handed, that's the part I don't understand," Winters Carter said.

Police have released video showing how a man could put a gun to his temple while his hands were cuffed behind his back. They shared footage recorded by dashboard cameras the night of the shooting and sent out a copy of the autopsy report.

"There's no other explanation to this ... other than that he put the gun to his head and pulled the trigger and that's what we call a suicide," said Stephen Erickson, a medical examiner who conducted the autopsy.

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INSIDE COLUMN

I'm no
sidewalk
stalker

Kevin Noonan
Scene Editor

"I do mind, the Dude minds. This will not stand, you know, this aggression will not stand, man."

Say what you want about the tenets of The Dude's philosophy in "The Big Lebowski," but at least it's an ethos. I, myself, am the victim of regular, unchecked aggression, and I've just about had enough of it.

A good part of my days each week-day on campus is spent walking to and from class. As I'm walking from almost as far north as possible to DeBartolo and Mendoza, I cover a lot of turf on my daily treks.

As I make my daily journeys, with higher education or a nap on my mind, depending on which way I'm going, I often walk alone.

My clothes are often wrinkled and out of fashion (I've already used this forum to discuss my distaste with the University's laundry policy.) I'm often deep in thought, being the spectacular intellectual and misunderstood genius that I am.

And to top it all off, though my wonderful parents graced me with many tools, apparently one of them was not a facial structure that doesn't say "I might attack you."

On an almost daily basis, as I walk to class, or the dining hall, or wherever I'm headed, I find myself often behind a male or female student with whom I am not friends.

And as I walk, keeping to myself, I see him or her turn around to see me following them, and see a look of terror flash across their face.

My instinct in these cases, when I see someone give me a look like I might be the Son of Sam, which again happens at least 11 times a week, is to flash a warm, friendly, non-threatening smile.

But you know what, in case any of you are in this situation in the future, a forced smile is apparently about the worst thing you can do.

Where I see it as a sign of my peaceful intentions, apparently it acts more as a confirmation of the other person's suspicions, and their pace inevitably quickens to a blazing speed.

I get that there are real dangers in the world, and we should be aware of threats around us so as not to be taken advantage of; I'm just not one of them.

And frankly, I'm a little hurt.

So in the future, if you see me walking behind you on the quad, I promise,

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

Blake J. Graham
Erudite Technolust

The athlete is easy to spot. She moves with terrifying precision to translate an object from point A to point B with her hands, feet, head or some other tool attached to her body. She does this with unseemly cool, not acknowledging the pressure of those who watch, nor crushed by the expectations of her teammates. Her talent is on display because her talent of grandeur is indivisible from her person. Wherever she goes, even the misinformed can gather — she is an athlete.

Geeks, nerds, dorks and dweebs seldom wear their identities so proudly. But I have it on good authority — you are likely a geek and it's entirely the Internet's fault.

Fret not. Don't be so offended; sit back down and kindly stop threatening to choke me. It's quite all right to be a nerd. This isn't grammar school. I promise no one will throw a ball at your head for reading a book on "American Stamps Throughout the Ages" during recess. It's quite vogue to be a nerd these days, so keep your chin up.

Geek Chic is a thing these days, making nerds, dare I say it, sexy. You're a hot commodity for at least another 18 months. The highest-grossing blockbusting films are based on comic-born heroes. Horn rimmed glasses are fashionable, and pale dudes with massive egos can create a social network to spite girls who didn't like them and make billions of dollars in the process.

Nerd language is vague and hard to wade through. It's hard to say what a geek is, but common knowledge would point to it being anything but good. While vaguely attributed to a line in Dr. Suess's "If I Ran The Zoo," "nerd" gained popularity in the

early 1950s as an alteration of the slang "nert," meaning a crazy or stupid person.

Preceding that term by a couple decades, "geek" came into use around 1916 to refer to a sideshow character at the circus who would perform strange and spectacular feats, like biting the heads off animals. These words have evolved over time — I don't accuse you of being dull or having carnivorous desires for snake heads. The essential point is that geeks and nerds circa 1950 were people on the fringe of society. Today we still hold that location on the fringe, but rather than be the rejected flock from society, it is us who do the rejecting to create our own normative standards of living, being and interacting.

Geeks don't exist on the fringe for the sake of it alone, but rather are pushed there by two important qualities — obsession and intelligence. It is the combined product of the two, which creates the geek you likely are. Geekdom comes in many flavors and varieties depending on where the obsession lies. There are computer geeks, book geeks, fishing geeks, sport geeks, electronic geeks, indie-rock geeks, gadget geeks, hiking geeks, thespian geeks, fitness geeks, binge-drinking geek, photo geeks, Harry Potter geeks, language geeks and so many, many more.

Until the year 2000 and access to the Internet became widespread, the title of geek was reserved for the arduously initiated. Without the mass proliferation of data, it was a terribly abstruse process to become saturated in your hobbies to the point of obsession. If you wanted to be a rock geek, you had to wait until Nirvana's newest album came out, then you'd have to walk to a record store and purchase, then you'd have to take it home and listen to it, then you'd have to go find your rock geek friends to talk on it and compare

notes. Now, you Google "Neutral Milk Hotel," click a link and shrug while texting your friends, "I liked their earlier work better."

The obsession tied to the psyche of a nerd previously forced people outside of normative society. Folks who wanted to immerse themselves in Star Wars culture had to forego ridged structures of society that would admonish their attachment. The outcasts only had each other, and these were relationships often difficult to find.

If you want to be a master sports statistician, you simply have to type to find the wildest, most precise and comprehensive data imaginable.

Then you can craft an educated sentence about your findings and tweet it. Your self-selected fans who love you for you (data-centric sports comments included) will appreciate what you have to share.

Want to boast about your Harry Potter fan fiction where Professor Flitwick and Trelawney elope and go fight dragons? Just log into MuggleNet and type until your fingers hurt. The community will eat it up, because they feel as you do, and you've found each other online.

The fringe component and general social ineptitude previously requisite for geek status is gone, so I welcome you to turn to one another and smile in your collective geekiness. Accept and own it because it's something you can wear proudly. You're not on the fringe, you're society's heart.

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

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EDITORIAL CARTOON



QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Friendship is unnecessary, like philosophy, like art. ... It has no survival value; rather it is one of those things that give value to survival."

C. S. Lewis
Irish novelist, poet and Christian apologist

WEEKLY POLL

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No, Rick Reilly, you should be demoted

Arnav Dutt

Guest Columnist

I fondly remember reading Rick Reilly's columns when I was in grade school. Reilly's columns were a breath of fresh air in a stifling sporting culture that I felt placed too much emphasis on winning and profit. No one captured the innocent side of sports better than he did. NFL previews and baseball commentary were and still are a dime a dozen. But Reilly's pieces on deaf basketball players and high school teams that hadn't won in years seemed to contain more truth, more joy, more value than anything else Sports Illustrated had to offer.

And America knew it. Sure, each year, Reilly would add new awards to his trophy case. But more importantly, he taught more and more readers each year to listen to the little guy, appreciate moral victories and respect other peoples' challenging journeys. The role he played transcended sports. In

his own way, he was the sports world's Ira Glass or Lewis Lapham, a tastemaker who used his hard-earned resources and reputation to keep our culture honest. His columns reminded us that athletes and fans are human beings, first and foremost.

So much for that. For those of you who hadn't heard, Rick Reilly dedicated his column last week to arguing that Notre Dame's football program should be "demoted" for its failure to win championships and bully opponents the way it did until the early 1990's. He claims our football team's performance on the field does not merit its cut in BCS earnings, its influence on the BCS decision-making committee or its preseason rankings.

"If I told you about a team that had lost 10 of its last 12 bowl games, had dropped nine of its last 10 to USC, had led the nation only in disappointment, you'd figure that team would be halfway down the Mountain West standings. But Notre Dame still gets perks and love from the NCAA and BCS as

though the year is 1946," he wrote in his column for ESPN.com.

His contention is that Notre Dame was once special enough to deserve these "perks," but that the present arrangement is no longer fair.

"Notre Dame is not a national brand any more than USC, Alabama or Stanford. A national brand? What would its slogan be, 'Dominating Navy just about every year'? What kind of national brand loses to freakin' Tulsa (2010)?"

Well, what can I say? You got us, Rick. Shame on us for asking our athletes to have integrity and academic ability. Shame on us for tightening our standards when we eclipsed USC, Alabama and Stanford in national relevance. Though, on second thought, shame on you for not asking, "Would those teams be nationally relevant if they lost four games a year? Would their fans pack the Sun Bowl? Would their opponents' fans travel hundreds of miles to watch them play their team? Are you telling

me enough people care about Stanford football to watch them on NBC?"

Actually, Rick's article showed a shocking disregard for fans and their feelings (whether they love or hate Notre Dame). It measures the success of a program in wins and losses alone. It rolls its eyes at our academic standards for student athletes, somewhat unscientifically accuses our athletes' desire to win and implicitly likening our program to Penn State's football program (because apparently neither program plays by the same rules as everyone else). Classy. I guess that answers the question, "What have you done lately, Rick?" Maybe you should turn in your tiara. If ESPN offers you a contract extension, maybe you should consider taking some time off.

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

Nine rules to live by

Marc Anthony Rosa

Bro Meets World

One of the worst quotes of all time is "college is the best years of your life." It indirectly reminds us that life doesn't get any better after college. It puts us in emotional indebtedness, like we need to owe reverence towards an experience that we've yet to have. We can't settle with this four-year experience as being the most dynamic, exciting periods of our lives, because it means our aggressive risk-taking and belligerent socializing meant nothing for our future.

Our adult lives cannot become shadows of our four-year lifestyle, where passions from college fade to mediocrity. We can't settle for alumni dinners as our only reminder of a life in which we fully lived.

While college shouldn't be the best years of our lives, it is arguably the most important years of our lives. Here, we're forced to understand everything about ourselves. We discover how we learn, the ways we think and the philosophies that make us tick. College is a place where, for the first time ever, we are truly accountable to ourselves. There are thousands of moments — both beautiful and tragic — where success is measured not by the quality of the journey, but by actually having these experiences.

Rule No. 1: Don't be logical about your major. Pursue something that you love to do. The worst thing you can do with your parent's hard-earned money is to invest it in something that you're not passionate about because it looks employable. Don't ever sacrifice intellectual satisfaction in the name of job uncertainty.

Rule No. 2: Don't let schooling get in the way of your education. If I had listened to my professors, I'd be an A student and completely unhappy. Instead, I've learned far more than my courses have allowed and love life, because I spent time learning rather than mastering intricacies of an antiquating school system. You can't teach how to be passionate in a class curriculum. Don't expect to learn it there.

Rule No. 3: Manage your homework and your course load incredibly well. The amount of things you have on your plate

will never subside, ever. Develop the tools now to tackle the things that get in the way of living.

Rule No. 4: Don't waste all of your time partying. Don't get me wrong; I love the rage. But, there's far more to life than getting drunk when it's accessible. Grab a camera, get on a bike and experience, even if it means doing it alone.

Rule No. 5: This comes from a Wall Street Journal Article ("10 Things Your Commencement Speaker Won't Tell You," April 28): "Your parents don't want what is best for you. They want what is good for you, which isn't always the same thing." Despite what you'd like to believe, your parents might be purposefully limiting you. With so much risk in the world, can you blame them? To settle for a riskless, safe life is to settle for a life not lived.

Rule No. 6: Contrary to what we're taught, the most powerful word in the dictionary is not yes, but rather, no. Focus is an unbelievably valuable commodity. To have the discipline and strength to turn down exciting opportunities is something that will make your life more fulfilling and less scattered.

Rule No. 7: Most of life's problems can be solved with good sleep, waking up early and eating breakfast.

Rule No. 8: Discover what it is that you live for. Everyone has it. If you haven't found it, you haven't tried hard enough to find it. And when you find it, you'll know. Take time to find it, because nobody else will. Nor will they give you permission to do so.

Rule No. 9: Do crazy things, and believe in something. When you're 65 years old, you're not going to care about how well you played the rules. What you're going to care about is how you stood up for an idea, a movement, something that resonates with you and that you're better because of it. One of the greatest things in the world is to truly own your own beliefs.

This column originally ran in the April 31 edition of The Observer.

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

UWIRE

Paul Ryan's reality check for America

Tony Buhr

Daily Evergreen

The shining city upon a hill has been looking a little dingy lately.

The United States has undergone tremendous turmoil during an economic recession that was inflicted by consumerism and corporate greed, increased partisan bickering and a government with a spending problem. None of this comes as a surprise to anybody who has been alive for these last few years, but what has been done about it? Nothing.

Thus, I am personally a fan of Paul Ryan. This may seem unusual, considering that I have been accused of leaning slightly left, but Paul Ryan is a hard man for a hard time. He's not afraid to speak plainly, and in reality America has an obesity problem. Not just because of fast food and an intense hatred toward exercise, but also in its checkbook. We truly have become the fat cats of the world and our sense of self-entitlement appears unbelievable. According to the World Bank, 85 percent of the world's population lives in undeveloped countries — all while we pile food into our mouths and spew noxious fumes that destroy the same environment in which we live and act entitled.

Yet, when somebody proposes an honest solution of cutting a major social service — Medicare — that, according to the Congressional Budget Office, takes up 23 percent of our budget and costs \$835 billion a year, we throw up our arms in protest. But in this budget, it is an option Congress needs to consider. I'm not proposing that we cut health services altogether. But, I do think our social programs no longer function effectively and need to see a major revamp that includes a greater dependency on private insurance coverage and increases the age requirement for these services. The first stage of this change was Obamacare.

However, none of this commentary has

yet proven to you that cutting Medicare would change much in the budget. Therefore, let me throw some numbers out there for you. The Congressional Budget Committee estimated in 2001 that by 2011 the U.S. government would be \$2.3 trillion in the black, according to The Pew Trust Charitable Trusts. We have now accumulated \$12.7 trillion in debt. Spending increases, accompanied by a sudden downturn in revenue caused by the Great Recession, led to a country with a deficit almost as large as its GDP. The difference between the projection and reality — according to the Congressional Budget Committee — was caused by major legislative expenses, including Medicare.

Medicare has become a growing burden on our economy and government, and it will continue to do so. According to the Economist, the number of Americans over the age of 60 will increase from 40 million to 80 million in 20 years. All of this leads me back to Paul Ryan, a man willing to stand up, look America in the face and tell it honestly that it has started to look a little chubby.

However, this doesn't mean I'm going to tell you to vote for Ryan's baby blue eyes this November. Paul Ryan might have a realistic approach toward spending cuts, but the Romney/Ryan campaign would also keep the Bush-Era tax cuts, another major contributor to the budget deficit. Truthfully, neither Obama's nor Romney's solutions for America appeal to me. Therefore, I really am stuck in the middle. I wish a viable candidate existed who had common sense and realized you can't balance a budget without both spending cuts and revenue increases.

This column originally ran in the Aug. 20 of the Daily Evergreen, serving Washington University.

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

SUMMER NEWS IN REVIEW

Scene Staff Report



Image courtesy of USA Today

Michael Phelps became the most decorated athlete in Olympic history when he won four gold and two silver medals at the London Olympics.



Image courtesy of Warner Bros.

“The Dark Knight Rises” had a record-breaking opening weekend, grossing \$160 million worldwide. The final installment in the Batman trilogy also eclipsed the previous films by having not one but two unintelligible characters — the masked villain Bane and the constantly grumbling Batman.



Image courtesy of USA Today



Image courtesy of Associated Press

Above: The 2012 London Olympics kicked off with a bang, and by bang I mean they had a 40-foot tall inflatable Lord Voldemort battling a fleet of Mary Poppins.

Left: Kristen Stewart shattered tween hearts this summer when she cheated on Robert Pattinson with Rupert Sanders, the married director of “Snow White and the Huntsman.” No word yet on whether the heartbreak will inspire Kristen Stewart to actually emote.



Image courtesy of Us Magazine

U.S. Olympic gymnast Gabby Douglas became the first American gymnast to win gold in both the team and individual all-around at the London Olympics, and the first African-American woman to win the event.

THE OBSERVER IN FOCUS

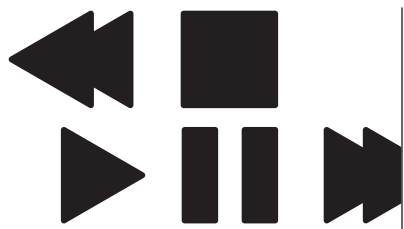
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BRITISH LOVE PLAYLIST



The closing ceremony at the Olympics included some of the all time greats in British music, from the Spice Girls to Paul McCartney. Here's a look at the hits of some of those selected to perform.

01

"Wannabe"
Spice Girls

02

"West End Girls"
Pet Shop Boys

03

"Bohemian Rhapsody"
Queen

04

"Right Here Right Now"
Fatboy Slim

05

"Baba O'Riley"
The Who

06

"Starlight"
Muse

07

"Ruby"
Kaiser Chiefs

08

"You Should Be Dancing"
The Bee Gees

09

"Price Tag"
Jessie J

10

"Wonderwall"
Oasis

11

"Mr. Blue Sky"
Electric Light Orchestra

12

"Dynamite"
Taio Cruz

THE OBSERVER

Listen to the playlist online at
ndsmcobserver.com/scene

Irish athletes experience 2012 Olympics in London



Irish junior forward Natalie Achonwa looks to pass for Team Canada during an Olympic quarterfinal loss to the U.S. on Aug. 7.

By **KRISTEN DURBIN**
News Editor

For most college students, summer means time off from school, working at home or completing internships.

But for four current Notre Dame student-athletes, the summer of 2012 meant traveling to London to compete in the Summer Olympics.

Irish women's basketball junior forward Natalie Achonwa played for her native Canada, and three Notre Dame fencers — seniors Courtney Hurley and Gerek Meinhardt and freshman Lee Kiefer — represented Team USA at the Games.

A four-year veteran of the Canadian senior national team and the second-youngest player in the entire Olympic women's basketball tournament by 40 days, Achonwa was one of 11 Olympic rookies for Team Canada, who returned to the Games for the first time since 2000.

"We were a very young team in terms of Olympics experience, but we've played in the World Championships before, which is harder to get into than the Olympics," Achonwa said. "The Olympics is a very media-driven tournament, so it seems like a much bigger deal sometimes."

Achonwa said Team Canada took the "hard route" to end their 12-year Olympic drought after failing to qualify for the Games in a tournament last summer.

"I didn't play with the team last summer because I was training here with Notre Dame," Achonwa said. "We had a last chance go-around this summer when five teams were selected [for the Games] from a qualifying tournament in Turkey."

The top four teams after pool play in that tournament earn automatic Olympic bids, while the last four have to battle for the fifth and final spot, Achonwa said. Team Canada lost by three points to Croatia in the game that would have given them the fourth automatic bid, so they had to defeat Argentina and Japan in two extra games to finally qualify for the Olympics.

Achonwa said beating those odds made her Olympic experience even more special.

"We battled for that spot ... so I was more excited than nervous," she said. "In terms of everyone else, we weren't supposed to be there. We weren't supposed to win any games or make it to the second round, so it was a great performance by our team."

When the women played on the court in London, Achonwa said she was most proud of her team's ability to deliver on a worldwide stage.

"I'm proud of the fact that we didn't just go to the tournament and seem like we were just happy to be there," she said. "We definitely competed in the Olympics. Although we lost in the quarterfinals, I think we brought light to how well Canada can compete on a world stage and to the fact that we can play."

Off the court, the opportunity to travel overseas gave Achonwa a new perspective on basketball and life in a global context.

"I feel blessed to have had the opportunity to travel to another country and meet many different athletes from other countries and cultures because it broadened my outlook on life, athletics, everything," she said. "It was a great experience overall and I'm grateful for the chance to represent my country and Notre Dame on a world stage."

Though she did not meet any high-profile athletes personally, Achonwa said Team Canada had some superstar spectators at one of its games.

"The USA men's basketball team came to watch our game against the USA women's team," she said. "I saw a lot of high-profile athletes walking around the village, though."

After spending so much time training with Team Canada and traveling to London for the Games, Achonwa said she is looking forward to the upcoming year at Notre Dame.

"I'm definitely happy to be back at Notre Dame, and I'm excited for the season," she said. "It's great to be back after going from spending every day with my teammates and friends and then

going three months without seeing them while I was overseas."

In addition to current students, several Notre Dame graduates and former athletes represented their home countries during the Games. Two-time fencing gold medalist Mariel Zagunis, who took a leave of absence from Notre Dame in 2008, bore the flag for the American flag in the Opening Ceremony. Former track star Molly Huddle, a 2007 graduate, and women's soccer alumna Shannon Boxx, a 1999 graduate, also competed for Team USA.

Alumnae Candace Chapman and Melissa Tancredi, 2005 and 2004 graduates respectively, played on the Canadian women's soccer team.

Four American athletes with Notre Dame connections were also selected as alternates in three sports — Meinhardt, 2010 alumna fencer Kelley Hurley, 2008 alumna rower Amanda Polk and 2009 alumna pole vaulter Mary Saxer.

An alternate in men's team foil, Meinhardt was also a member of Team USA at the 2008 Olympics in Beijing. He helped his team to an upset of France in the quarterfinals in London on the way to a fourth-place overall finish.

"It means so much to be a two-time Olympian and to have served as a crucial piece in our advancing from the quarterfinals," he said. "My most memorable moment was the mental zone my team fell into as we came back against France and realized just how ... momentous it all was for us. Our team had some remorse in falling short of a medal, but ... our fourth-place finish gave optimism as to the future for US men's foil."

Meinhardt said uniting with other American athletes to compete on Team USA fostered camaraderie between the teammates.

"It is a great feeling representing your country on such a big stage, giving everything you can to make those at home proud and to compete to your best ability for your team and country," he said. "I also had the great privilege to attend several events after mine had completed to show support for the rest of our team, including the women's soccer and men's basketball gold medal games, both of which Team USA won."

Now that the Games have concluded, Meinhardt said he plans to focus on his fencing career at Notre Dame.

"I have my remaining two years of NCAA eligibility in my focus, because you never know what can happen in four years," he said. "I am motivated and excited to be a part of reclaiming the NCAA championship for Notre Dame."

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Former Irish standout bears flag in London

By **SAM STRYKER**
Assisting Managing Editor

Two Olympic gold medals. Two World Championship titles. Three consecutive Junior World Cup Championship titles. For Mariel Zagunis, a former member of the Notre Dame fencing team, her list of accomplishments is nothing to shake a sword at.

But this summer, Zagunis added perhaps the most significant accolade of all to her already sterling resume – flag bearer for Team USA at the Opening Ceremony for the 2012 London Olympics.

Zagunis, who competed in the women's sabre event, said in a phone interview last week that carrying the flag at the head of the United States delegation was the highlight of her London Games.

"I am still trying to wrap my mind around how big of a deal that was," Zagunis said. "I think it is not going to hit me for a couple more weeks probably until I look back on my experiences. It is something I am never going to forget.

"It was a huge honor, and I cannot imagine a greater privilege. It is definitely something I am going to tell my kids and my grandkids about."

Zagunis said carrying the flag for the powerhouse Team USA was an "honor and a privilege," accentuated by the high-profile nature of the delegation.

"To be chosen as the sole face of Team USA walking into the Opening Ceremonies, which billions of people watched on TV, is incredible," she said. "We are the most looked-at team. To be the face of that team was a huge honor for me."

Representatives from each sport met two nights before the Opening Ceremonies to select Team USA's flag bearer. Zagunis said she knew she might be the fencing delegation's nominee. She was in a deadlock with another athlete during the final four rounds of voting before another member of Team USA decided to change their vote at the behest of fencing representative Tim Morehouse.

"There are so many great athletes on our team, so I am really not that surprised that it was a difficult decision," she said. "Because there are so many great athletes, it makes it that much more special."

In the sabre competition, Zagunis lost in the semifinals to Kim Jiyeon of South Korea and then the bronze medal match to Olga Kharlan of Ukraine, walking away without a medal after winning back-to-back golds in Athens and Beijing. For Zagunis, failing to medal was a tough pill to swallow.

"Looking back, what I was trying to accomplish by winning [the women's sabre] three times in a row is not an easy feat," she said. "I felt positive and confident that I was going to do it, but looking back on it, of course I am disappointed."

Despite her fourth-place finish, Zagunis will use her experience in London to drive her training for the 2016 Games to be held in Rio de Janeiro.

"All in all, it's not the end of the world," she said. "I still have a lot of fire in me, and now I have a lot of motivation towards Rio. I'm looking at it as giving a lot of fuel to my fire for the next four years."

Zagunis took a year off prior to her freshman year at Notre Dame to train for the 2004 Olympics. A resident of Pasquerilla East Hall and anthropology major, she said the University was "immediately supportive" of her Olympic aspirations.

"They were even more proud I came to freshman year as a gold medalist," she said. "I think throughout my time at Notre Dame, everyone there from teachers, staff, people in my dorm to my classmates, my teammates on the fencing team – everyone was 100 percent supportive of me before, during and after."

Five members of the Team USA fencing team were former or current members of the Notre Dame squad. Zagunis said the fact so many world-class fencers look to compete for the University speaks to Notre Dame's reputation as both an athletic and academic institution.

"It says a lot about the place, about the school, about the sport that they are able to provide for these Olympic athletes," she said. "We are competing at a high level, and to have high level competition, high level training and a high level education all in one is a really unique situation."

Even though she took a leave of absence prior to the 2008 Olympics and has not returned to Notre Dame, Zagunis said she still feels connected to the University.

"I couldn't ask for a better situation, because I know it could be very different," she said. "My time there was amazing, and having the ability to still have those Notre Dame connections and still have that support has always been special to me, and I really appreciate it."

Zagunis said she is thankful for this continuing relationship with the Fighting Irish community.

"It's a big part of my career," she said. "There are a lot of things you sometimes wonder 'What if?' But I never wondered with Notre Dame. I know that it is a big part of my life, and I am glad it is there."

Though she has not completed her undergraduate degree, Zagunis said doing so remains a goal of hers. While balancing high-level training with school is difficult, she has taken summer classes at Notre Dame and in Portland, Ore., where she trains in the hopes of completing her degree soon.

"I'm definitely hoping to get that diploma within the next few years and have that 'ND' on it."

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Olympic interns gain experience working at NBC



Photo provided by Stephanie Aguilera

Irish junior Stephanie Aguilera poses for a picture inside London's Wembley Stadium. Aguilera was one of several Notre Dame students to intern for NBC during the 2012 Olympics.

By **JOHN CAMERON**
News Editor

Growing up cheering for the United States women's national soccer team, senior Stephanie Aguilera had a dream come true when she contributed to NBC's coverage of the gold medal game at the 2012 Summer Olympics.

"I was fortunate enough to attend the women's soccer championship and saw the U.S. women win gold," Aguilera said. "Watching Hope Solo and Alex Morgan dominate the game was the highlight of my summer."

Aguilera was one of a several Notre Dame students who interned with NBC during its coverage of the 2012 London Summer Olympics. Aguilera was stationed in London with NBC Telemundo, which provided Spanish-language broadcasting of the games.

"My position was 'runner,' which meant my [daily work] varied," she said. "I arrived before the production crews to set up the office before the games and I helped interview athletes in the [Olympic] Village and assisted the broadcast manager."

Also a runner stationed in London, senior Christopher Palmquist was assigned to the daytime production segment. Palmquist's duties often involved providing hospitality and assistance to athletes, commentators and personalities before and after their time on camera.

Through his role, Palmquist encountered a number of prominent Olympians, including gymnast Gabby Douglas, diver David Boudia, speed skater Apolo Ohno and tennis player Serena Williams. He said the most rewarding interaction, however, came through a conversation with a gold medalist from a less high-profile sport.

"The greatest person I met was Kayla Harrison, who won the first gold medal in judo for the United States," he said. "She shared her story of overcoming a coach that sexually abused her when she was a teenager. Her story was phenomenal, and nobody, I think, deserved the gold medal more than she."

Senior Marta Stepien's

experience differed from the runners'. Stepien interned as a production assistant with the NBC Soccer Channel and was stationed at the NBC headquarters in New York City.

"As a marketing major, I had very little knowledge of the intricate detail that comes with production and editing ... Though I may not be using those skills explicitly in the near future, simply being in the working world was very insightful."

Marta Stepien
Irish senior

"My job was to log the games as they were coming from London and either send them to the live feed everyone at home was seeing, or to assist in editing the games and formatting them into playlists to be aired later in the day," Stepien said.

Though she did not experience the Games in person, Stepien said building connections with coworkers was a highlight of her experience.

"The best part of the job was spending time with my coworkers, producers and talent who would come into the studio to do the play-by-play and announcing," she said. "The days and the hours were extremely long, but with the personalities we had in the office, every day was more fun than the last."

Stepien said working in a broadcast environment was something she might normally not have experienced as a student pursuing a degree in business.

"As a marketing major, I had very little knowledge of the intricate detail that comes with production and editing," she said. "Though I may not be using those skills explicitly in the near future, simply being in the working world

was very insightful."

As a student majoring in Film, Television and Theatre (FTT), Palmquist said he was immediately drawn to the opportunity when he learned about the NBC intern program.

"I hope to have a career in sports journalism after graduation," Palmquist said. "When I realized I could no longer play sports [competitively], I decided to pursue a job talking about them. Hopefully this internship will help with that."

Although Aguilera doesn't have explicit plans to pursue a media-related career, she said the opportunity perfectly complemented her interests.

"I found out about the internship through my friends," she said. "They directed me to the Career Center website because it was perfect for my interests in television and sports. I was interested as an FTT major and because I've always wanted to go to the Olympics. I knew it would be a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity."

The interns underwent an extensive application process, said LoriAnn Edinborough, program director for the Global Internship Initiative at the Career Center.

"The process began very early," Edinborough said. "The internships were posted on the GoIrish! system in March of 2011, with interviews being conducted in April of 2011 and decisions being made that July of 2011, so more than a year ahead. It was quite competitive. 70 students applied and 17 were ultimately selected to participate."

Edinborough said the competitive selection process was fitting for such a special opportunity.

"Working for NBC is certainly a very prestigious name for a resume, and then to couple that with the Olympics is even more so," she said. "For those who want to pursue a career in the media industry, being able to spend this time entrenched in the work ... gave them a unique insight into being able to learn and develop skills that you just can't experience in a classroom."

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Semifinal match filled with Domers

By **MATTHEW ROBISON**
Sports Writer

Canada and the United States squared off in their Olympic semifinal in Manchester, England, but the Aug. 6 game actually had a hint of Irish influence.

The Fighting Irish, that is.

Two members of the Canadian Olympic team and one member of the American team took part in the epic 4-3 American victory that would go down as one of the greatest Olympic soccer matchups of all time. Defenders Melissa Tancredi and Candace Chapman represented Notre Dame for the Canadian side, and American midfielder Shannon Boxx played for the Americans. Though Boxx missed the semifinal match due to injury, she started in mid-field for the gold medal-winning Americans in all other matches.

Irish coach Randy Waldrum watched the game from the United States with pride. He saw two of his former players in Tancredi and Chapman represent their home country at the highest possible level. He saw a great display of the growing appeal of women's soccer, and he saw Notre Dame represented on the world's stage.

"I was really, really proud of both teams and all three of the players," Waldrum said. "I thought it was great for them individually, I thought it was great for women's soccer and I thought it was great for Notre Dame to have that kind of representation."

For Waldrum, it was an added bonus that the game was one of the greatest women's soccer games in Olympic history. Three times Canada led the United States, pulling ahead each time with a goal by forward Christine Sinclair. Sinclair used goals in the 22nd, 67th and 77th minutes to notch a hat trick. Three times the Americans answered — with goals from midfielder Megan Rapinoe in the 54th and

70th minutes, forward Abby Wambach in the 80th minute and a last-minute stunner by forward Alex Morgan in the 120th minute, deep into extra time.

"It was a great game," Waldrum said. "It was a really good advertisement for the women's game, in particular to have both those teams medal. With the gold going to the U.S. and the bronze going to Canada, it says an awful lot about our input into those kids' development."

Even with players representing the Irish on both sides, Waldrum said he did not feel torn. Rather, he said he was glad to know, one way or another, a former Notre Dame player would have a shot at a gold medal.

"There wasn't going to be any way we were going to lose,"

"I was really, really proud of both teams and all three of the players ... I thought it was great for women's soccer and I thought it was great for Notre Dame to have that kind of representation."

Randy Waldrum
Irish coach

Waldrum said. "We had players on both teams. It was going to be a win-win regardless. It really makes you proud to see them do as well as they've done."

The U.S. went on to beat Japan 2-1 in the gold-medal match, and Canada claimed bronze by defeating France 1-0.

Tancredi, a 2004 graduate of Notre Dame, was a tri-captain in her senior year, a 2003 first-team All-Big East selection and

the 2003 Big East Defender of the Year. Tancredi has appeared in 88 international matchups and has started 72 games, scoring 22 goals. The Hamilton, Ont., native also represented Canada in the 2008 Summer Games.

"Melissa Tancredi did some great things for Canada, with four goals and two assists [in the tournament]," Waldrum said. "She really kind of had her break-out international moment."

Chapman played for the Irish from 2001-2004, winning the 2002 Big East Defender of the Year award, being named first-team All-Big East in 2001 and 2002 as a defender and first-team All-Big East as a forward in 2004.

Although Chapman did not play in the semifinal against the U.S., she has represented Canada twice in the Olympic Games, dating back to Beijing in 2008. The Ajax, Ont., native has appeared in 114 international games and started 103, scoring six goals.

"Candace Chapman, even though she was injured in that game, she's the second most capped player in Canada in terms of international appearances," Waldrum said. "So she's really made a name for herself in Canada above and beyond just this past Olympics."

On the American side, Boxx represented the United States for the third straight Olympic Games, winning gold all three times. She is only the fourth Notre Dame athlete to participate in the Games three times.

The Torrance, Calif., native graduated from Notre Dame in 1999 after a dazzling collegiate career. She took the Irish to the College Cup three times and won a national championship in 1995. She scored 39 goals and recorded 57 assists during her time with the Irish.

As an international player, Waldrum said Boxx has been a mainstay for the U.S. for a number of years. In 2005, Boxx placed



Canadian defender Melissa Tancredi battles for a header during Canada's 4-3 semifinal loss to the U.S. on Aug. 6.

third in voting for the FIFA Women's World Player of the Year award.

After three National Championships in 1995, 2004 and 2010, the performance of the trio in Olympic competition provided further evidence for Notre Dame's significant presence in the women's soccer community.

"What it does is it helps the rest of the soccer community to realize the kind of standard — the level — that our kids are competing at and training at every day," Waldrum said. "I think it's a testament not only to our coaches here and our program, but everything it involves. We have the best of everything — our nutritionist, our athletics facilities. We have a great sports psychologist, our strength and conditioning coach. Each and every one of those people played a role in those kids' development."

"I think it's just kind of a testament not only to women's soccer here, but [also] the entire University and what we provide for our student athletes across the board," he said.

The achievements of past Irish players point not only to the program's history, but also to where it could be in the future, Waldrum said.

"I think it shows, from a recruiting standpoint for those looking to come to Notre Dame, the kind of support [players are] going to get," Waldrum said. "Most importantly, they're going to get a great education. But you add to it all the things we can do for them as a student-athlete. There are just not many schools that can do those things. It's a huge boost to all of us involved in it."

Even beyond the Olympics, current and former Irish players represent Notre Dame at a variety of levels.

"We've had so many kids who have gone on to represent either women's pro teams in the two different pro leagues that have been in existence or have gone onto play for international teams," Waldrum said.

"We've got two [players] right now with [junior midfielder] Mandy Laddish and [freshman midfielder] Cari Roccaro ... who are off in Japan right now playing for the U.S. in the Under-20 Youth World Cup," Waldrum said. "Anytime you have those things happen, you're like a parent. You're just really proud because they're your kids."

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American defender Shannon Boxx, center, leads her teammates in celebration following Lauren Cheney's goal during group play of the 2011 World Cup. Boxx and the rest of the U.S. captured a gold medal in the Olympics.



'Hamlet' hits DPAC

By **KEVIN NOONAN**
Scene Editor

The Notre Dame Shakespeare Festival (NDSF) closes this weekend with its production of Shakespeare's classic, "Hamlet."

The festival, which began mid-July, concludes with this performance by the Professional Company, Notre Dame's professional theatre company in residence.

The story follows Hamlet, a Danish prince who is the son of the recently-deceased king and nephew of the newly-crowned king. After a visit from a ghost who claims to be his father, Hamlet learns his father's death was no accident. The ghost reveals Hamlet's uncle had actually murdered the former king. As Hamlet determines whether or not to exact revenge, Hamlet enters a state of feigned madness in order to avoid suspicion from his uncle.

The play's brooding journey toward vengeance and the internal conflict it causes in the titular character have fascinated audiences for centuries, and it is regarded by some critics as one of the greatest plays in English history.

This version, however, may be one of the most relatable for students. In addition to being modern dress instead of a more old fashioned costume, producing artistic director Jay Paul Skelton said it's fast — relatively speaking.

"This particular Hamlet is probably one of the shortest

Hamlets that I've seen," Skelton said. "[Director] David [Bell] and I agreed that we needed to tell the story, but in a way that was very quick, and energetic, yet gave full flavor to what Hamlet is all about."

Director David Bell is at the head of Shakespeare at Notre Dame for the third time, previously directing "The Merchant of Venice" in 2011 and "Twelfth Night" in 2009. Bell is highly regarded both nationally and internationally, Skelton said, and he has a grip on a story that many may feel like they already know.

"[David] discovered [through the abridging process] how to make the show really dynamic and exciting and this incredible amount of forward momentum, because we all kind of know the play, and what he wanted to try to do was rediscover the surprise of the play," Skelton said.

Bell, in addition to being a regular director in the Chicago area, is a professor at Northwestern University, which Skelton said gives him a good understanding of the importance of balancing professional theater and the educational experience of a festival at a university.

An experienced group of actors fills out the cast. Andy Truschinski, who performed in NDSF's production of "The Merchant of Venice," stars as Hamlet. Broadway veteran Lisa Brescia joins him on stage in the role of Hamlet's mother, Gertrude, and Chicago Shakespeare Theater member Elizabeth Ledo as Hamlet's equally-tormented love interest, Ophelia.

Even if an actor has done Shakespeare before, Skelton said each experience would be a different one.

"A director may say, 'Have you thought about this? You might have played this scene before but have you ever thought about this aspect of the scene?'" he said. "And especially if that actor has played the same role, he or she hasn't played the same role opposite the other person before, so that person is going to give you a whole bunch of different information, and invite you to respond differently than you might have responded to a different actor."

The show started Tuesday night and runs through Sunday night at the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center. Tickets and performance times are available through the DPAC website, performingarts.nd.edu.

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On Campus

What: "Hamlet," presented by Shakespeare at Notre Dame
Where: DPAC

When: Today through Sunday, August 26

How Much: \$14 with student ID

Learn More: performingarts.nd.edu

SUMMER MOVIE WRAP-UP

Scene Staff Report

"Abraham Lincoln: Vampire Hunter"

Easily the most underrated film of the summer, "Vampire Hunter" rewrote history in its own fantastical, ridiculous and awesomely fun way. Critics lambasted the film for taking itself too seriously and having a plot that was simultaneously complex and uninteresting, among other failures. But what the film lacked in Oscar potential, it made up in Abraham Lincoln exploding through vampires with an axe. Don't even try to say that's not awesome, because it is.

"Prometheus"

In the wake of one of the creepiest and most awe-inspiring trailers of the summer, as well as a number of equally intriguing Internet marketing campaigns, "Prometheus" rolled into theaters with high expectations. But director Ridley Scott, who many credit with redefining the sci-fi genre in the 1970s and '80s, missed the mark with this one. While definitely creepy from start to finish, the movie runs too long, gets too confusing, tries to accomplish too much and does too little to be the grand return to science fiction it was hailed as.

"The Bourne Legacy"

The return of the action series that cemented Matt Damon as a legitimate star came without Damon, without Paul Greengrass — who directed the second and third films in the series — and without a Robert Ludlum novel as its base, which further distinguished the movie from its

predecessors. But to overcome these obstacles, the film offers rising action star Jeremy Renner and proven writer-director Tony Gilroy, who co-wrote the first three films. The film continues the storyline of the first three films and has many similar elements, such as big action sets and car chases. However, Renner's screen presence makes the film stand on its own. Despite an abrupt ending and a few too many scenes of people talking about things the audience isn't supposed to completely understand, the film as a whole works as a solid continuation in the series.

"The Amazing Spider-Man"

"The Amazing Spider-Man," starring Andrew Garfield and Emma Stone, was a fabulous start to the 2012 summer movie season. It was thrilling and well cast. The movie was packed with surprising plot twists, but it was the on-screen chemistry of the cast that held the story together. Peter Parker's relationships with his aunt, uncle and Gwen captured the viewer's attention and helped to flesh out the intricacies of the character's life and Spider-Man's development. The film definitely ranks among the best of the summer.

"Snow White and the Huntsman"

"Snow White and the Huntsman" definitely does not tear a page from the "Snow White" story of Disney fame. This Snow White tale features Kristen Stewart in the lead role, flanked by Chris Hemsworth as the Huntsman and Charlize Theron as the Evil Queen. While it's not the happy tale so loved by many of our preschool selves, this summer blockbuster deserves its praise. Despite Stewart's

ever-present lack of emotional range, the dark overtones and eerie special effects redeem the film and make an impressive addition to the growing collection of slightly-twisted fairy tales.

"Brave"

Merida, heroine of Disney Pixar's "Brave," became the newest member of the Disney princess family with the film's release at the beginning of this summer. Merida doesn't quite fit the family mold, however. She makes the rare decision to refuse a prince (even Mulan finds her match in Shang) and retains both parents (despite the fact her mother temporarily becomes a bear). These two facts alone make "Brave" an impressive example of a possible change in the modern Disney princess storyline. "Brave" is no "Tangled," but its Scottish brogues and brilliant animation make it another solid Disney production.

"The Dark Knight Rises"

The last film of director Christopher Nolan's Batman trilogy, "The Dark Knight Rises" was one of the most anticipated movies of the summer, and it definitely surpassed many viewers' expectations. After eight years in hiding, Batman (Christian Bale) comes back to save Gotham from a new terrorist group lead by Bane (Tom Hardy). Although many in the city first considered the superhero an enemy, Batman's incredible actions give the people of Gotham the confidence they need to help their hero and defeat Bane. This movie has a very interesting and active plot, good acting and great special effects. "The Dark Knight Rises" is not to be missed.

SPORTS AUTHORITY

Nationals shake up NL East rankings



Joseph Monardo
Sports Writer

Everyone knew the team in red would reign atop the NL East this year. Before this season's first pitch, everyone picked the other team in red to occupy the fourth position in the division.

But we all had it wrong.

The Washington Nationals, expected to finish in the bottom half of their division before the 2012 season, sit securely in first place and own baseball's best record. Meanwhile, the mighty Philadelphia Phillies have disappointed everyone who picked them to finish first in the NL East before the season by falling to fourth place, 19 games out of the pennant position and on the wrong side of .500 by nine games.

Read that paragraph again, because if you or anyone else try to fool yourself into thinking you saw this coming, I would argue you didn't. Nobody did. I sure didn't. Even the experts got this one wrong.

Before the season, Baseball Prospectus picked the Nationals to finish fourth in the NL East. Sports Illustrated pegged Washington as the division's third-place team. ESPN, in this year's inaugural edition of their weekly power ranking, put the Nationals at fourth in the division and as the 16th-best team in baseball.

It is not that we couldn't have believed the Nationals would be good this year. With young arms as talented as Steven Strasburg, Jordan Zimmerman and Gio Gonzalez in the rotation and spectacted studs like Tyler Clippard in the bullpen, the Nationals pitching staff is getting it done on talent, not luck. Washington, D.C.'s team is just as well stocked on offense. Ryan Zimmerman and Michael Morse have the corner positions locked down and names like Jayson Werth and Bryce Harper provide serious star power in the outfield. Even though Morse and Werth have both missed time due to injury, the Nationals have exceeded any reasonable expectations of success.

So we knew Washington could be good, but not this good.

Equally as stunning as the meteoric rise by the team from our nation's capital is the incredible demise of the team from our nation's former capital. Philadelphia has been downright dreadful, and there is no other way to put it. For a team spending over \$170 million this season, the Phillies are doing an awfully good impression of the Houston Astros.

Of their incredibly rich starting staff, only Cole Hamels is having a standout season at 14-6 with an ERA under 3. Meanwhile, Cliff Lee (2-7, 3.83 ERA) and Roy Halladay (7-7, 3.95) have struggled to get

wins while coupled with a faltering offense.

Currently leading that Philadelphia offense in four major categories is outfielder Hunter Pence, who left the team more than 20 days ago. Despite landing in San Francisco after a July 31 trade, Pence still leads his old team in batting average (.271), home runs (17), RBI (59) and OBP (.336). By sending outfielder Shane Victorino to the Dodgers on the same day as Pence's departure, the Phillies officially stumbled out of the playoff hunt. Marking one more low point in the Phillies' season, the Philly phans put an end to the 257 consecutive-games sellout streak by failing to fill the stadium during an Aug. 6 meeting with the Atlanta Braves.

Granted, with injuries to Ryan Howard and Chase Utley and an aging team overall, the Phillies' prospects for this season looked slightly bleaker than last year's MLB-best 102 wins.

So we knew Philadelphia could be bad, but not this bad.

Philadelphia failed to meet expectations, but perhaps the expectations were too generous. With names like Hamels, Halladay, Lee, Papelbon, Rollins, Pence, Utley, Howard, Victorino and more, baseball fans begin counting the wins in their heads. Clearly, for this year at least, all those names don't carry with them the amount production normally associated with them.

On the other side of the spectrum is the youth-powered uprising in Washington. At the beginning of the season, Bryce Harper was a spoiled minor-leaguer who blew kisses at pitchers and grew ugly mustaches. Steven Strasburg was a fragile youngster coming off serious surgery. Clippard was a setup man, and Danny Espinosa and Ian Desmond were little more than nobodies with some promise. However, all of them produced at a level far above the expected amount.

One team's players played well and found ways to produce when teammates went down with injuries, the other's did not.

As the season nears its final month, a team from the NL East once again leads the majors in wins and figures to compete for the World Series. The team has a power-hitting first baseman, three aces, a strong closer and a superstar first outfielder. But for once, it's not the Phillies.

The Nationals have arrived, and the Phillies were nice enough to make room at the top.

Contact Joseph Monardo at jmonardo@nd.edu

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

MLB

Clemens heads to minors

Associated Press

SUGAR LAND, Texas — Hours after Roger Clemens agreed to join the Sugar Land Skeeters, he was back on the field playing in an over-50 softball league.

And the ultra-competitive Clemens, now a half-century old, was quick to point out just how well he did against that group of geezers.

"I hit two homers, by the way," he said.

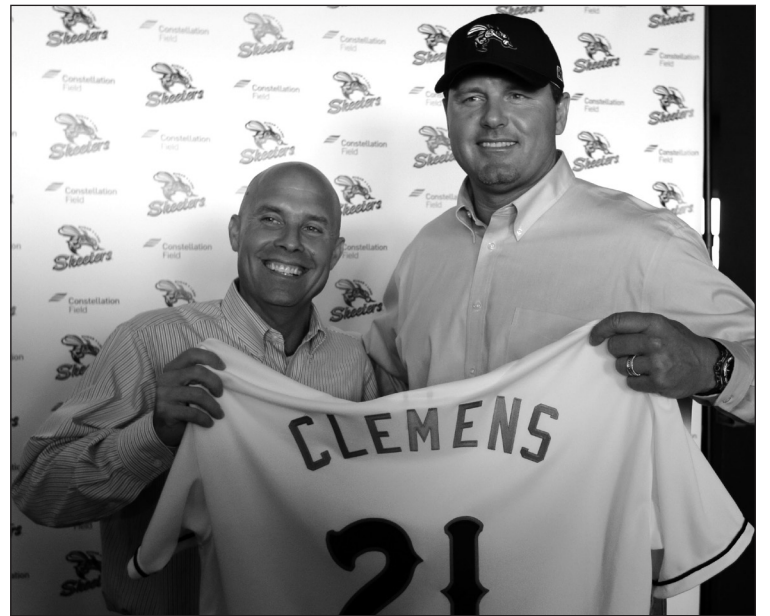
Things will be a bit tougher on Saturday when he is scheduled to start for the independent Atlantic League team at home against Bridgeport. The right-hander agreed to play for the team on Monday and was introduced on Tuesday.

Whether this all leads to Clemens pitching in the major leagues — the seven-time Cy Young Award winner played that down, conceding he's nowhere near big league pitching shape.

"I'm 50 years old. We're just going to go out and have fun with this and make it fun for the fans," said Clemens, who has a touch of gray stubble on his chin but still sports a shock of blond highlights in his hair.

Clemens didn't understand all the rules of his old-man softball league at first. When he hit his first home run and dashed to first base, his teammates told him to stop. He thought it was because home runs weren't allowed. It turned out that the over-50 set doesn't see the need to run all of the bases on a homer.

"I really play in that league for the exercise and the fun,"



AP

Former major league pitcher Roger Clemens, right, poses after signing a minor-league contract with the Sugar Land Skeeters on Aug. 21.

he said.

He laughed off questions about playing professionally at an age when he qualifies for an AARP card.

"I hope nothing breaks and I hope I don't pull anything," a still fit-looking Clemens said.

Some believe his return to the minor leagues is the first step to another comeback in the major leagues, where he last pitched for the New York Yankees in 2007 at age 45. Clemens is set to appear on the Hall of Fame ballot going to voters late this year. If he plays in a major league game this year, his Hall consideration would be pushed back five years.

He isn't sure how he'll be perceived by voters when his name appears on the ballot.

"Sure, the Hall of Fame is great, I've told people that. But it's not going to change my life either way," he said. "But if there's something

there that somebody feels like they have a grudge or want to hold something against you, I can't control that one bit."

Clemens said thinking about a big league comeback is premature.

He dismissed the theory that the minor league appearance was a step on the path to a big league return.

"I've been to the major leagues and back a couple of times," he said. "I've retired and unretired, so I wouldn't consider thinking that far ahead. I'm just going to try to get through Saturday. I think I can compete a little bit."

A return at his age wouldn't be all that outlandish, considering that Jamie Moyer returned from elbow ligament replacement surgery to start for the Colorado Rockies this season. Clemens chuckled when asked about Moyer.

"People are trying to ingrain that in my mind that 50 is now the new 40," he said.

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I wake up every evening with a big smile on my face And it never feels out of place And you're still probably working at a 9 to 5 pace I wonder how bad that tastes

When you see my face Hope it gives you hell, hope it gives you hell When you walk my way Hope it gives you hell, hope it gives you hell

Now where's your picket fence, love? And where's that shiny car? And did it ever get you far?

You never seemed so tense, love I've never seen you fall so hard Do you know where you are?

And truth be told I miss you And truth be told I'm lying

When you see my face Hope it gives you hell, hope it gives you hell When you walk my way

If you find a man that's worth a damn and treats you well Then he's a fool, you're just as well, hope it gives you hell I hope it gives you hell

Tomorrow you'll be thinking to yourself Yeah, where did it all go wrong? But the list goes on and on Truth be told I miss you And truth be told I'm lying

When you see my face Hope it gives you hell, hope it gives you hell When you walk my way Hope it gives you hell, hope it gives you hell If you find a man that's worth a damn and treats you well Then he's a fool, you're just as well, hope it gives you hell

Now you'll never see what you've done to me You can take back your memories, they're no good to me And here's all your lies, you can look me in the eyes With the sad, sad look that you wear so well

LITTLE LEAGUE WORLD SERIES

Ugandan Little Leaguers win in Williamsport

Associated Press

SOUTH WILLIAMSPORT, Pa. — The first team from Africa in the Little League World Series will go home with one win.

"This was so great," Lugazi manager Henry Odong said after the 3-2 victory over Gresham, Ore., in a consolation game Tuesday.

Players Justine Makisimu, Ronald Olaa, Daniel Alio and Felix Enzama all said they thought they could win going into the game.

After watching Taiwan play, Odong said he impressed on the team just to make contact because "one of the biggest challenges we had was hitting." Each team had seven hits but Uganda had four of them in the two innings it scored.

"I'm thankful we could come here," Odong said. "This win was so great."

Oregon broke a scoreless tie in the top of the fourth when Hunter Hemenway tripled down the right field line, scoring Greg

Mehlhaff and Tyler Pederson, who had singled.

Lugazi tied the game at 2-2 in the bottom of the inning on consecutive singles by Alio and Enzama. Alio eventually scored on a wild pitch and Enzama on a passed ball. Uganda had runners on second and third with no outs but Mehlhaff struck out two and got the third out on a ground ball.

Uganda grabbed the lead in the fifth when Olaa singled and Alio walked. Olaa scored the winning run from second when Oregon shortstop Brett Falkner's throw to first in an attempt to complete a double play went wild.

Alio, who struck out eight and walked two, reached his pitch count limit with one out in the sixth. After getting a second out, reliever Job Echon gave up a single but then got Ethan Marshall to line back to him to preserve the victory.

Uganda's official series record is 1-2 but the team plans on playing more friendship games.



Uganda's Tom Agaku, second from right, cheers as his team beats Gresham, Ore., in a Little League World Series consolation game Tuesday in Williamsport, Pa.

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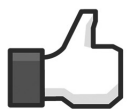
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of relationships in human society.”

—Pacem in Terris, 163

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NFL

Rookie named Dolphins' starting quarterback

Associated Press

DAVIE, Fla. — The lilting falsetto came from a 320-pound lineman as the Miami Dolphins' young quarterback walked through the locker room Tuesday.

"Oooh, Ryan Tannehill," said guard Richie Incognito, imitating a star-struck fan.

Several veterans chuckled. So did Tannehill. As a rookie, he's not above teasing from teammates.

But as of Monday, he's also a starter. First-year coach Joe Philbin chose Tannehill for the job over Matt Moore, who started the final 12 games last year.

While Moore is popular with teammates, they endorsed Philbin's decision Tuesday—with varying degrees of enthusiasm.

"We're not in a position to pick," receiver Davone Bess said. "Right now we want to focus on keeping the team together and not having animosity toward anybody."

Moore, a backup for most of his six-year career, took the high road after finishing as the runner-up in the most scrutinized position battle of training camp.

"I was disappointed," he said. "You want to play. As a leader of this team, you want to be back

there with the guys. But I understand the decision, and I support the decision. I'm behind coach Philbin and Ryan 100 percent and will be ready if they need me."

Tannehill's reaction to the decision: "I'm excited to have the opportunity to go out and play. I'm just going to do everything I can to go out and win games."

The Dolphins (No. 27 in the AP Pro32) will start a rookie quarterback in a season opener for the first time when they play at Houston on Sept. 9. Tannehill will be the first rookie quarterback to start for Miami since John Beck in 2007.

Beck went 0-4 that year. The Dolphins anticipate better results from Tannehill, the first quarterback they've drafted in the opening round since Dan Marino in 1983.

Philbin said he had no qualms about turning the offense over to a rookie.

"I don't think that's going to be an issue," Philbin said. "He has earned people's respect, and he has done it quietly in his own way. He has done it mostly by his professionalism in this building and his work ethic."

Camp began with three

contenders for the starting job, but knee surgery took veteran David Garrard out of the mix. Moore was unimpressive in the first two exhibition games, while Tannehill had some encouraging moments.

The rookie doesn't lack for confidence, and he started the summer hoping to win the No. 1 job.

"It's human nature as a competitor to want to be the guy," he said. "I was going out there every day trying to prove I could be the guy to win games with this team. Right now that's the case, but I've got to continue to get better."

The Dolphins figure Tannehill's upside is considerable, especially considering he was a college receiver two years ago. He switched to quarterback midway through his junior season at Texas A&M and started only 19 games at the position.

With Miami he has benefited from the tutelage of new offensive coordinator Mike Sherman, who was Tannehill's head coach at A&M and brought the same offense to the Dolphins.

"For a young kid, Ryan's a leader," tight end Anthony Fasano said. "He's a rookie telling veterans how to line up. He's a



AP

Dolphins quarterback Ryan Tannehill looks downfield during the second half of Miami's 20-7 loss to Tampa Bay on August 10.

little more confident because he knows the offense."

The Dolphins play Atlanta on Friday in the most important of their four exhibition games, with the starters seeing significant action. When asked what he wants to see from Tannehill in the game, Philbin responded with a long list that took more than a

minute to recite.

"He has to do what good quarterbacks do," Philbin said. "They make great decisions. They throw the ball accurately. They make plays when they have to. They get you out of bad plays and they manage the game well."

In other words: They don't play like a rookie.

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NFL

Jaguars' owner angers Jones-Drew

Associated Press

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — Maurice Jones-Drew's holdout appears far from over.

His agent, Adisa Bakari, told The Associated Press on Tuesday that the Jacksonville Jaguars running back is upset with owner Shad Khan's recent public comments about his client's 27-day holdout.

"Maurice wants to play for an organization that wants him and for an owner who respects him and values what he brings to a team — on the field, in the locker room and in the community," Bakari said.

ESPN reported that Jones-Drew is open to being traded.

When asked Tuesday whether he would trade Jones-Drew, Khan said he is "not going to get into all the theses and hypotheses." Khan added that Jones-Drew is "a great player, and we would love for him to be back."

Last week, however, Khan said MJD's absence "doesn't even move the needle" in terms of stress. Khan reiterated his stance Tuesday by saying, "This is not a team about one person."

His message to Jones-Drew?

"Train's leaving the station. Run, get on it," Khan said.

Bakari made it clear that those statements don't sit well with Jacksonville's biggest star.

"Obviously, he's not happy that what started as a very cordial and private conversation is now public and contentious," Bakari said.

Now, with both sides seemingly digging their heels in as deeply as possibly, it is unclear when or if Jones-Drew will show up in Jacksonville. The Jaguars open the season Sept. 9 at Minnesota.

Jones-Drew's holdout is fairly simple. He wants a new deal after leading the NFL with 1,606 yards rushing last season. He has two years remaining on a five-year, front-loaded contract worth \$31 million. He is scheduled to make \$4.45 million this season and \$4.95 million in 2013.

Khan and general manager Gene Smith insist they have no plans to negotiate a new deal with MJD, not wanting to set a precedent of paying players with two years remaining on lucrative deals that included large signing bonuses.

Jones-Drew skipped the team's entire offseason workout program, including a mandatory, three-day minicamp last month. If new coach Mike Mularkey is fining Jones-Drew the maximum allowed under the collective bargaining agreement — \$20,000 for each day of minicamp and \$30,000 for each day since training camp opened — the total is up to \$870,000.

SMC CROSS COUNTRY

Veteran Belles look to rebound from subpar 2011

By **BRIAN HARTNETT**
Sports Writer

After struggling through a difficult 2011 season, a veteran-filled Saint Mary's squad will look to the leadership of its six seniors and eight returning team members as the Belles set out to compete for the top spot in the MIAA.

Saint Mary's came into last season with high expectations after recording a third-place finish, the highest in program history, in the conference in 2010. The Belles, however, concluded the season falling short of expectations, finishing seventh in the MIAA championships. Despite the season's results, Belles head coach Jackie Bauters said the team built a strong foundation of hard work and personal improvement that she expects will carry over to this season.

"I don't feel like the team members fell short on how hard they worked or how hard they wanted to achieve things," Bauters said. "I think they just didn't have the depth they needed to achieve all the goals they had set for

themselves."

Saint Mary's addressed its lack of depth, as the Belles will welcome five freshman runners, as well as one new sophomore and one new junior member. The team's new additions will look toward the guidance of the team's strong senior core, a group Bauters expects to benefit the team in more ways than simply scoring points.

"The seniors are a very determined group and set goals for themselves," Bauters said. "If not all of them contribute by scoring, they'll contribute by showing the way to incoming runners and preparing them to be contributors to the team."

With the graduation of senior captain Joanna Almond, senior Julia Kenney will take over the top spot for the Belles. An All-MIAA honoree in 2010, Kenney placed among the Belles' top two finishers in every race last season. Fellow seniors Emma Baker, Sarah Copi, Elizabeth Majewski and Angela Nebesny, who each set personal records in races last season, will also look to score significant points for the team.

In addition, Saint Mary's will count on the contributions of junior Colette Curtis, who emerged as a top-five finisher for the team on several occasions last season.

Bauters said the team's combination of tested veterans and promising newcomers gives her a positive outlook for the upcoming season and noted several outsiders share her view. Saint Mary's is ranked 10th in the Great Lakes region in the U.S. Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association's preseason poll, marking the first time the team has received such honors.

"We have a really great returning group and hope to build on the successes we've had with our team's leadership," Bauters said. "Everyone came back looking good and ready to go, and I expect that we'll be competitive within the conference this year."

Saint Mary's opens the season Sept. 1 with the Wabash Hokum Karem meet in Crawfordsville, Ind.

Contact **Brian Hartnett** at bhartnet@nd.edu

MLB

Red Sox continue slide

Associated Press

BOSTON — Another series-opening loss and the Boston Red Sox continued their tumble out of the AL's wild-card chase.

Dropping a series opener for the eighth time in 10 tries, the Red Sox lost their fifth in seven games with a 5-3 setback against the Los Angeles Angels on Tuesday night.

"Play better collectively as a group. We're just not playing together," right fielder Cody Ross said. "It seems like we get chances, opportunities, have pitchers on the ropes and try to do too much."

One day after shutting down Carl Crawford for the season with a ligament injury in his left elbow, manager Bobby Valentine tried a lineup shuffle to attempt to spark his fading team, moving Jacoby Ellsbury from the leadoff spot to third.

Ellsbury went 1 for 4 with a single, flying to fairly deep right-center in his final at-bat.

"We had a pretty set thing going through five (in the order) — without Carl we have to make an adjustment now," Valentine said.

Boston has also been without designated hitter David Ortiz, who has been sidelined since July 18 with a strained right Achilles.

"You're talking about two big pieces on this team," Ross said. "But at the same time, every team has superstars that get hurt

throughout the year. We have to pick those guys up and we're not doing it."

Mark Trumbo hit his career-high 30th homer, Ervin Santana pitched 6 1-3 solid innings and the Angels — the team directly in front of Boston in the wild-card standings — snapped a four-game losing streak.

Boston's Aaron Cook (3-7) was touched for five runs on 11 hits — nine singles — in five innings and fell to 1-6 in his last eight starts.

"I felt pretty good. I felt like I was making pitches. They just were finding holes with those singles," he said. "Trumbo just hit a ball about as hard as you can hit one."

Boston did have one bright spot: three relievers combined for four hitless innings — still not enough to avoid another loss.

Mike Trout had two hits, giving him 139 in the first 100 games of his rookie season, the most since 1964 when Tony Oliva had 144 for Minnesota. But his streak of 30 successful stolen base attempts ended in the eighth when Jarrod Saltalamacchia threw him out at second base on a pitchout.

The Angels began the day four games behind Baltimore for the second wild-card berth in the AL. After three games in Boston, they have three in Detroit, which started play one spot ahead of them in the wild-card race, 1 1/2 games behind the Orioles.

Los Angeles' playoff hopes took a beating when it ended a 10-game homestand by being swept in four games by the Tampa Bay Rays, who lead the wild-card race. But Santana's performance was a rare strong outing for the Angels' starters, who entered the game with a 6.76 ERA in August.

Santana (7-10) allowed two runs on five hits with four strikeouts and two walks, leaving after throwing 100 pitches. He is 3-0 in his last four starts and gave up three runs or less for the fourth time in five starts.

Ernesto Frieri pitched the ninth for his 15th save in 16 opportunities.

The Angels took a 1-0 lead in the third on an RBI single by Albert Pujols that drove in Trout, who had singled and moved to second on Cook's wild pickoff attempt. It was Trout's 97th run, breaking a tie with Joe Jackson of the Cleveland Indians for second-most runs in the first 100 games of a career since 1900. Jackson did it in 1911. Joe DiMaggio's 100 runs in 1936 are the most.

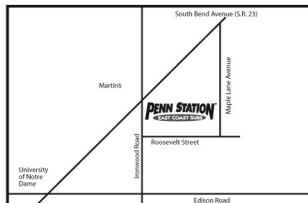
Los Angeles added two runs on five singles in the fourth. Howie Kendrick and Alberto Callaspo got the first two hits. Erick Aybar then singled, scoring Kendrick and sending Callaspo to third. But Aybar was caught in a run-down and tagged between first and second. Chris Iannetta then singled in Callaspo.

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Badgers

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 24

lot of close games, especially with the type of schedule we have early in the year. These teams we're playing aren't going to give up a lot of goals. These are going to be games

"These teams we're playing aren't going to give up a lot of goals. These are going to be games that are in the balance, and they're going to be won or lost late."

Randy Waldrum
Irish coach

that are in the balance, and they're going to be won or lost late."

After losing their season opener for the first time since Waldrum's debut in 1999, the Irish will look to rebound on the road this Friday against Tulsa, their coach's former team.

According to Waldrum though, if the Irish can bring a result back from Oklahoma, it'll be worth much more later in the season than just a win for their coach.

"I think that program is going to be very eager to beat us, primarily because we're Notre Dame, but also because I'm here, as well," he said. "And even at seven at night, it'll probably still be 95 degrees in Tulsa, so the kids are going



GRANT TOBEIN | The Observer

Junior midfielder Mandy Laddish dribbles the ball in Notre Dame's 1-0 home loss to Louisville on Sep. 16, 2011.

to have to deal with the heat, plus there's travel, so it won't be easy. But we think that if we throw our team into these situations early in the season, they'll be better prepared for

anything later on."

The Irish face Tulsa on Friday at 8:30 p.m. in Tulsa, Okla.

Contact Jack Hefferon at wheffero@nd.edu

Grassroots

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 24

put the Irish in the lead.

Xavier answered with several scoring chances before the break, but the Irish defense proved equal to the task as senior goalkeeper Will Walsh denied the visiting team an equalizer.

Notre Dame carried its 1-0 lead into the second stanza and turned to junior goalkeeper Patrick Wall to preserve it. Wall recorded two saves, one of which required him to come to the top of the box to meet a Xavier attacker and make a flying save.

Making the most of Notre Dame's final exhibition contest before regular season play, Irish coach Bobby Clark replaced his entire team with new 10 players for the game's final third. The Musketeers pressured the fresh Irish lineup immediately before Notre Dame regained control and closed the game.

"It was really nice, I thought, for the last 30 minutes we put on what you would call your reserve team," Clark said. "I was a little bit worried for about three minutes because there was one call after another call, and I thought, 'How are these young guys gonna handle it?' But in all fairness, they actually came through quite well. Once they found their feet they actually, I thought, looked a better team than most of their starters that [Xavier] put on."

The Irish were without co-captains and senior midfielders Dillon Powers and Michael

Rose for the entire contest as both players sat out with injuries. Nonetheless, the Irish earned their third shutout win in four exhibition opportunities after losing three defensive starters to graduation.

"I think [the defense has] come together well," Clark said. "As I have said, I think [senior defender] Grant Van De Castele, he has been the experienced person that has come back there and he's done a really good job. [Junior defender] Andrew O'Malley, he's been waiting for his opportunity for a long time now, and he's done well ... I think we are looking pretty solid. I'm pretty happy with the way it's looking at the moment."

Still, as the Irish approach their regular season opener, a home meeting with Duke on Saturday, several questions remain, Clark said.

"There are always tough decisions, and I hope there are because if there's not tough decisions it means we've not got folks pushing for spots," he said. "We've got a few questions. Obviously Dillon will come back, hopefully, and we've got a couple of other boys who will come back as well ... hopefully Michael Rose will come back as well. We got reasonably good news on that today. Get some of these guys back, it'll be a very, very strong squad."

Notre Dame kicks off the regular season Saturday at 7:30 p.m. when it hosts Duke in Alumni Stadium.

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MEN'S GOLF

Irish gain experience in summer tournaments

By **JOSEPH MONARDO**
Sports Writer

For college golfers there is the season, and then there is the season that is not the season. The season, of course, contains the college schedule. However, the season that is not the season is no less important.

It is during this summer season that much of the Notre Dame squad gains experience playing against top competition and develops the ability to deal with pressure and prepares for the collegiate schedule.

"They are coming to school almost ready to go," Irish coach Jim Kubinski said. "It's one of the reasons we can come in and start the first day and travel within a week or two."

Recognizing that matches played outside of the college schedule are an important part of a competitive schedule, Kubinski said he works with his golfers to plan offseason events.

"A lot of times we will sit down in the spring, when our season is over here, and almost map out a schedule," he said. "The guys actually do a pretty good job coming up with events they would like to play in on their own. But essentially,

we will just keep an eye on them, they will update me and I even had the chance to attend a couple [of events]."

Irish junior Niall Platt played through a successful offseason this year, winning the SCGA Match Play Championship in August and earning three other top-10 finishes over the summer.

"I practiced a lot. Mainly I just got to play a lot of competition this summer," Platt said. "I had a really busy schedule and that got me prepared for later tournaments."

"[The win gave me] probably just confidence — knowing that I can compete with the best college players. I wasn't totally sure about that for the last couple of years but this summer definitely made it seem ... more possible."

As they prepare to head into the 2012-13 season, Platt will be one of many Irish golfers expected to step up in the absence of three graduated seniors — Tom Usher, Chris Walker and 2012 PING and Golfweek Honorable Mention All-American Max Scodro, who owned the best stroke average in school history at 73.25.

"Max, of course, had that huge senior year ... so that is obviously a big void," Kubinski said. "Tom won a tournament for us ... and

Chris was in our lineup for about three and a half years. But I think it's really exciting because these [remaining] guys were recruited to play for us. They haven't had that chance yet because of the older players that were here but they are really excited and I think we are going to see some good things."

As the Irish aim to replicate the production of last year's team, what their young golfers did during the offseason becomes especially important, Kubinski said.

"For a lot of the guys it is important to make up maybe for some experience that they did not get the last year or two as our lineup was pretty much set," he said. "Essentially all of the tournaments they are playing [over the summer] are very similar to college tournaments in that most of the field is Division I college players at the vast majority of these events."

For Scodro, who recently won the 2012 Illinois Open for his second state open championship of the summer, offseason tournaments represented a valuable component to his college success.

"It just gives you more experience," he said. "It keeps you sharp during the offseason, playing in competitive events. You know you are going to play against really good



ASHLEY DACY | The Observer

Junior Niall Platt examines the course at the Battle at the Warren on Sep. 26, 2011. Platt will lead the Irish in 2012-13.

competition so it's important."

It is the competitive aspect of offseason tournaments and matches that gives such significant value to the events, Kubinski said.

"A lot of people don't realize that playing golf, going out for that casual round, whether it is with teammates or friends or just posting scores, there is such a huge difference between that and the tournament round, the competitive rounds," he said. "Just the expectations, the pressure, the

things that mount that, when you are [playing] for the first time as a team, they can really get the better of you. Having played so much over the summer against that strong competition and in those situations, I think it ... really helps us prepare."

The Irish begin their season on Sept. 15 with the Tar Heel Intercollegiate in Chapel Hill, N.C.

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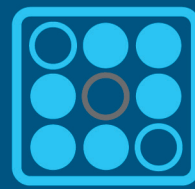
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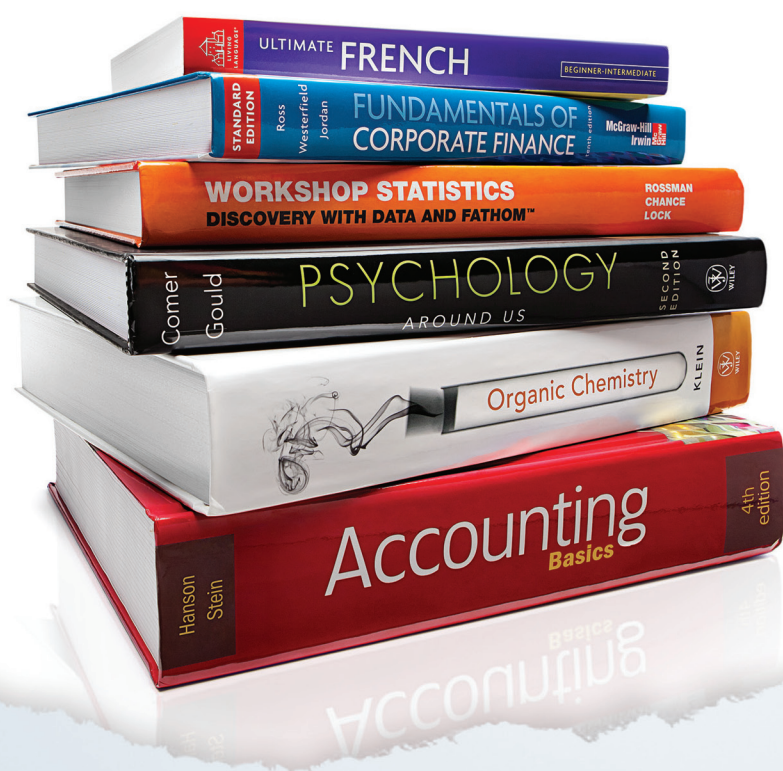
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Corners

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 24

technique and discipline which is so important in playing that position."

No quarterback decision yet

Kelly also said junior Andrew Hendrix and sophomore Everett Golson continue to receive roughly the same amount of practice reps at quarterback, with less than two weeks remaining before the Irish open the season against Navy in Dublin.

"We had some more things that we wanted to see," Kelly said. "We saw some areas of improvement that we needed. So both of those guys received very similar reps the last couple of days. We're still not there but we're moving in the right direction."

Junior quarterback Tommy Rees was suspended for the season opener, and freshman Gunner Kiel was ruled out of receiving the starting nod, leaving Golson and Hendrix as the options for the starting

duties.

Kelly hesitant to travel

With an estimated 35,000 Americans headed to Dublin for the Sept. 1 game, many people are excited about the opportunity to see Notre Dame

"I'm not a big fan about playing football games in Ireland. I'd rather play them [at Notre Dame]."

Brian Kelly
Irish coach

and Navy play abroad, though Kelly said he does not fall into that faction.

"I love everything about Ireland," he said. "I'm not a big fan about playing football games in Ireland. I'd rather play them [at Notre Dame]. It's



SUZANNA PRATT | The Observer

Notre Dame quarterbacks run through drills in Loftus Field House on August 14. Irish coach Brian Kelly has not announced which quarterback will start the season opener.

going to be a great trip for our alums and all of those that follow us. It's going to be great for Ireland and I'm pleased about that.

"As it relates to football, I would rather not travel six hours to go play. Having said that, Navy is going to have to do the same thing and we have to

prepare the best we can for that situation."

Contact Andrew Owens at aowens2@nd.edu

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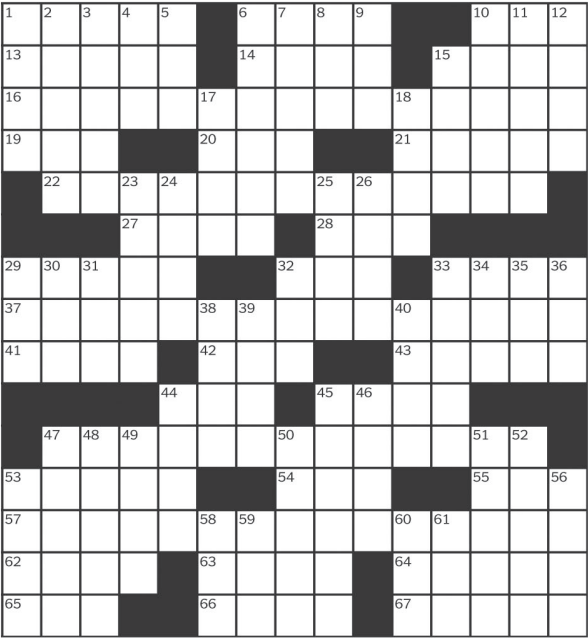


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23 Photocopier
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24 Lyricist Gus
25 Primary
26 Fit
29 Bud
30 Alley ____
31 Actress Thurman
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Puzzle by David Levinson Wilk

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| 34 U.S. ally whose capital has the letters U-S-A in the middle of its name: Abbr. | 44 Traitorous Aldrich | 51 Author depicted next to a steamboat on a 2011 stamp |
| 35 Rock genre | 45 Day after hoy | 52 Just beat |
| 36 Blue Angels org. | 46 Many a NASA worker: Abbr. | 53 Hooded vipers |
| 38 Rudolph of "S.N.L." | 47 Line on a forest map | 56 On the way |
| 39 ____ corner | 48 Name said twice after "O" | 58 Musician Brian |
| 40 Bust | 49 Not new | 59 Gen ____ |
| | 50 Copy | 60 Cold and wet |
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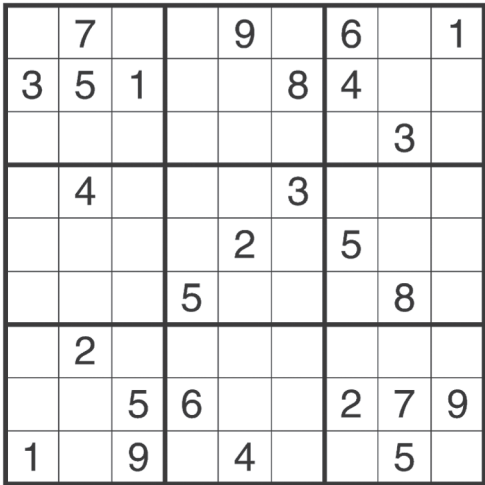
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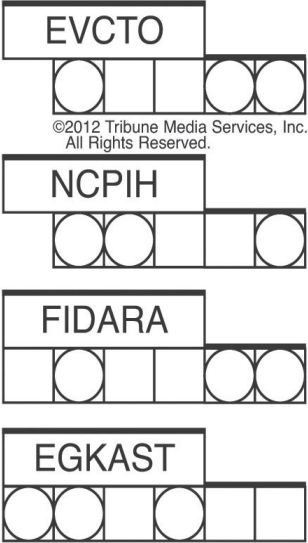
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Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit, 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit www.sudoku.org.uk

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FOOTBALL

Secondary concerns

CB Wood out for season with injury



Observer File Photo

Irish junior cornerback Lo Wood, pictured in Notre Dame's 15-12 win over Pittsburgh on Sep. 24, 2011, suffered a season-ending injury Monday.

By **ANDREW OWENS**
Assistant Managing Editor

In just one play, Notre Dame's dire cornerback situation went from bad to worse, as junior cornerback Lo Wood — the only returning player with even minimal experience at the position — will miss the entire 2012 season after suffering a ruptured Achilles tendon at practice Monday.

"I feel terrible for him," Irish coach Brian Kelly said at Tuesday's press conference. "He's a young man that we all wanted to see get this opportunity that he has worked so hard for."

"I feel really good about the other five corners that we have as well. We have five scholarship corners that we believe can play the kind of football necessary for us to be successful. We'll move forward at that position. I think we have enough depth there to play very good football."

Kelly said he does not expect to move any players from another position — including graduate student safety Jamoris Slaughter — to cornerback despite the loss of Wood, who recorded 10 tackles and a 57-yard interception return for a touchdown in 21 games of play.

The stable of remaining cornerbacks includes junior Bennett Jackson, sophomores Josh Atkinson and Jalen Brown and freshmen KeiVarae Russell and Elijah Shumate, an athletic but untested group that will go up against Heisman

Trophy-candidate quarterbacks Landry Jones (Oklahoma) and Matt Barkley (USC) this fall.

Kelly said Wood experienced the injury while backpedaling at practice. He felt a "pop" in the non-contact drill and will undergo surgery Wednesday, Kelly said.

Even with the lack of experience at the position, Kelly said he does not expect opponents to alter their gameplan against the Irish to take advantage of Notre Dame's depth issues.

"From the very beginning of camp, we installed our nickel package," he said. "We feel very comfortable with who that is and who is going to be playing that position. This has been about developing not just corners but safeties as well. I think we have a comfort level with the package that we know is going to be on third down and this doesn't affect that third down package."

Kelly said athleticism is not an issue for the group, but getting them game experience and developing their skills is his focus now.

"Josh and Jalen have improved dramatically, and they have taken to [being coached] very well," he said. "[The] technique is much better. There is one thing that scares me the most and that's when you have slow corners. We don't have any slow corners. All those kids can run."

"Now, it's a matter of how quickly they can pick up the

see CORNERS **PAGE 22**

ND WOMEN'S SOCCER | WISCONSIN 1, NOTRE DAME 0

Late goal dooms Irish

By **JACK HEFFERON**
Sports Writer

They had more shots, more corners and the lion's share of possession. But after a single defensive lapse in the 84th minute, No. 12 Notre Dame found itself behind in the only category that matters, losing 1-0 at Wisconsin on Friday in its season opener.

The Irish (0-1) dominated the run of play early in the match, and freshman forward Anna Maria Gilbertson almost opened the scoring in first minute when her strike was tipped just past the right post. The attack continued throughout the game's first half-hour, as Notre Dame generated a number of chances that kept the Badgers (1-0) on their heels. However, the team was unable to bury any of its several scoring chances, and the game remained scoreless at halftime.

"Going back and looking

at the video, I think we could have been up by two or three in the first 20 minutes," Irish coach Randy Waldrum said. "We created some really good chances and just didn't convert."

In the second half, chances for both teams were few and far between, as the Irish failed to continue applying pressure to the Wisconsin goal. With two standout midfielders — sophomore Mandy Laddish and freshman Cari Roccaro — out on national team duty at the Under-20 World Cup, the team was unable to generate quality chances in the middle and resorted to simply kicking balls deep.

"We weren't really good in our possession," Waldrum said. "We kind of got caught up in their long ball style of play, and that took us out of what we wanted to do."

"Mandy and Cari add so much to our midfield, and our midfield is really key to

making things tick for us. I think they would have made a huge difference in the game, but we have enough quality here that we don't want to use that as a crutch going forward."

The lack of possession would cost Notre Dame in the last 10 minutes, as the Badgers won a late free kick and found senior midfielder Monica Lam-Feist on a quick through ball. Lam-Feist split the Irish defense, and Wisconsin's only shot of the half beat freshman goalkeeper Elyse Hight off the post.

Waldrum said that he was pleased by the defense's play for most of the game, but was frustrated by the team's inability to close out the game and ensure at least a draw.

"I hope [giving up late goals] doesn't become a thing for the season, for sure," he said. "I think we're going to play in a

see BADGERS **PAGE 19**

MEN'S SOCCER | NOTRE DAME 1, XAVIER 0

Mena scores winner in final exhibition



SARAH O'CONNOR | The Observer

Irish sophomore midfielder Nick Besler battles a Xavier player for the ball in Notre Dame's 1-0 exhibition win over the Musketeers at Alumni Stadium on Monday.

By **JOSEPH MONARDO**
Sports Writer

Notre Dame pushed its exhibition record to 3-0-1 on Monday with a 1-0 victory over Xavier in the ninth installment of the annual match for Grassroots Soccer, an international soccer charity.

Irish senior midfielder Adam Mena scored the difference-making goal off a free kick in the 37th minute to give the Irish the shutout victory in the charity event. Admission to the game was free, while

fans and guests made donations to the Grassroots Soccer Organization, which aims to combat the spread of HIV. The eldest son of Irish coach Bobby Clark, Dr. Tommy Clark, founded the organization in 2002.

"Well, it was a good crowd," Bobby Clark said. "I hope they all dipped in their pockets. It was really nice. I think Grassroots Soccer has ... been one of our things, and for me, it's special obviously with Tommy being so involved. It's amazing how many years we've been doing it ... but it was fun."

While playing for a good cause, the Irish put forth a winning performance. Notre Dame controlled the game's action in the first half, earning a bulk of the scoring opportunities and outshooting Xavier 7-4 through 45 minutes. Mena netted the game's lone goal in the 37th minute. Following a Musketeers' foul 5 yards above the top of the box, Mena squeezed a low shot through the Xavier wall and off senior goalkeeper Justin Marshall to

see GRASSROOTS **PAGE 19**