

Golden memories

Class of 1989 recall last national championship

By **KRISTEN DURBIN**
News Editor



It's been 24 years since the Irish last won a national championship in football, but 1989 Notre Dame alumni who were seniors during that undefeated 1988 season feel unmatched excitement once again as the University's current unbeaten squad prepares for the Jan. 7 BCS National Championship Game in Miami.

From the common "third-year charm" of 1988 coach Lou Holtz and current coach Brian Kelly to the similar progressions from mediocrity to excellence, this 2012 squad evokes memories of the most recent glory days of Notre Dame football.

"To go from not playing in a bowl game to having solid bowl efforts and to see momentum building and culminating in an undefeated season is pretty neat for seniors in particular," 1989 alumnus Pat Cooke said. "[It's amazing] to see that development and

see FOOTBALL **PAGE 4**



BRANDON KEELEAN | The Observer

Notre Dame students' enthusiasm for football hasn't changed since 1988. An undefeated season, a coach's third year and a shot at the national championship are other similarities between the two historic teams.

College alumna recounts road trip to 1988 Fiesta Bowl

By **JILLIAN BARWICK**
St. Mary's Editor



For Julie Wagner Feasel, a 1989 graduate of Saint Mary's, the similarities between the 1988 national champions and this year's Irish are uncanny.

"The media didn't have high expectations for our quarterback, Tony Rice. However, just like Tony showed everyone that he could lead the team, so has Everett Golson," Feasel said. "Lou Holtz was in his third year of coaching at Notre Dame, just like [Irish] coach Brian Kelly is now."

The media also honed in on a similar tragic story among the players, much like they have with Manti Te'o since his grandmother and girlfriend passed away within a day of each other before the Michigan State game.

"[Nose guard Chris Zorich] was raised by a single mom in a rough Chicago neighborhood and he

see FIESTA **PAGE 5**

Alumni urge University to condemn Ugandan bill

By **MEL FLANAGAN**
News Writer

A group of Notre Dame graduates are promoting a petition encouraging the University to officially condemn a proposed anti-homosexuality bill in Uganda.

The proposed law, commonly known as the "Kill the Gays" bill, would increase penalties against LGBT individuals in the country, as well as against others who attempt to hide or protect these individuals.

As a matter of University policy, Notre Dame usually does not make public statements about social issues such as this one.

Katie Dunn, class of 2009 and a Uganda study abroad participant, began circulating the petition after the Uganda CSO Coalition for Human Rights and Constitutional Law, and Frank Mugisha, leader of

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BRANDON KEELEAN | The Observer

Graduate leads in outer space

By **ALLAN JOSEPH**
Editor-in-Chief

Commander Kevin Ford, who recently took command of the International Space Station (ISS), chose one simple phrase for his sound check Tuesday morning: "Play Like A Champion Today."

Ford, a 1982 alumnus of the University, spoke with The Observer from the orbiting space station Tuesday during his five-month-long mission to the ISS. The 52-year-old Indiana native launched from Kazakhstan in late October and took command of the station when Expedition 34 began Nov. 18. Though Ford has been to space previously on a two-week space shuttle mission, he said there were still some surprises in the zero-gravity environment.

"Things float away from you very quietly. You learn as you get here, after you've been here for a few weeks, you kind of forget about where the

floor is and where the walls are and where the ceiling is, and you can just operate in any kind of orientation and be happy there. So it kind of surprised me how your mind adapts to that," he said. "The other thing that surprises you is just how bright blue

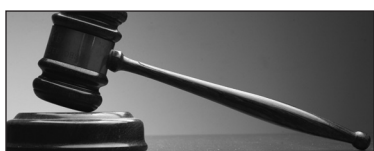
Kevin Ford
ISS Commander



the beautiful Earth is out there. Every time you see it, it just glows just like it's neon. It's a surprising view with your own eyes."

Ford graduated from Notre Dame with a degree in aerospace engineering and has taken his love for the University to the ISS.

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QUESTION OF THE DAY:

What is your favorite Christmas carol?

Have a question you want answered?

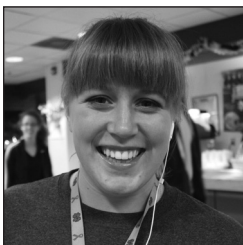
Email obsphoto@gmail.com

Claire Wiley

freshman

Pasquerilla East Hall

“Christmas Lights by Coldplay.”



Alissa Bahr

freshman

Breen-Phillips Hall

“All I Want For Christmas Is You by Michael Buble.”



KayKay Essien

freshman

Keenan Hall

“White Christmas.”



Janice Chung

freshman

Breen-Phillips Hall

“God Bless Yee Merry Gentlemen.”



Colton Williamson

freshman

Fisher Hall

“Christmas Time Is Here.”



KARLA MORENO | The Observer

Sophomore Ana Martin del Campo works on her marketing project, Tailgamers, a professional tailgating service, in Le Mans Hall. Martin del Campo's group designed a convenient service for Irish fans to have their tailgate tailored professionally and hassle free.

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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.

THE NEXT FIVE DAYS:

Want your event included here?

Email obsnews@gmail.com

Thursday

New Faces Art Show

O'Shaughnessy Hall

5:15 p.m. - 6:15 p.m.

Features pieces by

first year graduate

students.

Film: “50/50”

DeBartolo Performing

Arts Center

6:30 p.m. - 8:10 p.m.

Tickets \$5-\$7

Friday

“The Death of Socrates”

Eck Visitors Center

3 p.m. - 5 p.m.

Lecture from Kathrin

Koslicki.

Riley Family Dinner

Noble Family Dining

Hall

5 p.m. - 7 p.m.

SMC benefit dinner.

Saturday

Aiden Project

South Dining Hall

10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Make fleece blankets

for patients fighting

cancer.

Film: “Sleepwalk with Me”

DeBartolo Performing

Arts Center

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

Sunday

Film: “Meet John Doe” by Frank Capra

DeBartolo Performing

Arts Center

3 p.m. - 5:05 p.m.

Released in 1941.

“Raising Voices for Urban Poverty”

101 DeBartolo Hall

7 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Speaker Mary Jo Bane.

Monday

Advent Bible Study

320 Geddes Hall

ICL Library

12 p.m. - 1 p.m.

Open to all preparing

for the birth of Christ

“Building Traditional in the 21st Century”

104 Bond Hall

4:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Architecture lecture.

Belle belts it on 'The Voice'

By **BRIDGET FEENEY**
Saint Mary's Associate Editor

While many students occupied their time this past semester studying abroad, working an internship or balancing homework and other extra-curriculars, one Saint Mary's student spent the last several months living out her dream as a singer.

Sylvia Yacoub, a Saint Mary's sophomore, took the year off to pursue her aspirations of becoming a professional singer when she auditioned for "The Voice," an NBC reality television show where participants compete on teams coached by successful musicians. When singers are selected to participate on the show, they have the option to choose to be coached by one of four artists: Christina Aguilera, Blake Shelton, Adam Levine and Cee Lo Green.

Yacoub chose Aguilera and said the opportunity to work with her has been an unforgettable one.

"Getting the chance to work with [Aguilera] and perform with her has been incredible," she said. "She has been my idol since I was a little girl and to know that she knows who I am personally is awesome. We connected so easily both artistically and emotionally."

Throughout the rehearsals and performances, Aguilera acted as a mentor to Yacoub, coaching her during her time on the show. In addition for the chance to learn under Aguilera, Yacoub said she especially enjoyed getting to know her coach's personality and work ethic.

"She's a strong woman and stands for what she wants — and I love that about her," Yacoub said. "You have all these ideas about how great your idol is and to meet Christina and to have her exceed all of my expectations was really cool. She was probably the most real person [at "The Voice"], and she was always herself. That is



Photo courtesy of Sylvia Yacoub

Sylvia Yacoub performs Katy Perry's 'The One That Got Away' on the TV show 'The Voice' during a hiatus from school taken to compete on the show.

something I respect."

Though Yacoub received coaching and advice from Aguilera throughout the competition, she was also able to hear the other coaches' opinions about her performances. Yacoub said she really enjoyed that aspect of "The Voice" and was grateful to hear additional feedback on her singing.

"It was awesome," she said. "Not everyone gets coached by their idol, let alone four different amazing singers. [They] are all really different artists and that feedback really helps you grow because you realize 'Well this group thinks this, so I need to improve on this.' It was great."

While the comments and advice from Aguilera and the other three coaches were extremely helpful to Yacoub, she said she also benefited greatly from the support of the Saint Mary's community and her hometown of Muskegon, Mich.

"Everyone's support means the world to me," she said. "Friends, and even people I don't know and alumni are all reaching out to me. The support has been impeccable and I personally feel I had one of the best hometown and school backings [on "The Voice"]. It feels great to know so many people

support me."

The support from all of her fans helped Yacoub push through some of the more stressful parts of her time on the show. She said the experience of rehearsals, performing and competing was an "emotional rollercoaster."

"I think I cried more on the show than I have in my entire life," she said. "You just spin through so many different emotions. You go so quickly from excitement to being nervous to 'I could go home tonight' to 'Oh my gosh, America saved me' — it was crazy."

After making it onto the show after the blind auditions and advancing past the knockouts into the top 10, Yacoub was voted off of the competition last week after her performance of Alicia Keys's "Girl on Fire." While Yacoub is disappointed she is no longer on "The Voice," she said she was expecting the elimination.

"I kind of had a feeling I would go home," she said. "I had mentally prepared myself and got it all out of my system the night before. I just had this gut feeling. But I was really happy with my last performance — it had a message I think is really important and the coaches were happy with it, too."

While her time on "The Voice" is over, she said her plans to return back to Saint Mary's are still being finalized. Because she is still under contract with NBC and "The Voice," she is unable to make any definite plans right now.

"I definitely will come back to Saint Mary's and visit," she said. "There is a possibility I will be back next semester to finish the year but everything is still up in the air. It all depends on my career and me moving forward with my singing."

Despite her uncertainties at the moment, Yacoub said she is confident in her career and hopes others take inspiration from her success on the show.

"I've opened a lot of doors by being in this competition and making it to the Top 10, so expect more coming from me," she said. "I hope my experience shows that someone with literally no connections can make it and that I've given people the drive and push to shoot for what you want."

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STUDENT SENATE

Chairs update on semester progress

By **MADDIE DALY**
News Writer

Because of the new Senate structure established this year, student government department chairs no longer attend the weekly meetings to give updates from their various committees. However, at Wednesday's meeting, each department head came to give an update on each group's work so far this semester.

"Hopefully this will give you a good idea of what student government has been working on," student body vice president Katie Rose said.

Director of campus technology Yiting Zheng spoke about new mobile sites and printing problems.

"We have added grade and course search to the mobile Notre Dame website [m.nd.edu] so you can access that on your phone, in addition to laundry view and campus maps," Zheng said. "We have also been working with printers, both making sure printers in dorms are working and trying to get printers in O'Shaughnessy Hall."

Junior Liza Manfred from the Department of Constituent Services talked about future plans for fielding student suggestions.

"Essentially what we're going to do from here is act on suggestions and responses we heard and figure out a way to stay in touch with the student body a little more regularly," Manfred said.

The Department of Internal Affairs, represented by senior Ben Noe, is not only responsible for the new Senate structure but also for the creation of the two newest department representatives, athletics and campus ministry.

Junior Brendan Dolan represents the athletics department and explained their first initiatives.

"Our main goal was to get on board with the Leprechaun Legion," Dolan said. "We worked on music in the stadium, the ticket sharing program for basketball and trying to get NDTV to stream games that are streamed online at UND.com."

Junior Parker Dwyer updated the group on the Department of Residence Life.

"We have been working on the installation of hydration stations in the Rock, Rolf's and all the halls," Dwyer said. "We also submitted an accelerated hand dryer request like the ones in LaFortune

[Student Center] and talked with food services to work on doing away with meal times so you can get, say, three meals a day without having to wait for the lunch shift to end and the dinner shift to start."

Junior Michael Masi from the Department of University Affairs discussed the emphasis on campus safety.

"After some recent accidents and incidents with cross walks and things like that campus safety has really been a big concern of

"All freshmen attend certain talks to frame the way their four years progress, and we want to make these discussions more informal — not a segmented dialogue but a continuous conversation."

Matt Devine

Department of Gender Issues

mine," Masi said. "We have expanded Safe Walk services by adding a golf cart to reach towards Saint Mary's College, Eddy Street Commons and several popular off-campus student housing sites."

Sophomore Ernst Cleofe, head of the Diversity Council, and has been working on three specific goals.

"Our three goals have been to continue working with the Diversity Council, trying to figure out where they're going in the future, trying to keep momentum with the Call to Action movement and promoting a generally welcoming atmosphere on campus," Cleofe said.

Sophomore Matt Devine from the Department of Gender Issues described their attempt to de-formalize the issue of gender interaction on campus.

"One of the main pushes we've been doing is changing the way we talk about gender on campus or trying to get students to speak about them at all," Devine said. "All freshmen attend certain talks to frame the way their four years progress, and we want to make these discussions more informal — not a segmented dialogue but a continuous conversation."

Contact Maddie Daly at
mdaly6@nd.edu

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FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 6:30 PM AND 9:30 PM
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 1, 6:30 PM AND 9:30 PM

Directed by Mike Birbiglia | Not Rated, 90 minutes

When an aspiring stand-up fails to express his true feelings about his girlfriend and his stalled career, his anxiety comes out in increasingly funny and dangerous sleepwalking incidents.

DEBARTOLO +

UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME

Football

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

be able to experience both the frustration of Notre Dame football as freshmen and the pinnacle and ecstasy of Notre Dame football when you're undefeated and in a position to play for the national championship."

Just as the program signaled a change in direction when former coach Charlie Weis was fired after the 2009 season, Cooke said the dismissal of coach Gerry Faust and hiring of Holtz after the 1985 season breathed new life into the program following a lackluster 5-6 final season for Faust.

"In Lou's first year, we went 5-6 as well, but it felt like a different 5-6," Cooke said. "Even though it was an identical record to Faust's last year, we were competitive in virtually every contest."

The current football program's gradual improvement mirrors that of the years leading up to the 1988 championship, and 1989 alumnus Tom Schlegel said students who follow the team through such a progression can appreciate the championship berth more fully.

"Just like this year's seniors, we started out mediocre, so as seniors, when you go from mediocre to a championship team, you were there when things were bad, when things weren't so fun,"

he said. "You're in the best situation of all."

1989 alumnus Brian O'Gara agreed the pain of the tough years makes the taste of victory that much sweeter.

"As freshmen, we never would have guessed that three years later we would be undefeated with a national championship," he said. "But that progression from being a sub-.500 team, firing and hiring coaches, having a Heisman [trophy] winner in Tim Brown and then winning a championship ... was a pretty awesome stretch."

After starting the season unranked in the preseason AP top-25 poll, this 2012 Irish squad's rise to No. 1 has been even more unprecedented than in 1988.

"We started the season ranked fairly low ... and had been to a bowl game the year before, but I certainly don't think anybody thought at the beginning of the 1988 season that we would win a championship," 1989 alumnus Jim Winkler said.

While this season's turning points came with a nail-biting overtime victory against Stanford at home and a decisive 30-13 road win over Oklahoma, Winkler said the 1988 squad proved itself in a 31-30 Catholics vs. Convicts rivalry victory against then-No. 1 Miami at Notre Dame Stadium.

"That's probably what [current students] experienced on campus with Stanford and the College GameDay

hysteria," Winkler said.

O'Gara, who works for Major League Baseball, was attending Game 3 of the World Series for work when Notre Dame played Oklahoma.

"I spent more time watching the Notre Dame game than I did watching Game 3 even though I was at the World Series," O'Gara said. "The TV was in the office of a Michigan State grad who has had to grin and bear it and realize this was a special year for us."

The final tests of both the 1988 and 2012 regular seasons came at the Los Angeles Coliseum in Thanksgiving weekend games against USC. Schlegel, O'Gara and Cooke all made the trip out to see the final game of their senior season as part of a senior class trip.

"I had been saving up money and was going to buy a road bicycle and ride home from South Bend to Maine after graduation ... so I had about \$500 saved up," O'Gara said. "Then the team went undefeated and the University sponsored a trip to USC for about \$500. ... I never got the bike, but I took the trip to USC to see that game instead."

Just as this year's seniors immediately began discussing travel plans to Miami following Notre Dame's 22-13 win over USC on Saturday, Schlegel said his classmates did the same for the Fiesta Bowl after the Irish defeated the then-No. 2 Trojans in 1988.

"As soon as we won that game,

everyone started talking about bowl game plans," he said. "Can we go? Should we go? Can we afford it? Who should we stay with?" It was all the talk as I'm sure it is now."

Although more than two decades have passed since the class of 1989 walked the Notre Dame campus together, the common thread of undefeated football seasons helps old friends keep in touch.

"At Notre Dame, we spent a good portion of every Sunday breaking down the game from the day before. Ironically, 20-something years after graduating, we're doing the same thing now," Winkler said.

But reconnecting under the guise of talking about football involves much more than discussing a game's top plays.

"Reconnecting with those glory moments from then sounds like old guys reliving the glory days, but you end up reconnecting with each other, with Notre Dame football and with what you love about Notre Dame

camaraderie," O'Gara said. "That's something really cool that we all felt following this team we saw similarities in."

Winkler said another "incredibly cool" tradition he appreciates is the integration of football players into the rest of the Notre Dame community.

"The players are regular guys. ... When you're heading to class, there's Theo Riddick and Manti Te'o doing the same stuff you're doing. They just become superstars on Saturday," he said.

But above all, magical seasons like 1988 and 2012 create new chapters of Notre Dame football lore.

"When you come to Notre Dame and know the football history, you have aspirations. Football weekends are awesome no matter what ... but when you know other classes have experienced the magic of being in the hunt for a championship, you want to taste that too," O'Gara said.

Contact Kristen Durbin at kdurbin@nd.edu

Astronaut

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"I actually had the aerospace and mechanical engineering department supply me with a little token," he said. "I brought up a little 'God, Country, Notre Dame' coin along and a class ring for me and my daughter. I have a son and daughter who are also Notre Dame grads. I've got a small wardrobe of Notre Dame shirts and memorabilia."

He said his liberal arts education at Notre Dame has continued to be useful to this day — especially on board the space station.

"A funny thing that happened to me senior year was that I found out late that I needed one more social science because I was an engineering graduate," Ford said. "The one that fit just happened to be Intro to Russian and I took Intro to Russian and I speak Russian now on a daily basis up here with my Russian colleagues."

Ford has also continued his life-long love of Irish football while on the space station. He said he was able to use a high-speed data system intended for scientific use but not used on the weekends to watch Notre Dame's 22-13 win over USC last weekend to cap off a perfect regular season.

"It's a lot of fun, it makes the season great. I love college football season anyway, but it's really special this year — especially watching the games from space," he said. "I would say my recreation time in a day so far has been pretty limited, maybe to an hour a day ... but I did stay up until 4 on Saturday night my time to watch that West Coast game: Notre Dame against USC up here live. I watched it to the very end and it was fantastic."

After graduating from Notre Dame, Ford earned two more master's degrees and a Ph.D, according to his NASA biography. He joined the

Air Force as a test pilot and began applying to the shuttle program shortly thereafter, but wasn't accepted until shortly after he turned 40.

"There are a lot of jobs out there you think are cool when you see people doing them, and you know, an astronaut was always one of them that seemed special to me," Ford said. "I was an Air Force pilot and became an Air Force test pilot and from there it was kind of the next step because the space shuttle is really kind of the top-of-the-line really cool flying machine. That's why I ended up applying to the space shuttle program and being an astronaut."

"I know it's a very unique job. One of the things that makes me sad is that more people can't come off the planet and see what it looks like and what a space station's like and live out here. I never expected to be able to be here. I applied for the astronaut program many times and was rejected and finally when I was 40 years old I just happened to fall into a slot and get selected."

Now that he's on board the ISS, Ford said he keeps busy with his various duties, especially scientific experiments in zero gravity.

"Day to day I do maintenance, I take care of the space station as the ... managers and flight directors direct me to do," he said. "So I'm really just the hands-on for all the people around the world who put these experiments together and decide what we want to do in space."

Despite being miles above the Earth, Ford said Notre Dame continues to have a special place in his heart.

"I love keeping up with what's going on on campus. Not just the sports, but all the other things you guys are experiencing too. It is like home for me," he said. "We just flew over South Bend about one orbit ago, by the way, made an almost direct

pass overhead. It was still dark out on the ground for you, so nothing was visible, but I'll keep my eye out and try to get a shot of the Dome some time."

Contact Allan Joseph at ajoseph2@nd.edu

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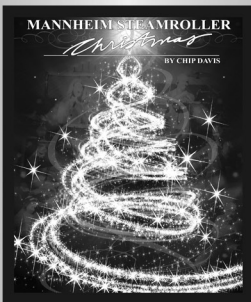
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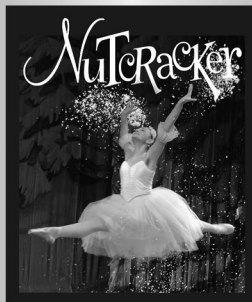


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**Tap Dogs
Broadway**



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Southold Dance
Theater

Sat-Sun, Dec. 8-9



**South Bend Symphony
Orchestra**

"Home for the Holidays"
Sat-Sun, Dec. 15-16

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Saturday Dec. 22	Tribute to the Motown Greats 60's-70's-80's Music
Monday Dec. 31	New Year's Eve Dinner/Dance Gala Tom Milo Big Band Palais Royale

Sunday January 27	The State Ballet Theatre of Russia "Cinderella"
Saturday February 2	South Bend Symphony "Hungarian/Polish Heritage"
Friday-Sat February 8-9	Shrek The Musical Broadway Theatre League
Saturday, Feb. 16	South Bend Symphony

Visit Morris Ticket Outlet at Hammes Bookstore in Eddy Street Commons

Petition

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Sexual Minorities in Uganda, requested she urge Notre Dame to publicly denounce the bill.

"[Mugisha] has spoken on campus about this issue. He asked me to ensure that Notre Dame make a public statement against the bill," Dunn said. "Notre Dame has a reputation for being conservative on this issue, and because of that, it has a powerful voice to the Catholics in

Uganda. Right now its silence is very loud."

Penalties of the bill include life imprisonment or the death penalty for accused homosexuals, and heavy fines or prison time for parents, teachers and landlords of LGBT individuals who do not report them. Dunn said the bill could be voted on within the next few days.

As a school that has a deep relationship with Uganda, Dunn said the University possesses countless reasons to fight the bill.

"Notre Dame's strategic plan,

'Fulfilling the Promise,' commits itself to increasing its internationalism," Dunn said. "Notre Dame recognizes that institutions cannot use a country for its educational purposes and then not take responsibility for their role in that country. This is the University's mission."

Eleanor Huntington, a graduate of the class of 2010 who has also studied abroad and done research in Uganda, is working to promote the petition.

Huntington said she fears not only for the people she has met in Uganda

whom the bill would affect, but also for current and future Notre Dame students.

"What becomes Notre Dame's rule if they know a professor is gay and he's doing research in Uganda?" Huntington said. "Or if they have students who want to study abroad or do research or service in Uganda? Are they going to

have to find out the sexual orientation of the student?"

While it would not be helpful for other nations to simply judge or condemn Uganda, Huntington said Notre Dame possesses extensive knowledge of the country's institutions that would be useful in finding solutions for the bill.

"People in Uganda do have strong faith, and they would respond to Notre Dame's actions," she said. "There are enough good perspective administrators at Notre Dame that they would know how to effectively address the issue without embarrassing or causing judgment or scandal."

2009 graduate Katie Day, who also studied abroad and conducted research in Uganda as a student, agreed Notre Dame's Catholic identity should motivate the University to address the proposed bill.

Day said she is completely mystified by Catholic bishops in Uganda's praise for the bill, given that it contradicts the Church's mandate to "uphold the human dignity of every single person."

"As the universal Church, Catholic leaders elsewhere in the world need to let the Ugandan Catholic Church know this bill is completely contradictory to our faith's core beliefs," she said. "I cannot think of anything more dehumanizing and degrading

than this bill."

Dunn said she has received numerous positive responses to the petition from Notre Dame faculty and staff praising her and her teammates for their work.

She has also received brief e-mails from University President Fr. John Jenkins and Dr. J. Nicholas Entrikin, vice president and associate provost for internationalization.

"I hope Fr. Jenkins and Dr. Entrikin listen to their faculty on this one," Dunn said.

The University has a responsibility, both as a Catholic institution and a partner with Uganda, to provide guidance to the country and discourage this bill, Day said.

Day said Notre Dame's mission statement pledges that the University looks to nurture in its students, "a disciplined sensibility to the poverty, injustice and oppression that burden the lives of so many. The aim is to create a sense of human solidarity and concern for the common good that will bear fruit as learning becomes service to justice."

"As the students and alumni of Notre Dame stand up to the injustice of Uganda's Anti-Homosexuality Bill, we are fulfilling this part of Notre Dame's mission," Day said.

Contact Mel Flanagan at
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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

attended a career tech school because he thought that was his

best prospect for a job — he had no thoughts of even going to college because he knew there was no way his mom could afford it," Feasel said.

Fortunately for Zorich, he was noticed on his high school football field by Notre Dame recruiters, who then gave him a scholarship.

"The sad part of Chris's story though is when he returned home from the national championship game, he found his mother dead in their apartment," Feasel said. "Her health had been declining but he didn't think that she would pass away while he was gone. He did, however, go on to graduate from Notre Dame."

Just like this year's team, the 1988 team had an incredibly tight-knit family feel to it, Feasel said. And much like this year's team, no one expected the 1988 Irish to make it to a national championship.

"To this day when I talk about Notre Dame football, I tell people that my senior year was the last national championship year," Feasel said. "We were undefeated going into the Miami game, which to this day is known as the Catholics vs. Convicts game. Both teams were undefeated with Miami on a 36-game win streak and the defending national champions."

"It was then I think we all started believing Notre Dame could go all the way."

Notre Dame kept building the momentum only an undefeated team can do. Much like this year's showdown at the Coliseum, the team pulled through with a 27-10 victory over the USC Trojans. Then it was on to the national championship.

"To this day, I cannot believe my parents let me take their car from Columbus, Ohio, to Phoenix, Ariz," Feasel said.

Feasel and three of her girlfriends piled into her parents' station wagon while eight of her friends from Notre Dame drove a rented RV from the Midwest to Arizona for the game.

"The atmosphere in Phoenix was clearly more pro-Notre Dame than West Virginia, but I will say the West Virginia fans were incredibly nice," Feasel said. "Notre Dame led the entire game. When the game was over, confetti was released, the team was given national championship hats and people stormed the field. Players and Coach [Lou] Holtz were lifted up on other people's shoulders — it was an incredible scene. I am so glad I was able to be there."

As for current students trying to purchase national championship tickets, Feasel had a lower bill.

"My game ticket was \$31.65 and the ticket to the official pep rally was \$2," Feasel said.

Feasel's nephew, who is a Marine, bought tickets for the game from Stub Hub as soon as Notre Dame beat USC last Saturday, but he paid around \$2,000 a ticket for only two tickets, Feasel said.

"He used the money he made serving in Afghanistan this year to buy a ticket for himself and his brother and asked for his leave to be extended an extra day so he could go to the game. The official Notre Dame travel packages are between \$1,700 and \$2,400 which is really too much for students to pay, with the game tickets starting at \$350," Feasel said.

Feasel said she is glad her daughter Meghan, a senior at Saint Mary's, could have a similar football experience.

"I won't be going to the national championship game, but my entire family has said they will chip in to help my daughter go because they know how much it means to her."

Contact Jillian Barwick at
jbarwi01@saintmarys.edu

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NEW YEAR'S EVE GALA
Monday, December 31



INSIDE COLUMN

For Irish haters



Vicky Jacobsen
Sports Writer

I realize that the editorial page of The Observer is not the best way to reach you and your brethren, but this is the one publication willing to give me a soapbox.

As a Notre Dame detractor, you might not have run through the nearest public fountain after near-simultaneous losses by Kansas St. and Oregon made the Irish the No. 1 college football team.

But don't pretend you haven't enjoyed this season. Trust me, the world was not interested in listening to you complain about a football team on its way to a 5-7 record. You have until Jan. 7 to complain that the Irish are arrogant bullies who, despite a berth in the national championship game, aren't good.

In response to the sillier reasons I've seen for disliking Notre Dame:

"I abhor the tin-pot Irishness of the place." This one came from Charlie Pierce in a Grantland article. I don't know who anointed him the arbiter of what is and is not an appropriate way to celebrate one's heritage. But something tells me he is unaware that we have the North America's only Irish Language and Literature Department, which happens to be the largest Irish-speaking workplace in the world. Just a hunch.

"They refuse to join a conference for football." I personally don't see how joining a conference makes your school more virtuous. Army, Navy and BYU are also independents — that's not exactly a lineup of college football villains. Besides, the Big Ten didn't want Notre Dame when we asked to join (repeatedly) in the first half of the 20th century, back when we were a little Catholic school in the middle of nowhere.

"They have an exclusive contract with NBC." This "undeserved" contract was one of Rick Reilly's big gripes. The way people talk, you would think the athletic department had kidnapped Bob Costas and held him hostage in Zahm's basement until NBC acquiesced to our demands. Sorry, but this is purely a business decision. If you can think of a program to run on Saturday afternoons that would attract more viewers, I'm sure NBC would be willing to set up an appointment.

"Notre Dame fans are obnoxious." I find this funny, partially because the chances of having things thrown at you on gameday are next to nil. In a country where we spend so much time criticizing "bandwagon" fans, you would think Irish fans would get more credit for standing by their team through 20 years lost in the college football desert. If we didn't love our school, we wouldn't bother to love the football team. And if you could experience this school for yourself, I'd bet you wouldn't bother to hate it, either.

Contact Vicky Jacobsen at vjacobse@nd.edu

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

Fr. Lou DelFra
Faithpoint

Sitting, pacing, kneeling before my TV while viewing the ND versus USC game, I detected a marked difference in my stomach from any other game this season. Gone was the comforting illusion that, even if we lost, we'd have time to make up the drop in the rankings in the next weeks. Gone was the therapeutic excuse: "Well, even if we lose, we've far surpassed everyone's expectations." As the Irish took the field, unlike any other game this year, there was nothing I could really feel other than: "It's within our grasp. And there's nothing to do but win." There's something about finality, ultimacy, that brings what's essential into the sharpest focus.

Most of us are living this reality intensely. The end of the semester generates precisely the same dynamic. Where once students spent a free moment watching a YouTube clip, they now spend it calculating the exact number of pages they have to write before they leave for Christmas. Exam schedules are plotted out and blocs of free time are bracketed for study. Many distractions and most excuses to procrastinate are closeted away for a couple weeks, as our minds and energies hone in on the last push. Such is the usual effect of "the final moment."

We are in the last days of the year. Advent — the beginning of the new Church year, as we begin again to wait with the expectant Mary for the birth of Christ — begins this Sunday. The readings at Mass during these final days are about the final days, the end of time, the last moment. They take on the urgency and the almost brutal focus that befalls us when we come to the final moment of anything of drastic importance.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Miami, finals, the apocalypse

This coming Sunday's Gospel will not be of particular comfort to most of us as we approach finals week, for Christ warns: "There will be signs in the sun, moon and stars. On earth, nations will be in dismay, perplexed by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will die of fright in anticipation of what is coming upon the world . . ."

For obvious reasons, this genre of writing is called "apocalyptic." We can easily identify its most apparent quality — a description of the cataclysmic ending of the world. Yet, if this description is the total purpose of apocalyptic writing, it would seem to have a most limited usefulness. It would be, from a practical standpoint, mostly irrelevant every year of the earth's existence except one. And the year it is relevant, no one is going to have much time to be reading about it. What good does it do today to conjure up dreadful images about the end of the world? To the extent that we accept it's inevitable, images of the apocalypse seem to fill us mostly with a paralyzing dread and despair. Yet, I suspect there is something more to be learned from the apocalyptic writings of our Scriptures, including some important wisdom that can benefit us in the here and now.

As I sat back exultantly and celebrated the Irish win last Saturday, my insides finally unclenched for the first time all night. As I listened to the player interviews, I realized that one of the most amazing things about a championship team is that it has been able to summon the ultimate focus I was only willing to experience in the final game, only for every game this season. It turns out, in hindsight, that my insight during the USC game that "Every play tonight might determine whether we go to South Beach" was true of every play this season. The knowledge of what was most essential

was able to drive the Irish for the 11 weeks prior.

The same goes for finals week. There is something undeniably ultimate (cataclysmic?!) about it. Though the cramming of the final two weeks is necessary and perhaps to some extent educationally effective, the real and lasting educational formation of any course you complete this December has likely been much more the result of the sustained focus you placed on it over the first 13 weeks of the semester.

Although the term "apocalypse" is characterized by descriptions of the end of all things, it comes from a Greek word meaning "to uncover," "to strip back," "to reveal what is finally essential." As it turns out, what is "finally essential" about most of our endeavors, whether it be a football season, our studies or our relationship with God and one another, is present not just at the end of their time. The essential is present from the beginning, just buried under sometimes countless, less essential distractions. Perhaps the apocalyptic writings of our Scriptures seek to enkindle in us the urgency to uncover the essential now. So, in the end, when ultimacy forces the essential upon us, we can accept it rather familiarly, with the confidence that comes from having tried to live in it all along. As Christ also exhorts in this Sunday's Gospel: "When these signs begin to happen, stand erect and raise your heads for your redemption is at hand." It is the same redemption Christ offers to us right now.

Fr. Lou DelFra, CSC, is a campus minister and the Director of Pastoral Life for the ACE Program. He can be reached at Louis.A.DelFra.2@nd.edu

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

Cheering with purpose

As a lifelong Notre Dame fan, I strongly identified with a lot of the tendencies John Sandburg described in his column "Why I Cheer." I've probably invested a bit too much in this team over the years, and it's very true that how the team does in Miami this coming January will have an incredible impact on my happiness that seems out of place when you consider the fact that I'm not actually playing in the game. I have to disagree, however, that our cheering "won't make a bit of difference," and that the biggest reason to root for Notre Dame is because doing so allows us to give up control in some aspect of our overly regimented lives.

Why cheer for Notre Dame if you're just doing so to give up control? Why

not cheer for Alabama, USC or any other team out there? I cheer for Notre Dame because of the tremendous amount of pride I have in my school. I value our mission of merging world-class liberal education and research with a commitment to social justice; when our team takes the field to represent Our Lady's University, they stand as representatives of our University and that mission. I love my school, and it's that pride that makes me want to see the Irish excel not just in football, but in any activity we participate in. I'll always support representatives of ND.

We as fans can also have a tremendous impact through our support. Pretty simply, more cheering creates a louder and more imposing stadium

and can force opposing teams into miscues. But more importantly, showing our support for our fellow students demonstrates the unity and familial atmosphere that makes Notre Dame special. We stand with each other, supporting our fellow students as they strive to pursue their goals. In doing so, we create a culture that values togetherness and pride. Any time I see someone wearing the monogram ND and representing us, I'll gladly stand up and cheer with pride as they show the rest of the world what we're all about.

Tom McGuire
junior
Siegfried Hall
Nov. 29

Submit a Letter to the Editor | Email obsviewpoint@gmail.com

What is a Catholic University?

Christopher Damian
Ideas of a University

Flannery O'Connor once wrote: "The Catholic novelist doesn't have to be a saint; he doesn't even have to be a Catholic; he does, unfortunately, have to be a novelist." In her essay, "Catholic Novelists and Their Readers," she notes that "poorly written novels — no matter how pious and edifying the behaviour of their characters — are not good in themselves and are therefore not really edifying."

In "The Idea of a University," Cardinal John Henry Newman seeks to discuss and understand the nature of a University. In "Discourse IX," Newman states that the University teaches all subject matter in an integrated way, such that the University is a coherent whole.

Newman recognizes a primacy of secular aims in the University. This may be scandalous to some who would favor a "seminary model" for the Catholic University. The University, Catholic or otherwise, is not primarily a place for catechesis. Nor is it primarily a place of moral formation. One that functions primarily as a seminary is not a University. The University is a place for the pursuit of Knowledge. This pursuit is good in

and of itself, and it does not need external justification. Newman identifies both the instrument and the result of this pursuit as "Liberal Knowledge."

The mediocre Catholic University that is only concerned with evangelization and popular piety may be subject to Flannery O'Connor's criticism of some "Catholic" novelists: "Even oftener, I think, we see people distorting their talents in the name of God for reasons that they think are good . . . None of us is able to judge such people themselves, but we must, for the sake of truth, judge the products they make . . . The novelist who deliberately misuses his talent for some good purpose may be committing no sin, but he is certainly committing a grave inconsistency, for he is trying to reflect God with what amounts to a practical untruth."

Many pose the question: "Is Notre Dame a Catholic University?" However, a man or woman cannot be a Catholic novelist without being a novelist, and an institution cannot be a Catholic University without being a University.

Notre Dame's mission statement reads: "The University prides itself on being an environment of teaching and learning which fosters the development in its students of those disciplined habits of mind, body and spirit which characterize

educated, skilled and free human beings." To this end, the University has established a "core curriculum," "a set of required courses intended to provide every undergraduate with a common foundation in learning." These courses are intended to provide the foundation for all the pursuits of the University and to contribute towards the pursuit of Liberal Knowledge.

Notre Dame students are not unlike the majority of their peers at competitive research universities. Many students approach required courses as a series of hoops to jump through in order to obtain a diploma. This, however, is insufficient for the pursuit of Liberal Knowledge. One who approaches courses in this way cannot truly say that he or she has received a University education.

In a University, all courses will contribute to each other. No discipline can survive on its own. Specialization is particularly antithetical to the University, because it only allows for a narrow mind. The University is concerned with the liberated mind.

Can one develop a liberal mind at Notre Dame? A professor remarked to me that Notre Dame no longer has a core curriculum. It has distribution requirements. We no longer aid our students in creating a coherent, holistic

and integrated curriculum. Rather, we only ask that they take a certain number of courses in a certain number of disciplines. These courses may or may not make sense in light of one another; this largely depends on the students' selections.

Do Notre Dame students receive a University education? Year after year, seniors have remarked to me that they wished they would have taken different courses, chosen a different major, spent their time differently. They suggest that a great amount of time here was wasted. They say that they did not receive the education they thought they had come here to get. I'm unsure if this is the case for me.

Only in determining whether Notre Dame is a University can we determine whether it is a Catholic University. Yet, perhaps the reverse is also true. Newman notes: "If the Catholic Faith is true, a University cannot exist externally to the Catholic pale, for it cannot teach Universal Knowledge if it does not teach Catholic theology."

Christopher Damian is a senior. He can be reached at cdamian1@nd.edu
The views expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

A poor argument indeed

In the article "A poor argument," Adam Newman argues that poverty is not an excuse for the state of the American school system today. According to Mr. Newman, poverty "has been used by the education establishment to lower the expectations of what schools and teachers can achieve." As minors in the Education, Schooling and Society program, we believe that poverty is an integral part of the web of influences that affect education. It cannot be ignored.

Mr. Newman begins his argument by distinguishing between "traditionalists" and "reformers" in the educational debate. We find this categorization problematic and unproductive, in that it implies that "traditionalists" are not advocates of meaningful reforms in the educational system for all students. In fact, both "sides" are trying to reform schooling, just in different ways and informed by different research. Mr. Newman says: "Reformers believe that the best way to improve student outcomes is to provide students with effective teachers and schools, regardless of their background." The policymakers he calls "traditionalists," however, also want all students to have access to quality teachers and schools. They do not believe that background is determinative, but rather that it is important consideration in understanding why achievement gaps persist. The Coleman Report, which is widely considered the most influential education study of the 20th century, concluded that family resources matter more than school quality for academic achievement. Good teachers matter. Still, we believe that poverty has huge

consequences for student achievement; conclusions that teacher quality and accountability are all that are needed to "fix" the system lack insight into the forces that shape student achievement.

Mr. Newman, you are right that quality teaching greatly impacts the economic lives of low-income students. However, we cannot ignore the immense impact that poverty has on students before they even attend school. Children bring with them a great variety of experiences and circumstances that cannot be neglected. Poverty is also a culture. In particular, poverty affects every aspect of one's life, from housing, health and culture. Richard Rothstein, research associate of the Economic Policy Institute and senior fellow at the University of California (Berkeley) School of Law, dispels arguments for the accountability movement similar to yours in Class and Schools with revealing data. For example, by the time a child from a low-income family enters kindergarten, he or she will have heard, on average, 4 million fewer words than the average middle-class child. Furthermore, compared to less-educated parents, well-educated parents read more to their child, use more positive affirmations, use more sophisticated vocabulary and encourage more inquiry. The implications for literacy and early learning are undeniable. There are factors outside of school instruction contributing to the achievement gap. Inequalities do not mean that low-income students cannot learn or should not be expected to perform well in school, but policymakers must acknowledge the effects of poverty

when considering what matters in educating children. Indeed, one of the ways effective teachers make a dramatic difference for students of every background is by recognizing these variables and integrating students' day-to-day experiences into his or her instruction.

The Harlem Success Academy succeeds because it takes poverty into account. According to the school's website, it provides students with an extended school day, extended school year, free and nutritious snacks and lunches, free transportation to and from school, and an hour of supplemental activities that are woven into the school day. All of these extra services dissolve some of the discrepancies between the experiences and lifestyles of students from low-income and high-income families. In other words, the school recognizes the impact of poverty on education and attempts to level the playing field.

Your want for improved education with an emphasis on high quality teachers is not antithetical to the issue of poverty. No matter how good a teacher is, if a student in the classroom is unhealthy because he or she does not have health insurance, the student will not be able to perform as well as students with access to middle-class resources. There are exceptions and poverty is not determinative. Still, claiming that school accountability and teaching alone can remedy a system in crisis will only perpetuate the polarized debate that pits teachers against politicians. Let's redefine the paradigm. Schools matter; teachers matter; poverty matters.

Kelsie Corrison junior Farley Hall	Kelley Gregg junior Welsh Family
Emily Flores sophomore Pasquerilla West	Marielle Hampe junior Cavanaugh Hall
Grace Carroll sophomore Ryan Hall	Kevin Huang sophomore Morrissey Manor
Alexa Aragon junior Walsh Hall	Christopher Keber sophomore Dillon Hall
Madeline Basil sophomore Walsh Hall	Adam Mena senior Off-campus
Jennifer Cardinale sophomore McGlinn Hall	Caitlin Ogren junior Pasquerilla West
Colleen Doyle sophomore Pasquerilla West	Marisa Rieber sophomore Welsh Family
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Jessica Goston sophomore McGlinn Hall	

ND DANCE COMPANY PERFORMANCE TONIGHT

By **MIKO MALABUTE**
Scene Writer

The Notre Dame Dance Company performs their first production this Thursday and Friday night at 7 p.m. in Washington Hall, a performance in the works since the beginning of the school year.

“This dance production is a showcase of the talents of all the hard working dancers in Dance Company,” ND Dance Company President Anne McDonough said. “The show [allows] student choreographers to express themselves through choreography and also for dancers to interpret that choreography and expose their emotions to the audience through dance.”

The show will consist of dancers’ performances of a wide variety, ranging from jazz, lyrical, ballet, tap, pointe, and contemporary.

“You should expect to see pieces with different stories behind them that all celebrate the beauty and intricacy of movement,” McDonough said.

The performance will be largely made up of dances choreographed by the students themselves, where it is very apparent that each member of the Dance Company looks forward to each others’ creativity and artistic visions. From the top down, the support and enthusiasm among the Dance Company is very apparent, and McDonough expressed her excitement to see all of her dancer peers’ talent showcased on stage. This sentiment is thoroughly reciprocated among all of the members, as freshman dancer Sarah Rohrman expressed her own excitement towards her fellow dancers’ work.

“I really like the emotion behind Kaleen DeFilippis’ piece, ‘Come Home Soon,’” Rohrman shared. “It’s just fun to perform! I’ve gotten to see ‘Some Nights,’ a piece by Maggie Miller a lot in rehearsal, so it’s probably one of my favorites, along with ‘Breathe Me’ [by Mari Grief] and ‘Awake My Soul’ [by Julia McGinty].”

The long process leading up to the production was a significant one. McDonough described how choreography



KEVIN SONG | The Observer

was invited from the members at the beginning of the year, and since then met once a week, spending 40 minutes on a dance routine.

“Typically choreographers will start the rehearsal with some sort of warm up and review of the previous week’s choreography and then continue teaching the number and setting spaces for the dancers,” McDonough said. “Usually Dance Company pieces are not finished until the week before or even the week of the show, simply because there is not enough time in a semester.”

The level of dedication is very impressive, and major time commitments did not escape McDonough’s description of the process.

“As college students, it is difficult to maintain the level of training and discipline in dance that many of us practiced in high school,” McDonough said.

However, it is precisely this strain on the members’ time that truly speaks on each dancer’s passion, throwing themselves in their art.

“A huge reason Dance Company is inspired to put on shows is to be able to help students continue their training, passion and love for dance despite the fact that their lives are more hectic the older they get,” McDonough said. “It sounds cheesy but I feel like this club has become



KEVIN SONG | The Observer

my baby...It makes me happy to share my passion with others on the company.”

The close-knit relationship in the Company is apparent.

“Everyone is here [in the ND Dance Company] simply because they love to dance and want to share it with people,” Rohrman said. “We’ve put so much work into this performance every week since August, and I think everyone’s just ready to be able to showcase that.”

The Notre Dame Dance Company’s show will be Thursday and Friday night at 7 p.m. at Washington Hall. Admission is \$5.

Contact Miko Malabute at
mmalabut@nd.edu

On Campus

What: Notre Dame Dance Company

Where: Washington Hall

When: Thursday and Friday, 7 p.m.

How Much: \$5

‘iDOS!’—GREEN DAY’S GARAGE BAND GREATNESS

By **JESUS MENDOZA**
Scene Writer

Few active bands can say they’ve been relevant for more than a decade. Five years, maybe 10 in mainstream popularity and a band can rest peacefully in the knowledge that it’s had a good run. But then there’s Green Day.

Hailing from a time when the ‘M’ in MTV actually meant music, Green Day has been dishing out its lovably vulgar brand of punk rock to audiences since its formation in 1987, achieving breakthrough success with its major label debut album “Dookie” in 1994. Since then, six albums and almost two decades have led to the band’s most recent entry, “iDos!,” part of an ambitious trilogy of albums currently being released over the course of a few months.

“iDos!” has been described by front man Billie Joe Armstrong as the band’s attempt at the garage rock subgenre, focusing on an unfiltered and visceral sound throughout the album, a welcome detour from previous stadium rock anthems seen in “American Idiot” and “21st Century Breakdown.”

This raw feel is perfectly showcased in the minute-long introduction “See You Tonight,” a quick, melancholy piece that consists only of Armstrong’s vocals and a clean, undistorted electric guitar, refreshing in its unproduced sound and simplicity. A live version of this track would sound nearly identical to the album recording, a quality missing from many acts nowadays.

BRANDON KEELEAN | The Observer

The band returns to its usual crude, inappropriate self for “Stop When the Red Lights Flash” and “Lazy Bones,” a pair of loud, fast entries dealing with disillusionment and tiredness, candid in showing Armstrong’s snotty attitude that one can’t help but love. Brash and abrupt, songs like “Makeout Party” and “F*** Time” leave even less work for the imagination.

The album’s only single, “Stray Heart,” presents a more vulnerable, heartbroken image of Armstrong. Built upon an upbeat, springy bass line, it’s obvious through the track’s cleaner language and contagious chorus that this is a venture into pop territory. Although it’s understandable that the band needed a more radio-friendly track to promote the album, it would have been nice to see Green Day stick to the garage sound purported to be the focus of “iDos!” Either way, the song will stick in listeners’ minds.

“Nightlife” is the most interesting experiment on the set list, a slower track with an offbeat guitar, heavy bass line, and guest vocals from Lady Cobra, lead singer of the relatively unknown band Mystic Knights of the Cobra. Lady Cobra’s provocative rapping and Armstrong’s distorted vocals give a more ska punk sound, reminiscent of fellow 90s band Sublime. Just as racy as other tracks, this is a successful risk into previously unexplored influences for Green Day, a sound that they can hopefully expand in later albums.

Armstrong’s best and most heartfelt track has to be “Amy,” a tribute to the late artist Amy Winehouse. Like “See You Tonight,” the song consists of just Armstrong’s

vocals and a guitar. Painfully sweet in his call for Amy to be his friend, Armstrong beautifully paints his anguish over the loss of the artist. Listening to his honest lyrics, one can practically see Armstrong onstage, alone with his guitar, strumming in a lone spotlight. This song would not be out of place on the Ed Sullivan Show for its true soulfulness and purity.

Green Day has provided another fine entry into its decade’s old repertoire, boldly embracing new styles while still maintaining its tried and true image with loyal fans. It’s great to see that the band has retained its creativity across the years, and will surely do so with the upcoming and final installment of its trio of albums.

Contact Jesus Mendoza at
jmendoz6@nd.edu

“iDos!” Green Day

Label: Reprise

Tracks: “Lazy Bones,” “Makeout Party,” “Nightlife”

If you like: The Offspring, Sublime, blink-182



WEEKEND EVENTS CALENDAR

THURSDAY



What: “50/50”
Where: DPAC
When: 6:30 and 9 p.m.
How Much: Free

Joseph Gordon-Levitt and Seth Rogen star in this dark comedy, which takes a look into living through cancer. The film was written Will Reiser, Rogen’s close friend, based on his own experience of being diagnosed cancer as a young man.

FRIDAY



What: Randy Houser
Where: Legends
When: 10 p.m.
How Much: Free

Country music star Randy Houser plays at Legends on Friday night. Houser, a Mississippi native, has received multiple award nominations from the Academy of Country Music and the Country Music Association. This kicks off Legends Goes Country, so stay around after for some of that.

SATURDAY



What: “Sleepwalk With Me”
Where: DPAC
When: 6:30 and 9 p.m.
How much: \$4

Popular stand-up comedian Mike Birbiglia stars in this indie comedy about a popular stand-up comedian struggling with a wild sleepwalking disorder. The movie, based on a one-man play Birbiglia wrote and performed, was screened at the SXSW Festival and won the Sundance Festival’s Best of NEXT Award.

SUNDAY



What: “Meet John Doe”
Where: DPAC
When: 3 p.m.
How much: \$4

Another in the line of DPAC’s Classic 100 series, Frank Capra’s “Meet John Doe” is a comedy-drama starring Gary Cooper as a man who agrees to impersonate a made up man who claims he will commit suicide as a protest of society’s ills. How that’s a comedy is a little unclear, but it is one of the classic works of Capra’s career.



KNOW THY SHELF

LITERATURE IS NOT DEAD



Meghan Thomassen
 Scene Writer

After years spent trying to justify my love of literature, I finally had that moment. It was an elusive but completely satisfactory second of pure realization and vindication. When I read Martha Nussbaum’s essays on “Cultivating Humanity,” it was like God had rolled back the sky like a scroll, reached down and stuck a big “OK” stamp on my English degree.

Martha Nussbaum is a liberal humanist who tackles the influence of literature, but without the alienating academic garble. She is one of us. She doesn’t use words like “solipsism” or “autolatrist.” Her sentences are reasonably sized and don’t abuse the comma like it’s her job (ahem, Hemingway).

Nussbaum’s chapter on “Narrative Imagination” highlights how everything we love about books can actually work for the greater good. For Nussbaum, the imagination is vital in order to be a cultivated citizen of the world. As Aristotle wrote in his “Poetics,” literature shows us “not something that has happened, but the kind of thing that might happen.” But Nussbaum theorizes that literature doesn’t just show us what might happen, but what should happen.

Think about all the times you sat on the edge of your seat, enraptured by whatever book you’re reading. You tune out the world, shun your friends and maybe even deny yourself proper hygiene, all because you just have

to know what happens. John Grisham and Nora Roberts have turned this kind of suspenseful writing, be it mysterious or romantic, into a very comfortable livelihood, but that does not discredit the theory behind their success.

Nussbaum says imagination makes readers invest themselves in characters and “inspires intense concern with the fate of characters and defines those characters as containing a rich inner life.” It doesn’t take much for an author to imply what a character’s inner landscape looks like.

Gandalf doesn’t say much to Bilbo, but when he does, he reveals centuries of wisdom and fathoms of power behind that kindly, old-school façade. Elinor Dashwood spends the majority of “Sense and Sensibility” worrying and writing letters, but when Edward finally gets down on one knee, Austen captures mountains of anguish in one, uninhibited cry.

When something happens to the characters you’ve grown attached to, whether it’s Severus Snape, despite Harry’s judgment, or Scarlett O’Hara, even though she’s a self-centered princess, you feel an overwhelming sensation of justice, especially if you think your character has been wronged. Who didn’t fling “Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows” across the room when (spoiler alert) Snape died? Who didn’t raise their hand in solidarity when Scarlett swore that she “would never go hungry again?”

You’ve never met these people. You’ve never encountered a situation like theirs. And yet your values are

being put to the test with each new reading. By inciting your compassion or righteous rage, literature does something to you. It puts you through a highly specified and refining experience, one that can be recreated, interpreted and shared for years and years to come.

This was the essence of the Greek tragedy. To watch “Oedipus Rex” or “Antigone” is to experience cruel fate and injustice firsthand. The Greeks saw value in these cathartic visits to the theater because it plumbs each spectator’s moral virtues and normalizes the crowd’s response.

If adequately skilled, the playwright cannot only identify and induce a common emotion, but can also teach what the spectator’s proper reaction should be. Obviously, Nussbaum’s understanding of literature is nothing new. Works like “Animal Farm” and anything from the Irish nationalist theater will attest to that.

But for everyday people who aren’t facing major political conflicts, Nussbaum calls attention to what we read and how it normalizes our actions. This doesn’t mean we should only read what we agree with. That would only lead to complacent, uninformed value systems that would crumble at any outward challenge.

If written correctly, a book can help you recognize, understand, and respect other people. Unless, of course, you’re a solipsist.

Contact Meghan Thomassen at mthomass@nd.edu. The views expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.

SPORTS AUTHORITY

UMD move for more than greed



Matthew Robison
Sports Writer

Last week, Peter Steiner closed his Sports Authority column about conference expansion with the question, “How long until the next domino tumbles to the ground?”

As it turns out, we only had to wait one week. Louisville announced Wednesday it would make the move to the Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC). Cincinnati and Connecticut are desperately trying to leave the Big East like rats scurrying off a sinking ship. North Carolina’s athletic director had to send an email to the media and alumni reassuring them the rumors of a Tar Heel move to the Big Ten were false.

With all the recent conference realignment occurring in collegiate athletics has come a great deal of negative backlash. People are calling the moves greedy, money-grabbing moves by university heads and athletic directors and narcissistic, power-grabbing moves by conference commissioners.

But I’m okay with it for one specific reason. As a Baltimore native, I grew up a fan of Maryland athletics. Last year, athletic director Kevin Anderson proposed cutting eight athletic programs because of a \$4 million budget deficit. By 2017, that deficit was expected to grow to \$17 million.

Maryland’s men’s basketball and football revenues, every school’s meat and potatoes, were not doing enough to keep the rest of the department afloat. Anderson allowed each team to perform its own fundraising to keep itself alive, but only the men’s outdoor track and field team could do so. Men’s cross country, men’s indoor track and field, men’s swimming and diving, women’s swimming and diving, men’s tennis, women’s water polo and competitive cheer all got the ax.

Hundreds of athletes lost their scholarships. Even if those athletes were not on

scholarship, a major part of their collegiate experience was nonetheless taken away. These athletes had been playing the sport they love for their entire lives. Finally, they had gotten the opportunity to do it on an elite level in the ACC.

So the decision by Anderson and university president Wallace Loh is acceptable. If the move to the Big Ten prevents a disastrous situation like that from ever happening again, I’m all for it. Some of my other hometown schools, such as Towson, have been forced to shut down the men’s soccer and baseball teams. They’ve reallocated those resources to sports that are cheaper to

Cincinnati and Connecticut are desperately trying to leave the Big East like rats scurrying off a sinking ship. North Carolina’s athletic director had to send an email to the media and alumni reassuring them the rumors of a Tar Heel move to the Big Ten were false.

run like tennis. Towson, unfortunately, doesn’t have the luxury of being courted by a major conference to increase its revenues.

Maryland was in that fortunate situation. So was Louisville. Ultimately, the athletic director and the leaders of those universities who have moved conferences, at times severing decades-old regional ties, did so for the long-term health of the athletic department.

And I’m perfectly okay with that.

Contact Matthew Robison at mrobison@nd.edu

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

NCAA

Huskies left out in the cold after conference shift

Associated Press

Hartford, Conn. – Connecticut found itself left behind in the conference realignment shuffle again Wednesday as Louisville was picked over the Huskies to join the Atlantic Coast Conference, becoming the fifth football member to leave the Big East in just over a year.

UConn had been courting the ACC and was thought to be a leading candidate to replace Maryland after the Terrapins accepted an invitation earlier this month to join the Big Ten.

“I know this may seem like a tough moment for our fans, but we need to focus on the fundamentals of academic success across the university and in our athletic program as well,” UConn president Susan Herbst said. “We are winners. We win, we like to win and we will continue to play the best possible opponents. We will be athletically successful, regardless of our conference, because of our successes in NCAA competition.”

The Huskies have a resume they thought would be attractive to the ACC. UConn has won 10 NCAA basketball championships since 1995 (seven women’s titles and three men’s), and has a football program that has been to five bowls in its first decade as an FBS program.

It’s also a top-20 research university in a top-40 television market, and has a television contract with New York cable network SNY.

“Husky Nation is strong all over the country and the world,” athletic director Warde Manuel said. “UConn has one of the most captive audiences of any school in the country and we have strong penetration in several of the nation’s largest television markets.”

But Louisville was thought to be a better fit for ACC football, with better facilities, a larger stadium, a longer history as a major college football



AP

Atlantic Coast Conference commissioner John Swofford addresses the media July 22. The ACC added Louisville on Wednesday.

program, and the perception of being a better “football school.”

That upset some UConn players, who noted Tuesday that UConn is just two seasons removed from a Fiesta Bowl berth, and is 4-4 against Louisville in Big East play after beating the Cardinals last Saturday.

“When you’re judged and people don’t know what really happens, it gets under your skin,” defensive end Trevardo Williams said. “We’ll use that as motivation because we’re actually a good team.”

The ACC’s decision doesn’t mean UConn will stop trying to find a better landing spot than the Big East. The ACC remains a possibility if the league decides to expand to 16 teams, or any other schools leave that conference. Clemson and Florida State have been mentioned as potential targets for the SEC.

“We have and will continue to monitor the situation regarding conference realignment,” Manuel said, “and work to ensure that UConn is in the best position for the continued success of our athletic programs.”

The loss of Louisville and Rutgers follows last year’s

departure of Syracuse and Pittsburgh to the ACC, and West Virginia to the Big 12. Notre Dame, which had been a Big East member in everything but football, has also announced it will take those teams to the ACC.

On Tuesday, the Big East countered by adding Tulane for all sports and East Carolina for football only beginning in 2014.

“Big East teams will continue to compete and succeed at the highest level and, as always, will combine athletic and academic excellence,” Commissioner Mike Aresco said in a statement Wednesday. “With schools stretching from coast to coast and in many of the top U.S. media markets, the Big East has become a truly national conference with outstanding young men and women competing across a full range of sports.”

UConn football coach Paul Pasqualoni on Tuesday bemoaned the changing landscape, which leaves the Husky football team without a northeast rival in the Big East north of Philadelphia.

“Pretty soon, it’s gonna be settled, sooner or later,” Pasqualoni said. “It’s got to be

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MLB

Bonds, Clemens, Sosa appear on first HOF ballot

Associated Press

NEW YORK — The most polarizing Hall of Fame debate since Pete Rose will now be decided by the baseball shrine's voters: Do Barry Bonds, Roger Clemens and Sammy Sosa belong in Cooperstown despite drug allegations that tainted their huge numbers?

In a monthlong election sure to become a referendum on the Steroids Era, the Hall ballot was released Wednesday, and Bonds, Clemens and Sosa are on it for the first time.

Bonds is the all-time home run champion with 762 and won a record seven MVP awards. Clemens took home a record seven Cy Young trophies and is ninth with 354 victories. Sosa ranks eighth on the homer chart with 609.

Yet for all their HRs, RBIs and Ws, the shadow of PEDs looms large.

"You could see for years that this particular ballot was going to be controversial and divisive to an unprecedented extent," Larry Stone of The Seattle Times wrote in an email. "My hope is that some clarity begins to emerge over the Hall of Fame status of those linked to performance-enhancing drugs. But I doubt it."

More than 600 longtime members of the Baseball Writers' Association of America will vote on the 37-player ballot. Candidates require 75 percent for induction, and the results will be announced Jan. 9.

Craig Biggio, Mike Piazza and Curt Schilling also are among the 24 first-time eligibles. Jack Morris, Jeff Bagwell and Tim Lincecum are the top holdover candidates.

If recent history is any indication, the odds are solidly

stacked against Bonds, Clemens and Sosa. Mark McGwire and Rafael Palmeiro both posted Cooperstown-caliber stats, too, but drug clouds doomed them in Hall voting.

Some who favor Bonds and Clemens claim the bulk of their accomplishments came before baseball got wrapped up in drug scandals. They add that PED use was so prevalent in the 1980s, 1990s and early 2000s that it's unfair to exclude anyone because so many who-did-and-who-didn't questions remain.

Many fans on the other side say drug cheats — suspected or otherwise — should never be afforded the game's highest individual honor.

Either way, this election is baseball's newest hot button, generating the most fervent Hall arguments since Rose. The discussion about Rose was moot, however — the game's career hits leader agreed to a lifetime ban in 1989 after an investigation concluded he bet on games while managing the Cincinnati Reds, and that barred him from the BBWAA ballot.

The BBWAA election rules allow voters to pick up to 10 candidates. As for criteria, this is the only instruction: "Voting shall be based upon the player's record, playing ability, integrity, sportsmanship, character, and contributions to the team(s) on which the player played."

That leaves a lot of room for interpretation.

Bonds, Clemens and Sosa won't get a vote from Mike Klis of The Denver Post.

"Nay on all three. I think in all three cases, their performances were artificially enhanced. Especially in the cases of Bonds and Clemens, their production went up abnormally late in their careers," he wrote in an email.



AP

Giants outfielder Barry Bonds blasts his 761st career home run in the fourth inning of an 11-6 win over the Brewers in San Francisco on Aug. 24, 2007.

They'll do better with Bob Dutton of The Kansas City Star.

"I plan to vote for all three. I understand the steroid/PED questions surrounding each one, and I've wrestled with the implications," he wrote in an email.

"My view is these guys played and posted Hall of Fame-type numbers against the competition of their time. That will be my sole yardstick. If Major League Baseball took no action against a player during his career for alleged or suspected steroid/PED use, I'm not going to do so in assessing their career for the Hall of Fame," he said.

San Jose Mercury News

columnist Mark Purdy will reserve judgment.

"At the beginning of all this, I made up my mind I had to adopt a consistent policy on the steroid social club. So, my policy has been, with the brilliance in the way they set up the Hall of Fame vote where these guys have a 15-year window, I'm not going to vote for any of those guys until I get the best picture possible of what was happening then," he wrote in an email.

"We learn a little bit more each year. We learned a lot during the Bonds trial. We learned a lot during the Clemens trial. I don't want to say I'm never going to

vote for any of them. I want to wait until the end of their eligibility window and have my best idea of what was really going on," he said.

Clemens was acquitted this summer in federal court on six counts that he lied and obstructed Congress when he denied using performance-enhancing drugs.

Bonds was found guilty in 2011 by a federal court jury on one count of obstruction of justice, ruling he gave an evasive answer in 2003 to a grand jury looking into the distribution of illegal steroids. Bonds is appealing the verdict.

McGwire is 10th on the career home run list with 583, but has never received even 24 percent in his six Hall tries. Big Mac has admitted to using steroids and human growth hormone.

Palmeiro is among only four players with 500 homers and 3,000 hits, yet has gotten a high of just 12.6 percent in his two years on the ballot. He drew a 10-day suspension in 2005 after a positive test for PEDs, and said the result was due to a vitamin vial given to him by teammate Miguel Tejada.

Biggio topped the 3,000-hit mark — which always has been considered an automatic credential for Cooperstown — and spent his entire career with the Houston Astros.

"Hopefully, the writers feel strongly that they liked what they saw, and we'll see what happens," Biggio said last week.

Schilling was 216-146 and won three World Series championships, including his "bloody sock" performance for the Boston Red Sox in 2004.

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NFL

Patriots thriving on special teams



Patriots receiver Julian Edelman returns a fumble for a touchdown during New England's 49-19 win over the Jets on Nov. 22 in East Rutherford, N.J.

Associated Press

FOXBOROUGH, Mass. — Derrick Martin has built a championship career out of playing on special teams.

The seven-year veteran earned Super Bowl rings the past two seasons — first with the Green Bay Packers and then with the New York Giants. Now he has a shot at a third straight title with the New England Patriots.

He offers no apologies for making his mark on special teams rather than on the higher profile offensive or defensive units.

“You look for guys to step in and contribute,” Martin said Wednesday of special teams. “Don’t be out there just because you have to, but take it as a serious job, make sure you’re making the plays that you’re supposed to make.”

The Patriots (8-3) have made some big ones during their five-game winning streak with touchdowns on a 104-yard kickoff return by Devin McCourty, a 68-yard punt return by Julian Edelman and a 22-yard fumble return by Edelman after McCourty jarred the ball loose on a kickoff return.

Plays like that can energize the Patriots and deflate their opponents.

“You feed off of it,” Martin said. “When you see somebody else making a play, you’re like, ‘Man, it’s probably my turn to make that play,’ and everybody’s competing to make that play, but they’re all doing their job. So everybody’s working well as a team.”

His next chance comes Sunday in Miami where a win would give the Patriots their fourth straight AFC East title. The Dolphins (5-6) also have made some big plays on special teams with Marcus Thigpen scoring on a 72-yard punt return and a 96-yard kickoff return this season.

“It’s not going to be an easy task going against them, and it’s not going to be easy for them going against us,” said Marlon Moore, Miami’s second-leading tackler on special teams. “It’s going to be a long day on both sides of the ball for special teams, and that’s going to be a big difference in the game.”

In their last two games, the Dolphins have allowed touchdowns on a 79-yard punt return and a 98-yard kickoff return. But Miami’s special teams have improved since the 2010 season when they were especially poor against New England.

In two games against the Patriots that season, the Dolphins allowed three special teams touchdowns, one each on a punt and kickoff return, as well as a blocked field goal. Another blocked field goal set up a touchdown two plays later.

If the Patriots can keep making big plays — and scoring touchdowns — on special teams it will result from the seasonlong focus on the importance of that phase.

“Our hard work and preparation throughout the week is starting to show itself in the games,” special teams captain Matthew Slater said. “We haven’t changed anything. We just continue to approach things the same way we always have and sometimes you’re fortunate enough for things to happen in your favor, the ball to bounce the right way in your favor.”

“And we’ve been able to have that the last two weeks.”

In a 59-24 win over the Indianapolis Colts, Edelman’s punt return for a touchdown and the extra point tied the game 14-14 and the Patriots never trailed again. Four days later, on Thanksgiving night, McCourty’s hit on kickoff returner Joe McKnight knocked the ball into the air and Edelman caught it and ran in for a touchdown that gave the

Patriots a 28-0 lead in their 49-19 win.

McCourty was chosen for the Pro Bowl as a rookie in 2010 and anchors the secondary at safety after shifting from cornerback after the sixth game. He takes his special teams responsibilities just as seriously.

“You can make a lot of big plays on special teams and I’m on a couple of them,” McCourty said. “It’s key for me to do my role on that special team and try to make plays as well.”

Scoring on special teams also can give the offense more time on the sideline to rest and plan. If a player returns a punt or kickoff for a touchdown, Tom Brady can watch his defense go right back out on the field.

“It’s a great thing to happen for a team,” he said. “We’ve been fortunate the last few weeks. I don’t think there’s really an advantage for our offense sitting over there. I’d prefer to be out there playing. But if we’re scoring points, that’s a great thing.”

Making contributions on special teams is important for players, whether they score or not. It can lead to long careers they wouldn’t have if they had to get by only on their offensive or defensive talents.

Slater has just one reception in five seasons with the Patriots but leads the team with 14 special teams tackles and has 72 in his five pro seasons, all with

New England. Martin has five in three games with the Patriots and 62 in his career that began with Baltimore in 2006.

“We’re a very close knit group of guys,” Slater said. “We understand how we’re going to keep jobs in this league and we take a lot of pride in what we’re doing.”

Especially when the emphasis the Patriots put on special teams leads to big plays and victories.

“You’re not counting on the special team to score every game. It’s just not realistic for that to happen,” Slater said. “But when it does happen, it brings a huge momentum swing to the game. In the case of the last two weeks, it’s been huge for us.”

And the teams that don’t stress special teams as much?

“Those are usually teams,” Martin said, “that are losing.”

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LILY KANG | The Observer
Irish junior guard Kayla McBride (21) and sophomore forward Markisha Wright (34) go up for a rebound Nov. 1 against Edinboro.

Chippewas

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

come a long way in maybe two months' time with where she is defensively, so I'm really happy with that."

Notre Dame holds a scoring advantage of almost 30 points per game over its opponents, albeit in a small sample size and with blowout wins over Mercer and Massachusetts. Regardless of the impressive statistic, McGraw said she still hopes to see significant improvement in tonight's contest and all those following.

"I think we want to go into this game, the preparation we are putting in right now in practice is to try to get our game up to the next level," she said. "I don't feel like we are there yet, we have a lot of

things we are working on, so I think every game for us is a little bit of a measuring stick [of] where are we right now. It's still November but we've got to play at a faster pace than we are playing at right now. We are not where we were last year and that's what we are trying to get to. So I think we want to come out of that game with a feeling of we executed the offense, we did what we wanted to do defensively and just start to feel good about the way we are playing in general."

Notre Dame will look to capture its fifth-straight win to start the season against Central Michigan tonight. Tip-off is scheduled for 7 p.m. in McGuirk Arena in Mount Pleasant, Mich.

Contact Joseph Monardo at jmonardo@nd.edu

SMC SWIMMING

Belles look for individual success at Calvin

By ISAAC LORTON
Sports Writer

Saint Mary's will take on its toughest competition yet, as it goes up against NCAA Division I, II and III squads at the Calvin Winter Invitational.

The Belles' small team size will affect their overall score, but Belles coach Mark Benishek said he thinks the team will still compete on an individual level.

"I think we are a little outnumbered at this meet, seeing as there will be Division I, II and III teams there," Benishek said. "There will be a lot of talent there. The Division I and Division II schools have very, very large teams. When it comes to overall team points, we will be outscored, that's just

a given based on their size. Our limitation is our small squad size which will affect us when it comes to team scores, but individually we should have some great swims."

The meet is set up like the MIAA championship meet, where all swimmers will compete in the morning and then the top 24 finishers for each race will move on to the finals that evening. Benishek said it is an opportunity to calculate what the Belles need to work on over winter break.

"It will be a good way to evaluate ourselves at the midpoint of our season," Benishek said. "I think we will have quite a few who make the finals."

Benishek said with the Division I and II schools attending the meet, the overall

quality of the races will improve for the Belles.

"It is always good to compete against better talent and swimmers with faster speeds," Benishek said. "It helps push everybody all around, whether you're a Division III team or you're a Division I team. Individually, it's definitely going to help up their time and speed for their events. It's a great meet for that reason and that's why we keep coming back to it."

The Belles look to end their fall campaign with strong swims against tough competition beginning Thursday at the Calvin Winter Invitational in Grand Rapids, Mich.

Contact Isaac Lorton at ilorton@nd.edu

SMC BASKETBALL | ADRIAN 66, SMC 58

Saint Mary's falls in conference-opener



Observer File Photo

Saint Mary's senior guard Kayla Wolter looks to get past a Wheaton defender during the Belles' 66-63 victory over the Thunder on Nov. 15, 2011 at the Angela Athletic Facility.

Observer Staff Report

Saint Mary's dropped a tough decision Wednesday night, losing to host Adrian by a score of 66-58.

The loss marked the first conference defeat for Saint Mary's (2-4, 0-1 MIAA) this season, which dropped the decision despite outshooting the hosts from the floor.

Saint Mary's started the game strong, jumping out to an early four-point lead just a minute into the game. From that point on, the teams traded leads, with the Belles up 14-13 with 6:41 remaining in the first half.

This would be the final lead of the game for Saint Mary's, as the

Bulldogs (1-3, 1-0) used a 15-0 scoring run to knock the game open. They took a 12-point advantage into the half, leading 29-17.

The hosts continued their strong play into the second half, taking a 16-point lead, their largest of the game, with 15:16 remaining in the contest.

The Belles slowly chipped away at Adrian's lead, and eventually cut the deficit to four points on a jumper by freshman forward Eleni Shea with 5:37 left in the game and again on a lay-up from freshman guard Bernadette Jordan with 3:57 left in the game.

Unfortunately for the Belles, that would be as close as they

came, as Adrian used a combination of timely shots and clutch free throws to close out the game with an eight-point cushion.

Adrian caused 22 Saint Mary's turnovers and grabbed 19 offensive rebounds on the way to their victory.

Junior guard Shanlynn Bias led the Belles in scoring with 20 points. Shea and sophomore forward Ariana Paul chipped in 12 points and seven rebounds each, while freshman guard Sarah Macius chipped in 10 points off the bench for the visitors.

Saint Mary's will next take on conference foe Olivet when the Tigers visit South Bend on Saturday at 3 p.m.

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SARAH O'CONNOR | The Observer

Irish freshman forward Cameron Biedscheid attempts to dribble away from Chicago State defenders during Notre Dame's 92-65 victory over the Cougars on Monday at Purcell Pavilion.

Opposites

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

Tim Abromaitis stuck around at Notre Dame long enough to earn two degrees. Brey has put some of the elder statesmen of college basketball in a position to compete for Big East and NCAA titles.

There is the Kentucky way — get in, win, get out. The “one-and-done” legacy of Wildcats coach John Calipari’s tenure at Kentucky has received a lot of flak from the media. It will receive none from me. It is fully within the rules of the current situation in college basketball, and as Calipari’s

2011-12 championship banner in Rupp Arena shows, it is quite effective.

But it does represent a completely different way of doing things from Brey’s “stay and grow” approach to building good, competitive basketball teams. College basketball is unique in that 18-year-old

kids can step on campus immediately ready to win championships and play in the NBA — John Wall, Eric Bledsoe, Brandon Knight, Enes Kanter, Daniel Orton, Marquis Teague, Michael Kidd-Gilchrist and Anthony Davis have all barely stayed on Kentucky’s campus long enough to learn the names of all the buildings.

It’s hard to knock a strategy that has worked so well. In the past few years, Kentucky has played in Elite Eights, Final Fours and won a title on the back of the transcendent Davis. It is the kind of success that Brey and the Irish have only been able to dream about — despite regular-season success the program has struggled to get back to the Sweet Sixteen.

So, it will be the young guns from Kentucky against the old guard from Notre Dame on the hardwood at Purcell Pavilion on Thursday. For decades, the Irish basketball program has been on the outside looking in at traditional basketball powers, tagged as a “football school” content with above-average hoops play.

Is there reason to believe the gap is closing? There may be. Brey has his program in a better position than it ever has been talent-wise by taking a page out of Calipari’s book and dipping into the pool of blue-chip recruits. Whereas Brey had to pick his spots and find diamonds in the rough for much of the first decade of his tenure, he now trots out top young talent in forwards Pat Connaughton and Cameron Biedscheid to go toe-to-toe with Kentucky’s scores of McDonalds’ All-Americans. His biggest recruiting coup of all, 2013 commitment Demetrius Jackson, waits in the wings.

While it may be elementary on the surface Thursday night — youth vs. experience, prestige vs. aspiring prestige — look deeper. A youth movement is coming. The gap may be closing.

Contact Chris Allen at callen10@nd.edu

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

Kentucky

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

Brooklyn, N.Y., and a 75-68 loss to Duke on Nov. 13 in Atlanta — before hosting its next three tilts in Rupp Arena.

“It wasn’t [a road game],” Calipari said of the matchup with the Terrapins. “[Maryland] probably had 60 percent of the fans. We still had 40 [percent]. We may have 40 people in the building here [on Thursday]. This will be a new experience for them. I will be anxious to see how they respond.”

Though the teams both entered the season with high expectations and spots in the preseason rankings, the programs have been constructed in divergent ways. Notre Dame (6-1) features experienced upperclassmen while the Wildcats (4-1) deploy a seemingly endless stock of blue-chip freshmen.

Kentucky had four underclassmen drafted in the first round of June’s NBA Draft but reloaded with the second-ranked recruiting class in the nation, according to ESPN. Brey said the Irish, meanwhile, focus on developing their youngsters into upperclassmen.

“We’re not going to get as many of the one-and-done guys,” Brey said. “It’s just a different world. ... So we get four and a lot of times I like to make them five-year guys. And how about this? We made [graduate student] forward Scott Martin a six-year guy.”

The Irish, who are riding a four-game winning streak, are hoping that experience pays off Thursday. Senior forward Jack Cooley, senior center Garrick Sherman and junior guards Eric Atkins and Jerian Grant have all averaged double-digit points for Notre Dame while Martin has averaged eight points and eight

rebounds a game.

“I hope [our experience] comes into play,” Brey said. “That’s been a big thing that has helped us here consistently over the years, that we’ve stayed old. ... Certainly if we’re going to be successful on Thursday night our experience and our poise are going to have to play out and we’re going to have to be really good in that department for close to 40 minutes to beat the talent that they put on the floor.”

Wildcats freshman guard Archie Goodwin, the 15th overall player in the class of 2012 according to ESPN, and freshman forward Alex Poythress, the 13th overall incoming freshman, lead Kentucky in scoring with 19 points and 18.4 points per game, respectively.

“I’m really impressed with Goodwin, with the plays that he makes and the slashing stuff to the bucket,” Brey said. “It’s really hard to stop him when he turns the corner. Very impressed. He plays with a steadiness and a great poise.”

The Irish will also face a tough task in defending a trio of athletic Kentucky big men. Freshman forwards Nerlens Noel, the top overall recruit in the nation, and Willie Cauley-Stein team with sweet-shooting sophomore forward Kyle Wiltjer to form a frontline that could give the Irish trouble similar to what it faced against Saint Joseph’s on Nov. 16 in Brooklyn, N.Y. The Irish lost 79-70 in overtime to the Hawks, who had their own frontcourt trio combine for 47 points and 31 rebounds.

“A really tough frontline beat us in New York: Saint Joe’s’ old athletic frontline,” Brey said. “So we did not have success there.

“[Kentucky’s] shooting percentages in the paint are off the charts. Keeping a body on people, not letting them get too

deep, keeping them to one [shot] and done will be the ultimate challenge. But it’s a similar preparation, an athletic frontline, to what we see in the Big East a lot of nights. We have to neutralize these bouncy, athletic, long frontlines. The nights we do it we’re able to get out with a win.”

To counter the shot-blocking prowess of Noel and

Cauley-Stein, Brey said the Irish will need to continue to shoot the ball proficiently from outside the paint. Notre Dame made 12-of-22 three-pointers in Monday’s 92-65 victory over Chicago State.

“I think we are going to have to get some buckets outside the paint because of their shot-blocking,” Brey said. “So we’re going to have to make some

shots. Whether it is threes or mid-range stuff, we’re going to have to stop and make some stuff.”

Notre Dame squares off with Kentucky on Thursday at 7 p.m. at Purcell Pavilion. The game will be televised on ESPN2.

Contact Mike Monaco at jmonaco@nd.edu

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CROSSWORD | WILL SHORTZ

- ACROSS**

1 Category at some banks

7 Start of an excuse

10 Car rental add-on

13 Everything Bach composed, e.g.

14 Contents of a flick?

15 Leftover bit

16 With 34- and 54-Across, basic instruction for [circled letters]

19 Grammatical case: Abbr.

20 Lb. or oz.

21 One with a habit

22 It might be announced over a P.A.

23 Ready to be driven

25 Congregation member authorized by a bishop to conduct part of a service
- 27 Place for additional info

30 IHOP order

31 Buenos ____

33 Savvy

34 See 16-Across

37 Opera character who sings "Largo al factotum"

38 Town on Cape Cod

39 Expression of amazement

40 Brother of Electra

44 Musical effect that's simple for a trombone

48 Fair sight

49 Logos, e.g.: Abbr.

50 "Romanian Rhapsodies" composer

52 Señora Perón

53 Malarkey

54 See 16-Across
- 57 Poetic preposition

58 One who frequently sees Spots, for short

59 Bottom

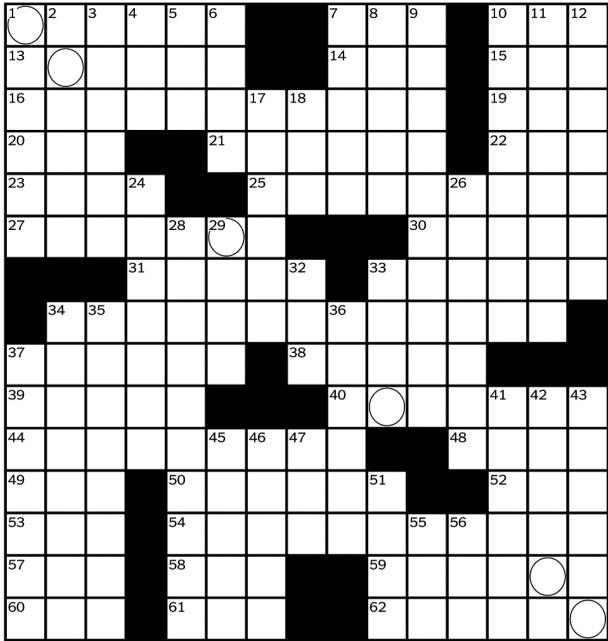
60 Poetic time of day

61 "Evil Woman" grp.

62 Have a fixation

DOWN

- 1 So far
- 2 ____ Warders (Tower of London figures)
- 3 Like some footballs and boats
- 4 Bolivian president Morales
- 5 "The only way to run away without leaving home," per Twyla Tharp
- 6 Units of sound
- 7 Crackers
- 8 One walking down an aisle, say
- 9 Infomercial phrase
- 10 Closed, as a theater
- 11 Shields
- 12 Venice tourist attraction
- 17 ____ Collins, first female space shuttle commander
- 18 Kind of screening, for short



Puzzle by Caleb Rasmussen

- 24 Where police look for matches

26 Not for nothing

28 The Gulf of Mexico has a big one

29 Snap, Crackle and Pop, e.g.

32 Snorkel, e.g.: Abbr.

33 Musical line
- 34 Big Whig

35 Shining

36 Jewelry box item

37 Part of a Mideast orchard

41 Raise canines?

42 Ends of ballades

43 Smallest human bone

45 Slippery as ____
- 46 Cool

47 Mil. hero's award

51 Spider-Man villain ____

55 Turning point

56 Big section of the dictionary

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ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE



HIGHLY PUNLIKELY | CHRISTOPHER BRUCKER



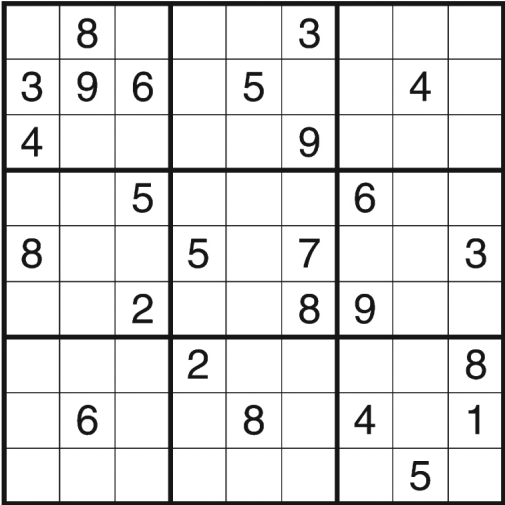
LOWER YOUR EXPECTATIONS | LENNY RAGO & PATRICK CROSS



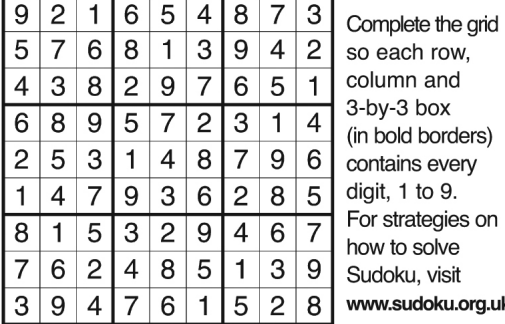
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THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES By The Mepham Group

Level: 1 2 3 4



SOLUTION TO WEDNESDAY'S PUZZLE 11/29/12



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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HOROSCOPE | EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Ryan Kwanten, 36; Jon Stewart, 50; Ed Harris, 62; Paul Shaffer, 63.

Happy Birthday: Take a look at what's being offered and stick to practical plans that have potential to grow. A change in the way you approach people and projects will lead to greater prosperity and freedom. Speak openly. Your numbers are 8, 11, 17, 21, 27, 33, 41.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Work on personal and professional partnerships. Set up rules, schedules or whatever else is required to avoid setbacks. Back away from the people dragging you down and spend more time with the people who can offer you something in return. ★★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Control whatever situation you face. Put a unique touch on whatever you pursue. Revisit old relationships and consider how you can revitalize a situation that you feel has potential. Love is in the stars, and a commitment or change is apparent. ★★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Do your own thing. Pursue your dreams, hopes and wishes. Don't settle for less when you know you can have so much more. Speak up honestly about your needs and you will weed out the people who are taking advantage of you. ★★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Spend more time with friends, family or your lover. Personal opportunities will develop if you get involved in an event that interests you. Don't hold back — you have good ideas that will be well received. Love is highlighted. ★★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Don't leave room for error. Offer honesty and you will find out where you stand and what can be accomplished. Problems with your residence or a family member can be expected. You'll have to implement change if you want to avoid discord. ★★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You'll gain knowledge by interacting with people in your community. Knowing what is in demand will help you strategically come up with a service you can offer in order to bring in extra cash. Don't settle for less when you can have more. ★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Review your past and you will recognize a pattern you keep encountering. Set a new standard and strive to use updated means and methods to accomplish your goals. Don't argue a losing battle when you should be following your own path. ★★★★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Take time to turn your home into a stress-free sanctuary. You need to find your comfort zone in order to revitalize your creativity. Love and romance are in the stars. The people you associate with should be those who inspire you the most. ★★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): The past will come back to haunt you if you are indulgent emotionally, physically or financially. Reconsider the partnerships you have and if you are benefiting or giving up too much. Put more effort into a creative skill that can bring you greater prosperity. ★★★

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Being a team player will help you with your professional achievements. Getting along and sharing interests with someone you enjoy spending time with will turn into a long-term partnership. Don't make a radical decision for the wrong reason. ★★★

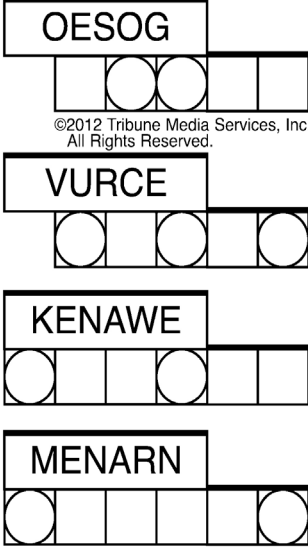
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Choose your words carefully. Don't make a promise you won't be able to keep. Focus on family and stability. Home will be your safety zone and where you should put your time and effort. A visitor will offer positive feedback and inspiration. ★★★★★

PISCES (Feb. 19- March 20): Wheel and deal until you get what you want. Offer a creative plan that will be difficult to ignore. There is money to be made and partnerships to be formed. Don't feel you must compete or outdo when you just have to follow your heart. ★★

Birthday Baby: You are versatile, resourceful and innovative. You are persistent and courageous.

JUMBLE | DAVID HOYT AND JEFF KNUREK

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



Answer here: "O E S O G" "V U R C E" "K E N A W E" "M E N A R N" (Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: HABIT STRUM DEFACE WISDOM
Answer: The spider's new business had a — WEB ADDRESS

WORK AREA



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

THE OBSERVER

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MEN'S BASKETBALL

Big Blue battles the Blue and Gold

High-profile matchup will be clash of age, youth

By **MIKE MONACO**
Sports Writer

In a battle of programs with opposite philosophies, the Irish will try to defeat No. 8 Kentucky, the reigning national champions, on Thursday in a marquee matchup in the SEC/Big East Challenge at Purcell Pavilion.

"I think for a lot of people, it's our season-opener," Irish coach Mike Brey said. "I think our fans have looked at it [that way]. ... I think it's going to be a great night. It will be a great atmosphere in our building. I think [it will be] two very good teams going at it early in the season. But I think for our players, it's the one they have talked about all summer."

Kentucky coach John Calipari said he is interested to see how the Wildcats respond to the presumably raucous environment. Kentucky opened the season with two games at neutral sites — a 72-69 win over Maryland on Nov. 9 at the Barclays Center in

see KENTUCKY **PAGE 14**



SARAH O'CONNOR | The Observer

Irish junior guard Jerian Grant looks to pass during Notre Dame's 92-65 victory over Chicago State on Monday at Purcell Pavilion. Grant matched a career-high with 22 points against the Cougars.

Notre Dame may be closing the talent gap



Chris Allen
Sports Editor

You won't need your detective's hat Thursday night in Purcell Pavilion to tell Kentucky and Notre Dame apart.

On the floor Thursday night will be two programs representing the yin and the yang of college basketball — two diametrically opposed methods of competing for championships.

There is the Irish way — experiences, teamwork, passing and ball control. It has come to be encapsulated in the last half-decade in the "burn" style of Mike Brey and in the groups of players who grow in Brey's program, developing a sixth sense for each other on the court. Notre Dame basketball players stick around for the long haul. Forward Scott Martin has been in college basketball since 2007 — when Kentucky center Nerlens Noel wasn't even in high school yet. Former Irish forward

see OPPOSITES **PAGE 14**

ND WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Squad looks to stay perfect against Chippewas

By **JOSEPH MONARDO**
Sports Writer

Coming off a convincing 76-64 victory over No. 19 UCLA in Pauley Pavilion, No. 5 Notre Dame carries a perfect record into tonight's matchup with Central Michigan.

With a home tilt against No. 3 Baylor looming, the Irish (4-0) will travel to Mount Pleasant, Mich., to take on the Chippewas (2-2). Although Central Michigan is unranked out of the Mid-American conference, Irish coach Muffet McGraw said the home team can present several problems to the favored Irish.

"They are really athletic," she said. "They have some really good players. ... [Sophomore guard] Crystal Bradford on the wing, she's probably their best player and she is just really hard to guard. She is a big guard and she can score in a lot of different ways. They play a lot of five-out — a little four-out, one-in — but they play five-out so they are going to stretch our big guys."

"They are a little bit smaller. This will be the first game where we have a size advantage this

year. But they can get up and guard us, they are going to run the floor, drive and kick, they are going to look to take a lot of threes per game. So we are really going to be tested defensively."

Bradford is the MAC West Player of the Week after scoring 21 points — 15 coming in the second half — on 9-of-11 shooting. Bradford also recorded three blocks, two steals and two assists. For the season, Bradford is second on the team with 14.8 points per game and averages 9.0 rebounds, 3.3 assists, 2.5 blocks and 2.0 steals per game. Bradford can present difficulties for the Irish on both ends of the floor, McGraw said.

"She's a tough matchup for us because she is strong and physical and yet she's quick, too," she said. "I think we are really going to have to try to put the whole team being aware of where she is."

The Irish also enter the matchup with a conference award in hand, as freshman guard Jewell Loyd earned recognition as the Big East Freshman of the Week. In wins against Mercer and UCLA last week, Loyd led the



LILY KANG | The Observer

Irish guard Jewell Loyd defends a pass during Notre Dame's 88-28 win over Edinboro in the season-opening exhibition Nov. 1 at Purcell Pavilion.

team with 19.0 points per game on .727 shooting and contributed 6.5 rebounds, 5.0 assists and 2.0 steals per game. The freshman has also impressed on the defensive end, McGraw said.

"We were expecting a lot from her coming in," the coach said of Loyd. "I think she was pretty well-hyped coming in, and deservedly so. She really is strong in every area. Her biggest area

of improvement so far has been her defense. That has probably surprised me more than anything because she has really

see CHIPPEWAS **PAGE 13**