

Pass-In-Review honors ROTC members

University president addresses participants, emphasizes commitment to service

By **CHARLIE DUCEY**
News Writer

Fourteen exemplary members of Notre Dame's Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) program received awards for integrity, leadership and community involvement at the 2013 Presidential Pass-In-Review ceremony yesterday.

The formal military ceremony, held in the Stepan Center, gathered all cadets and midshipmen on campus. Midshipman Jason Koncsol spoke about the importance of Notre Dame's ROTC program.

University President Fr. John Jenkins opened the Pass-In-Review with an

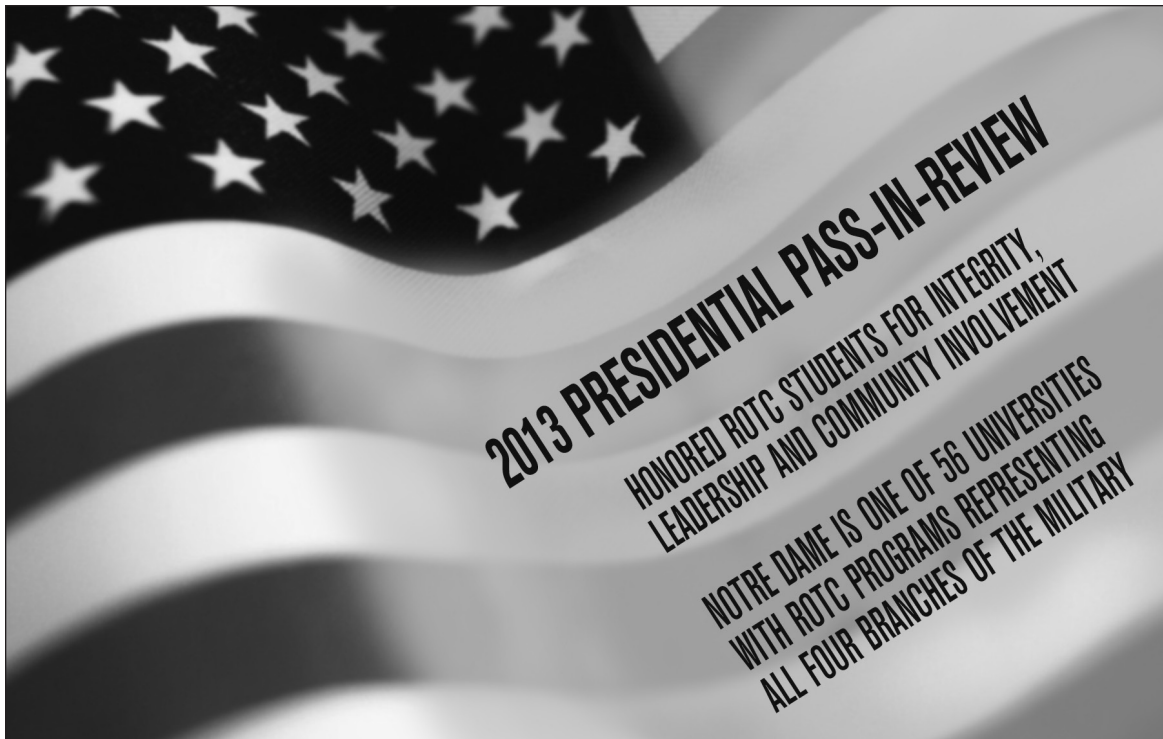
address.

"The military has a long and historic involvement at Notre Dame, with members of the military attending the University as far back as 1858," he said. "Notre Dame is one of only 56 universities with a ROTC program representing all four branches of the United States military."

Jenkins said he respects the dedication of the ROTC students and the work they do.

"People will look to you for leadership. They will look to you for purpose," he said. "I know that what you do as a ROTC participant is not easy. On top of

see ROTC **PAGE 3**



EMILY DANAHER | The Observer

Senior awarded scholarship

By **MEL FLANAGAN**
News Writer

Senior Catherine Reidy will take the Notre Dame tradition across the pond next year to study for her master's degree in African Studies on a Clarendon Scholarship at Oxford University.

Reidy, a psychology major and member of the International Scholars Program at the Kellogg Institute for International Studies, was offered a scholarship by the Social Sciences Division of Oxford to further develop her interest in international affairs and related

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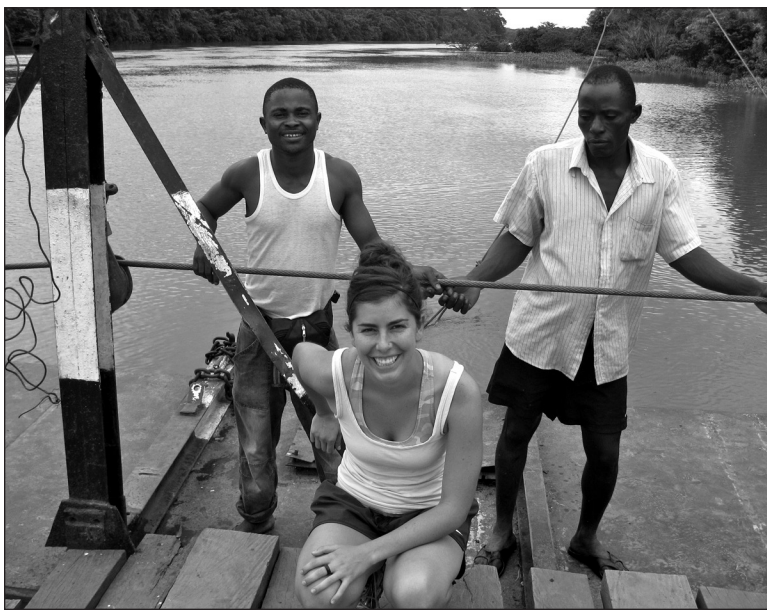


Photo courtesy of Catherine Reidy

Catherine Reidy, center, poses for a photo in Sierra Leone, where she conducted independent research during the summers of 2011 and 2012.

University hires digital officer

By **LESLEY STEVENSON**
News Writer

Among several technology-based initiatives in the works for next year, the University created a new position called chief academic digital officer to promote digital learning and appointed Elliott Visconsi to fill the position, according to a University press release.

Visconsi, associate professor of English and concurrent associate professor of law, said he will work to guide and support students

and faculty in technology research, investment and

Elliott Visconsi
Chief academic digital officer



application.

"What we are trying to do is figure out [is] how do we integrate digital tools into our overall educational mission?" Visconsi said.

see DIGITAL **PAGE 5**

Annual banquet honors student leadership

By **AUBREY BUTTS**
News Writer

The Division of Student Affairs honored six Notre Dame seniors and one post-baccalaureate student for their academic, journalistic and service contributions to the University at the April 3 Student Leadership

Awards Banquet.

The awards recognize students whose efforts benefit not only the University community but also disadvantaged populations across the globe, according to a University press release.

Senior Emily Conron received the John W. Gardner Student Leadership

Award for her work with the Notre Dame Fighting Neglected Tropical Diseases club. Conron said the trajectory of her service work was unexpected yet purposeful.

"My involvement with the club has shaped everything else that I've undertaken in college, even though I got into it by accident," Conron

said. "I'm not a hard science major, but I've learned a lot. Over this past winter break, I was able to unite my psychology major with my theology major with my interest in NTDs by traveling to Haiti and interviewing patients there about their mental health and religious beliefs."

Conron said students should not

necessarily limit their extracurricular activities to groups related to pre-existing interests.

"You need to be open to finding new passions and when things creep up on you that seem interesting, even if you think it will be a diversion from

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SOFTBALL **PAGE 20**

THE OBSERVER

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P.O. Box 779, Notre Dame, IN 46556
024 South Dining Hall, Notre Dame, IN 46556

Editor-in-Chief
Andrew Gastelum
Managing Editor
Meghan Thomassen
Business Manager
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Systems Administrator: William Heineman

Office Manager & General Info

Ph: (574) 631-7471
Fax: (574) 631-6927

Advertising
(574) 631-6900 ads@ndsmcobserver.com

Editor-in-Chief
(574) 631-4542 agastel1@nd.edu

Managing Editor
(574) 631-4542 mthomass@nd.edu

Assistant Managing Editors
(574) 631-4541 mdefrank@nd.edu
miati@nd.edu, nmichels@nd.edu

Business Office
(574) 631-5313

News Desk
(574) 631-5323 obsnews.nd@gmail.com

Viewpoint Desk
(574) 631-5303 obsviewpoint@gmail.com

Sports Desk
(574) 631-4543 observersports@gmail.com

Scene Desk
(574) 631-4540 observer.scene1@gmail.com

Saint Mary's Desk
krabac01@saintmarys.edu

Photo Desk
(574) 631-8767 obsphoto@gmail.com

Systems & Web Administrators
(574) 631-8839

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Questions regarding Observer policies should be directed to Editor-in-Chief Andrew Gastelum.

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Today's Staff

News

Ann Marie Jakubowski
Charitha Isanaka
Lesley Stevenson

Graphics

Emily Danaher

Photo

Michael Kramm

Sports

Jack Hefferon
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Scene

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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.

QUESTION OF THE DAY:

What is your favorite facial feature?

**Emily Voorde**

sophomore
Ryan Hall

“Eyes.”

**Tatum Snyder**

sophomore
Ryan Hall

“Eyelashes, they are so cool!”

**Shea Smith**

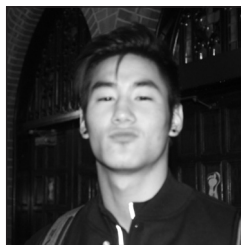
freshman
Ryan Hall

“Eyes.”

**Anne Seul**

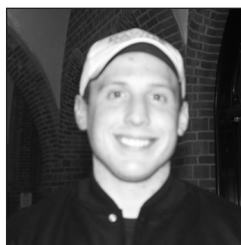
sophomore
Ryan Hall

“Smile.”

**Sunoh Choe**

senior
off campus

“Lips.”

**Pat Bishop**

senior
off campus

“Eyes.”



GRANT TOBIN | The Observer

Assistant director of club sports Dave Brown speaks during the dedication ceremony of the Rich O'Leary boat for the men's club rowing team last Saturday. The team will compete in a dual meet against the University of Minnesota on Saturday.

THE NEXT FIVE DAYS:

*Want your event included here?**Email obsnews.nd@gmail.com***Thursday****Zen Meditation**

Coleman-Morse Center
5:15 p.m.-6:15 p.m.
Practice meditation.

Admitted Student Open House

Jordan Hall of Science
7 p.m.-9 p.m.
Prospective students and parents meet faculty and students.

Friday**Relay for Life**

Compton Family Ice Arena
6 p.m.-9 a.m.
Fund cancer research.

Women's Lacrosse

Arlotta Stadium
7 p.m.
Game vs. Loyola.

Saturday**Women's Softball**

Melissa Cook Stadium
12 p.m.-4 p.m.
Doubleheader vs. Rutgers.

Duncan Classic Golf Tournament

Notre Dame Golf Course
10 a.m.
Individual 9-hole tournament.

Sunday**Men's Lacrosse**

Arlotta Stadium
11 a.m.-1 p.m.
Game vs. Gerogetown.

Sunday Mass

Basilica of the Sacred Heart
10 a.m.-11 a.m.
Music by the Notre Dame Liturgical Choir.

Monday**ACMS Colloquium**

Hayes-Healy Center
4 p.m.-5 p.m.
Speaker James Collins.

Lecture: Young Latinidad and the Future of America

McKenna Hall
7:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m.
Speaker David Hayes-Bautista.

SMC presents Four-Year Promise

By KAITLYN RABACH
Saint Mary's Editor

On April 2, Saint Mary's announced the Four-Year Promise, which guarantees students will either graduate in four years or the College will pay for their extra courses.

Students must follow certain guidelines to be eligible for the promise, which will start with the incoming class of 2017, College President Carol Ann Mooney said.

"This isn't a recruitment strategy for us or a new initiative on campus," Mooney said. "Our students have always worked closely with their advisers and professors to stay on track and achieve their goals. We offer the courses they need, when they

need them, led by exceptional faculty who are dedicated to teaching."

Mona Bowe, vice president for enrollment engagement, said 93 percent of all students graduate within the four years already.

"This promise is really just putting our money where our mouth is."

Mona Bowe
Vice president for enrollment engagement

"This promise is really just putting our money where our mouth is," Bowe said.

Bowe said the major guidelines for this promise include

maintaining good academic standing, registering for courses at the assigned times, completing an average of 32 semester hours each year and being accepted into a major by the end of spring semester of sophomore year.

"These are things that our students are already doing," Bowe said.

In this time of economic hardship, Bowe said the College would like future students and their families to know the College cares about their investment.

"We want people to know that we know how huge of an investment a college education is," Bowe said.

Professor of communications Colleen Fitzpatrick said more and more research has been done on the expense of a

college education.

"If you look at the research, more and more quality degrees are taking more than four years to finish," Fitzpatrick said. "Those extra years are lost money."

Bowe said the College has already received positive feedback on the new promise.

"Other colleges referred to this new program as a contract," Bowe said. "We wanted to call it a promise and we have received very positive feedback about this new promise. I gave a presentation in Grand Rapids a couple of weeks ago and the parents of incoming freshman were more than excited to hear about this guarantee."

Contact Kaitlyn Rabach at
krabac01@saintmarys.edu

ROTC

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

the same responsibilities that every student faces, you have ROTC duties and activities."

Jenkins' invocation emphasized the service aspect within the ROTC program.

"I know you do this out of a great sense of commitment that resonates to your service in various branches of the military," he said.

Cadets Abigail Nichols and Edward Spinelli were awarded the prestigious Army Officer's Saber. Spinelli was also honored with the Hendry Memorial

"I know you do this out of a great sense of commitment that resonates to your service in various branches of the military."

Fr. John Jenkins
University President

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YOUNG LATINIDAD & THE FUTURE OF AMERICA

Monday, April 15, 2013 at 7:00 pm

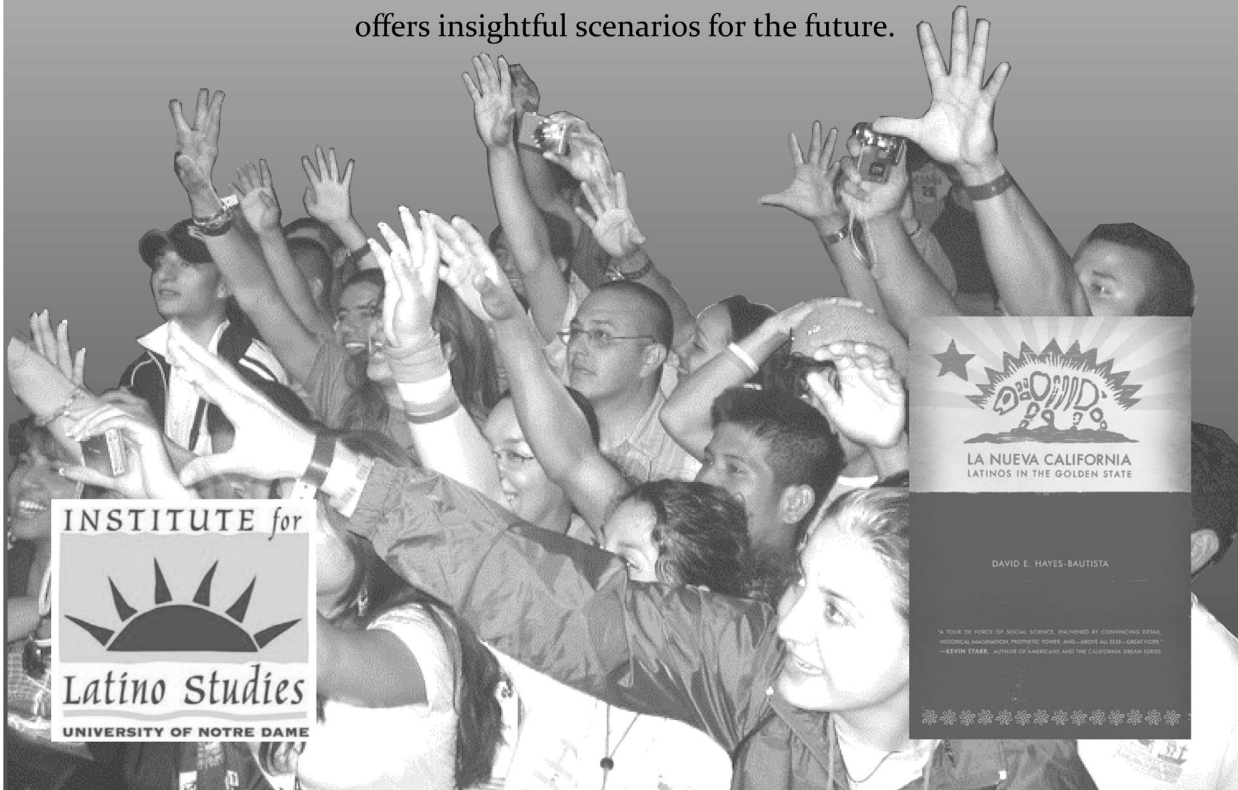
McKenna Hall Auditorium

Reception to Follow



David Hayes-Bautista

What will be the nature of American society and identity by 2050, when one out of every three Americans will be Latino? Dr. Hayes-Bautista, Professor of Medicine and Director of the Center for the Study of Latino Health and Culture at the School of Medicine at UCLA, will address this question in a data-based presentation that offers insightful scenarios for the future.



Award and the Patrick Dixon Award, an honor he shared with Army Cadet Michael Dompierre.

Other leadership awards given to ROTC members included the Dr. Michael McKee Award, earned by Cadet Sabina Fischer and the Edward Easby-Smith Award, awarded to Midshipman Katherine Griffin. Cadet Benjamin Coffey received the Captain Paul Roberge Memorial Award, which acknowledges the specific accomplishments of a pilot candidate.

Naval ROTC Midshipmen Michael McCormick, Blake Weller, Kevin Hickey, Madeleine Anderson, Devon Graham and Elizabeth Schroff and Cadets Eric Wilde and Patrick Bowlds were honored with decorations recognizing their integrity, diligence and service.

In memory of the 150th anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg, Jenkins commended the actions of Fr. Corby, a Holy Cross priest who accompanied the Union Army and whose statue stands outside of Notre Dame's Corby Hall.

"Fr. Corby stood on a rock and gave absolution to the troops, not simply for the Union soldiers, nor only for the Catholic soldiers, but for all soldiers," he said. "[He] embodied this message of serving a just peace. I challenge all of you as participants of the ROTC program to pursue this cause of a just peace as well."

Contact Charlie Ducey at
cducey@nd.edu

Arabic Club celebrates Middle Eastern culture

By CAROLINA WILSON
News Writer

The Arabic Club hosted its sixth annual Arabic Culture Night last Friday, celebrating the culture with the theme "East meets West."

Club president Maria Rodriguez said the event was multi-leveled.

"[The Arabic Culture Night] involved collaboration between the Center for the Study of Languages and Cultures, the Arabic [program in the Classics department] and the Arabic Club," Rodriguez said. "A lot of hard work was put into it, seen in the hours of rehearsals of over 40 students and teachers as they wrote, choreographed and directed the various acts in the program."

Rodriguez, a senior, said this year's celebration was unique in its installment of a theme intended to demonstrate the dynamics of Eastern and Western relationships.

"With all the commotion occurring in the Middle East, our show tried to showcase the similarities between American and Middle Eastern culture and emphasized how we all enjoy similar things," Rodriguez said.

Arabic professor Ghada Bualuan, the club's adviser, said the unifying goal of the celebration is echoed in the mission of the club as a whole.

"One of the club's goals is to celebrate Arabic culture, and cultural expressions are among the most wonderful

and precious treasures of mankind," Bualuan said. "The more we celebrate other cultures, the more dimension and depth we add to our own and the more we appreciate beauty and love and we understand pain and suffering. Also, the club strives to bring Notre Dame students closer to the South Bend Arab community."

Junior Nancy Joyce, vice president of the Arabic Club and student body vice president, said her involvement in the club has enhanced her experience as an Arabic major.

"It has made my classroom experience so much more enriching because I have been able to take new cultural knowledge from the club's activities back to the classroom," Joyce said.

"Combining language and cultural learning both inside and outside of the classroom has made my experience as an Arabic major at Notre Dame a very positive one."

In addition to impacting the students on campus, Bualuan said club members are involved in several civic engagement opportunities in the surrounding South Bend Arab community.

"[Club volunteers] try to help ... these Arabic-speaking refugees, who are less fortunate and underrepresented and very often struggle to lead a dignified life here," Bualuan said. "The war refugees in South Bend are facing now a battle of a different form assimilating into mainstream America."

"The challenges range

from unemployment to language barriers to prejudice and to serious psychological wounds resulting from war and diaspora."

Rodriguez said the Arabic Club aims to impact the campus and community arenas by advocating a true understanding of Arabic culture.

"There are many stereotypes in regards to the Middle East, and the Arabic Club hopes to help people eliminate those," she said. "The club is not only a place where students can help improve their Arabic and understand the culture, but a chance for the larger [Notre Dame] community to work towards understanding and peace."

Contact Carolina Wilson at
cwilso16@nd.edu

Awards

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

your plans. I think those diversions are sometimes the most fruitful things you encounter," Conron said. "They force you to take something and run with it, and you never know where you are going to end up."

Michael Mercurio is the recipient of this year's Rev. Leonard A. Collins Award, which honors a graduating senior who has made substantial efforts to advance the interest of students. He said students should work to join passion with purpose.

"A lot of the club work I've done while at Notre Dame has stemmed from seeing a need. Often, I didn't even plan on becoming involved, but I felt very at home in the communities these clubs created," Mercurio said. "If you want to start a club or a new initiative, be passionate about it and don't worry about the hoops you might have to jump through, because people want to see you succeed."

Mercurio is involved with the Classics club and is a resident assistant in Morrissey Manor. He said he considers leadership the natural outcome of personal passion and communal support.

"I've been so lucky to be surrounded by good people. My rector has always been a great model of leadership and all those involved in the other organizations have made it easy to serve," Mercurio said. "I have a hard time calling myself a leader. I just want to be there for people."

In addition to Conron and Mercurio, the Office of Student Affairs recognized student leaders writing for campus publications, working to create a more inclusive campus, demonstrating a passion for athletics and advancing the Catholic character of the University. Seniors Megan Doyle (*Editor's note: Doyle is a senior news writer for The Observer*), Clara Ritger, Adam Zebrowski and James White and law student Michael Gillman were all honored for their leadership at Notre Dame.

Contact Aubrey Butts at
abutts@nd.edu

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

Date/Time: April 15, 6-7:30pm
Location: South Dining Hall – Oak Room
Dinner Provided
RSVP Required at grc.nd.edu



How to be a Good Ally

dinner and discussion to learn more about being
an ally to members of the LGBTQ
community.

Panelists:

Dan Myers,

Vice President and Associate Provost for Faculty Affairs; Professor of Sociology

Abby Palko,

Director of Undergraduate Studies and Assistant Teaching Professor, Gender Studies Program

Peter Barnes,

Staff Psychologist, University Counseling Center

GRC
gender relations center
Signature Series



SENATE

Council presents LGBTQ week

By MADDIE DALY
News Writer

Members of the Core Council for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Questioning students encouraged the Student Senate on Wednesday to participate in next week's StaND Against Hate Week.

Sophomores Monica Daegele and Maggie Waickman, Core Council members, said the Senate can help call attention to the week's activities, which include a movie watch with free food from Chipotle.

"We have traditionally done a StaND Against Hate week for LGBTQ students as a week to speak out against discrimination," Waickman said. "We wanted to come in invite you to our events

because student government has been such an integral part in establishing our group."

Waickman said Friday will be designated a day of solidarity in which some students will choose not to speak, standing in solidarity with those who are oppressed because of discrimination.

"If we have a strong showing at events next week it will put us in a good position to start next year off strong," Waickman said.

McGlinn Hall senator Toni Schreier presented a resolution from the Department of Academic Affairs regarding the current Collegiate Readership Program.

"The mission of the program is to

provide national newspapers to students on a daily basis so they are well informed, both in college and once they graduate," Schreier said. "If this resolution is passed, we will provide the New York Times, USA Today and [the] South Bend Tribune, as well as online access to the New York Times."

Schreier said Notre Dame implemented a pilot program in 2005 in which these newspapers were provided for free, and students expressed overwhelming interest.

"Eighty-two percent of students agreed that they were willing to pay an extra \$10 to the student government in order to have access to these papers," Schreier said. "This resolution proposes the creation of a Collegiate Readership Fund, rather than a program, in order to ensure there will always be funds for newspapers on campus."

"The fund would protect the interests of student academics, making sure we always have the money to provide quality journalism."

After extensive back-and-forth discussion regarding the specific quantity of money and the fixed percentage of funds in question, the resolution failed with an 18-13-1 vote.

The Senate nominated and approved freshman Ricardo Suarez and junior Danny Colston for roles as First Undergraduate Experience in Leadership (FUEL) director and director of internal affairs, respectively.

Contact Maddie Daly at
mdaly6@nd.edu

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Digital

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"How do we integrate these things in a meaningful way that doesn't demote the quality of the student experience, that enhances the bond between students and faculty?"

The need for this position comes as the University explores the role of digital tools in higher education, University provost Thomas Burish said in the press release.

"Online learning and the digital academic environment in higher education have been growing and developing rapidly over the past decade, and the potential advantages and pitfalls for the higher education industry and institutions like Notre Dame are both enormous and complex," Burish said.

Visconsi said he envisions a digital strategy that "will expand the campus a little bit and give people newer options that are non-competitive with the options on campus," he said.

Visconsi said his goals for the coming academic year include promoting and facilitating student engagement with digital media and technology, assisting with the increased use of digital tools by faculty and expanding Notre Dame's involvement with digital solutions, particularly through expanded online course offerings.

"At the end of the day, what we're trying to do with this job is really build an integrated University-wide strategy that is always going to put quality at the very forefront," he said. "We must protect the quality of the student experience and use these tools as enhancements to get people further into the curriculum."

Students who create digital solutions to existing problems might benefit from the new digital initiatives through increased University support, Visconsi said. Incentives for innovation may include grants, prizes or general recognition, he said.

"There's so much we can do to harness the creativity and energies of students," he said.

Visconsi said he also hopes to see cutting-edge technologies find a physical home at Notre Dame.

"I would like to put student creativity and energy to work potentially in the form of something you'd call an innovation lab, meaning a hub or a space where students can come at all hours,

where there are certain kinds of hardware [like] 3-D printers and fancy technology that would be a gathering space," he said.

The space could also support visitors from corporations like Microsoft and sponsor events discussing digital solutions, Visconsi said. In addition, he said hopes to foster connections among students in a variety of fields sharing a common interest in digital strategies.

Visconsi's resume and academic research focus primarily on literature and law during the 17th and 18th centuries. He developed an iPad

"Online learning and the digital academic environment in higher education have been growing and developing rapidly over the past decade, and the potential advantages and pitfalls for the higher education industry and institutions like Notre Dame are both enormous and complex."

Thomas Burish
University provost

app called "The Tempest for iPad" to give users an immersive experience into the Shakespeare play, an experience he said offered him more insight into digital media.

"What is literary studies but a subset of the analysis of mediation? We can think in really historical, philosophical or ethical ways about the relationship between form and content," he said.

Ultimately, Visconsi said he hopes new digital strategies will complement Notre Dame's pre-existing academic ideals.

"The most importantly social network that we will ever build is the network between faculty and students, the personal connection," he said. "That is the core of what we're trying to offer as a University. These digital tools are not meant to replace that effort but to enhance it."

Contact Lesley Stevenson at
lsteven1@nd.edu

Write News.

Email us at
obsnewseditor.nd@gmail.com

Scholarship

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

fields.

"I see myself heading along an academic, scholarly path, but one that informs policy and engagement in international affairs," she said. "I have a lot of strong interdisciplinary interests I haven't been able to engage in a classroom format at Notre Dame ... and I think Oxford will help with that."

Oxford awards Clarendon Scholarships to 100 students each year, with 25 award-ees coming from each of the

"I have a lot of strong interdisciplinary interests I haven't been able to engage in a classroom format at Notre Dame ... and I think Oxford will help with that."

Catherine Reidy
senior

University's four academic divisions — humanities, medical sciences, mathematical, physical and life sciences and social sciences. The scholarship, which pulls candidates from the general pool of accepted students, covers full University tuition, additional college costs and a living expense stipend.

Reidy's interest in policy prompted her to apply to Oxford's Masters program in comparative social policy as well. She was accepted to both programs but offered a scholarship for African Studies.

Reidy, who was also a Rhodes Scholar finalist, said she hopes to defer the comparative social policy program for one year and then pursue that Masters degree after she completes her first.

"Ultimately, I'm seeking to apply what I learn in the classroom to some form of active engagement or policy concerns," she said. "So I see these two departments as very complementary."

Reidy's involvement with the Kellogg Institute sparked her interest in international affairs and policy, she said. As a research assistant for Catherine Bolten, assistant professor of anthropology, Reidy traveled to Sierra Leone to conduct independent research during the summers of 2011 and 2012.

Reidy said in the west African nation, she worked with university students to explore their hopes and fears for the future as a potential peace-building mechanism.

Their hope was their desire to engage in development might lead to a more stable society, Reidy said. Unfortunately, their dreams for a peaceful future are not always enough, she said.

"While this is nice in theory, ... how are they actually going to make that happen?" Reidy said. "They need policy. How can we develop the mechanisms or outlets by which students can actually realize their dreams?"

In addition to her ground work in Sierra Leone, Reidy works as a student coordinator for Kellogg's Africa Working Group, a forum for scholars to discuss research on Africa. Through this, she has worked with professors from all disciplines with ties to Africa — including sociology, political science and anthropology.

"It is very interdisciplinary, I mean, I'm a psychology major," Reidy said. "How do you apply all these things to debates about Africa? I've never been able to incorporate those into the classroom setting, and I'm hoping Oxford will allow me to do that."

Although Reidy said she always planned to pursue a Ph.D., she is now entertaining the idea of spending time in the field prior to that.

"That could take the form of consulting for international organizations or doing more engaging in think tanks and doing research in that capacity," she said. "As I continue to develop my particular interests, it could lead into a future doctoral discipline. It's a little unclear right now, but that's kind of exciting."

Contact Mel Flanagan at
mflanag3@nd.edu

Obama, GOP senators meet

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama hosted Republican senators at the White House Wednesday evening, with dinner conversation including the deficit, gun control and immigration.

A White House official characterized their discussion over steak and sautéed vegetables as constructive and wide ranging, including all three of the pressing issues at the top of the president's agenda. Their dinner came on the same day that Obama unveiled a \$3.8 trillion budget proposal and on the eve of a debate over gun legislation on the Senate floor.

Georgia Sen. Johnny Isakson compiled the invitations to the White House's Old Family Dining Room, at Obama's request. Among those on the list were Sens. Lamar Alexander of Tennessee, Arkansas' John Boozman, Maine's Susan Collins, Idaho's Mike Crapo, Wyoming's Michael Enzi, Nebraska's Deb Fischer, Utah's Orrin Hatch, Kansas' Pat Roberts, Florida's Marco Rubio, South Dakota's John Thune and Mississippi's Roger Wicker.

Hatch spokeswoman

Antonia Ferrier said the discussion included tax reform and entitlements. Some lawmakers from the president's party are angered that Obama has proposed cuts to Medicare and Social Security in an attempt to compromise with Republicans. Ferrier said Hatch wanted to leave the details of their discussion

private.

Obama had a similar dinner last month with other Republican senators at a hotel near the White House. The White House official, who spoke on a condition of anonymity about the private discussion, said the president hoped to have more bipartisan conversations in the coming weeks.

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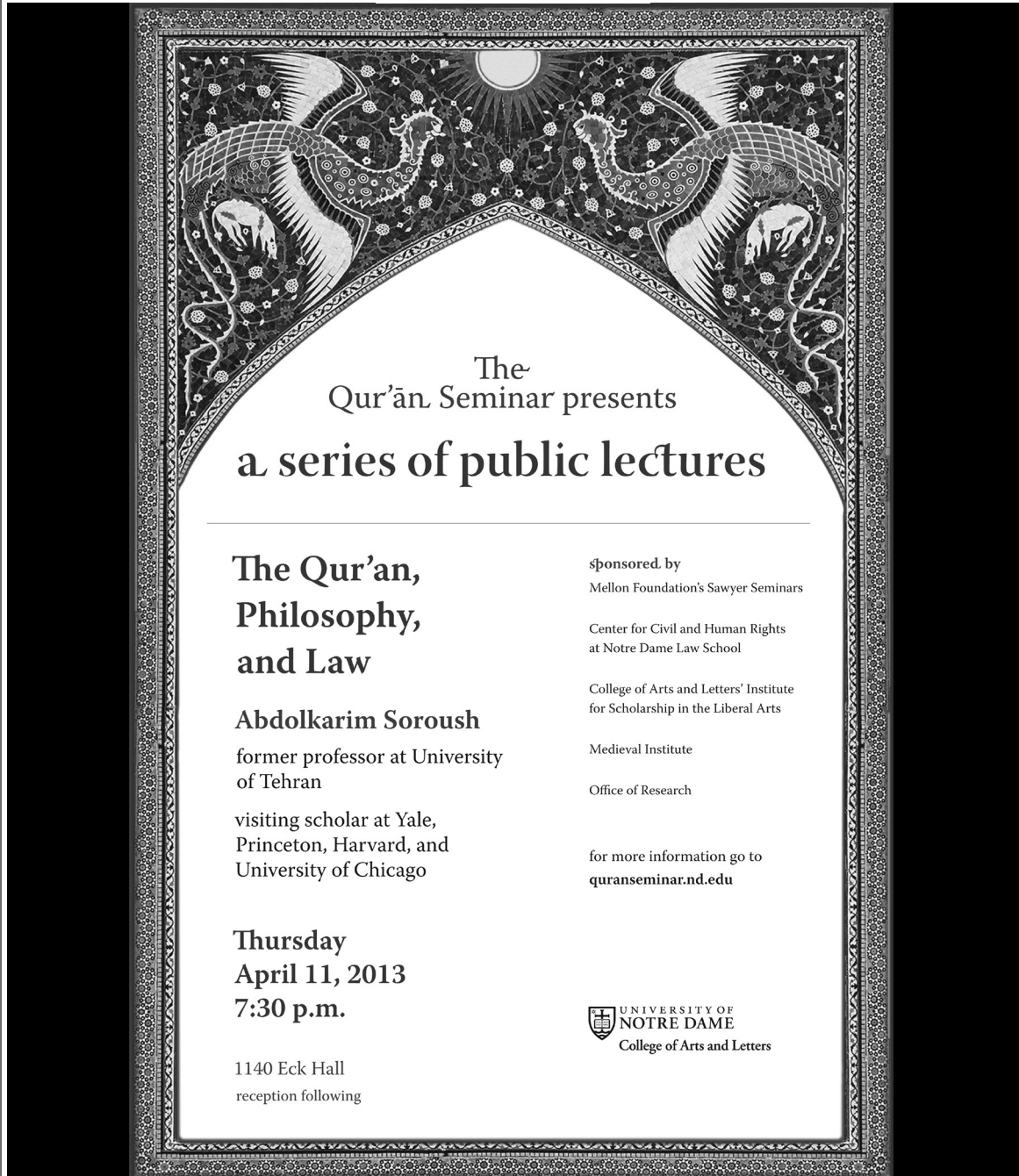
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Postal Service commits to six-day delivery

Despite financial problems, United States Postal Service rescinds proposal to end Saturday mail delivery

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The financially beleaguered Postal Service backpedaled on its plan to end Saturday mail delivery, conceding Wednesday that its gamble to compel congressional approval had failed.

With limited options for saving money, the governing board said the agency should reopen negotiations with unions to lower labor costs and consider raising mail prices.

Yet the board also said it's not possible for the Postal Service to meet its goals for reduced spending without altering the delivery schedule. Delaying "responsible

changes," the board said, only makes it more likely that the Postal Service "may become a burden" to taxpayers.

Congressional reaction was mixed, mirroring differences that have stalled a needed postal overhaul for some time. Some lawmakers had urged the agency to forge ahead with its plan, while others had said it lacked the legal authority to do so.

The Postal Service said in February that it planned to switch to five-day-a-week deliveries beginning in August for everything except packages as a way to hold down losses.

That announcement was risky. The agency was asking Congress to drop from

spending legislation the long-time ban on five-day-only delivery.

Congress did not do that when it passed a spending measure last month.

"By including restrictive language ... Congress has prohibited implementation of a new national delivery schedule for mail and package," according to the board.

Disappointed but not wanting to disregard the law, the board directed the Postal Service to delay putting in place the new delivery schedule until Congress passes legislation that gives the agency "the authority to implement a financially appropriate and responsible delivery schedule."

The board made the decision in a closed meeting Tuesday.

"This is good news for rural communities, businesses, seniors, veterans and others who depend on consistent and timely delivery of the mail," said Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt.

But GOP Rep. Darrell Issa of California, chairman of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, bemoaned the decision to back away from a "delivery schedule that polling indicates the American people understand and support."

Postal officials said that to restore the service to long-term financial stability, the agency must have the flexibility to reduce costs and come up with new revenues.

"It is not possible for the Postal Service to meet significant cost reduction goals without changing its delivery schedule — any rational analysis of our current financial condition and business options leads to this conclusion," the board statement said.

An independent agency, the service gets no tax dollars for its day-to-day operations but is subject to congressional control. It lost nearly \$16 billion last year — \$11.1 billion of that due to a 2006 law Congress passed forcing it to pay into future retiree health benefits, something no other agency does.

"Given these extreme circumstances and the worsening financial condition of the Postal Service, the board has directed management to seek a reopening of negotiations with the postal unions and consultations with management associations to lower total workforce costs, and to take administrative actions necessary to reduce costs," according to the statement. It offered no giving further details.

It said the board also asked management to look at further options to raise revenues, including a rate increase.

Fredric Rolando, president of the National Association of Letter Carriers, called the idea of renegotiating labor contracts "insulting and unnecessary," saying that suggestion "is yet another sign that the Postal Service needs new executive leadership." He said Saturday delivery is critical to the Postal Service's future.

"Losing this competitive advantage would not only reduce mail volume and revenue - sending the USPS on a death spiral - but also would disproportionately affect small businesses, the elderly, rural communities, the one-half of the public that pays bills by mail and the many millions who lack access to reliable Internet service. And it would cost tens of thousands of jobs," Rolando said in a statement.

The Postal Service already is executing a major restructuring throughout its retail, delivery and mail processing operations. Since 2006, it has reduced annual costs by approximately \$15 billion, cut its workforce by 193,000 or 28 percent, and consolidated more than 200 mail processing locations.

The idea to cut Saturday mail but keep six-day package delivery — a plan Postmaster General Patrick Donahoe estimated could save \$2 billion — played up the agency's strong point.

Its package service is growing as more people buy things online, while the volume of letters sent has slumped with increased use of email and other internet services.

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INSIDE COLUMN

Sampling
'SkyFruits'

Steph Wulz
Graphics Editor

I'm going to be frank with you. I'm really not much of a blog person. I occasionally dabble in the weekly Instagram and Pinterest surfing, but rarely have I found a blog that can truly hold my interest. However, over one weekend back at home, I was told about a fellow Domer's blog that soon became one of the most surprisingly entertaining blogs I now participate in frequently. This blog is "SkyFruits."

The blog's mission statement explains, "'SkyFruits' points out the mass commercialization of fruit in our society by photographing store bought fruits against the background of nature. While the beauty and contrast of colors initially shocks the viewer, he or she is gradually awakened to the fact there is really nothing special about the photograph. Rather, since we are so used to seeing fruit sorted out on a fruit stand or in our supermarkets, we forget in its most natural form, fruit lives among the sky and the trees. The project does not merely elucidate where the fruit came from, but rather bites taken out of the fruit — or the banana being peeled — emphasize our own human mark on the fruit itself and our harmony to learn and grow with it. Kat Wilson began the project in the summer of 2012, and since then has been joined by friends, family and fellow fruit enthusiasts in the SkyFruits mission."

Being a design student here at Notre Dame, I can truly value those who show an appreciation for detail. "SkyFruits" contributors understand how to arrange a visually stimulating photograph that adds to the overall success of the blog. Whether it is the profound use of the rule of thirds or an excellent selection of the ever-so-popular X-Pro II filter, it becomes evident that with every photo comes a great deal of thought. I asked Kat to share some insight into her increasingly popular blog and this is what she had to say about it:

"For some, 'SkyFruits' combats the propaganda of the seedless bourgeoisie. For others, it's a glimmer of truth in our vegetable-focused society. For me, it's a way to give mealy apples and bruised bananas a second chance at life beyond their fruit salad fates. Whatever reason you're in it for, 'SkyFruits' brings people from across the world together and will be a crucial step in creating a collective and sustainable society for all. With fruit and iPhones in hand, we will forge onward into the sky and beyond."

So the next time you get away with smuggling multiple pieces of fruit out of the dining hall, find some good lighting, take a bite of your fruit and snap a photo. Don't forget to get it trending with #skyfruits. If your "SkyFruits" picture is artsy enough, "Instaskyfruits" may even repost your photo. Either way, check out the blog at skyfruits.tumblr.com

Contact Steph Wulz at swulz@nd.edu
The views expressed in the Inside Column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.

Lessons learned on the social scene

Bianca Almada

The In-Between Time

One cannot provide an accurate, all-encompassing depiction of college life without discussing its unique and exciting social scene. In contrast to normal, real world neighborhoods comprised of people of drastically different ages and interests that more or less keep to themselves, college students are surrounded by thousands of people of similar age, living situations and life stages. They live in dorms in which their best friends and worst enemies are constantly down the hall or only a short walk away. They are regularly bombarded with news of so many different social events — dances, dinners, parties, mixers and activity nights — that it is often difficult to keep them all organized.

The college social experience is surreal, and it is one that cannot be found or experienced in any other place at any other time. It is the in-between — a floating, fun and exciting place between the restrictions of living under the rule of parents and the restrictions of responsibility in the real world. College is the only place where it is socially acceptable to dress up in wild, ridiculously themed outfits to hop between parties on Friday and Saturday nights. It is normal to be around the same set of people constantly, bonding and laughing over spontaneous adventures and

interesting weekend escapades. College is also the only place where it is socially acceptable to stay in pajamas all day and night on a Saturday, studying and maybe curling up with a good book to relax after the pressures of a long week. It is normal to join friends at midnight to grab a bite to eat and discuss classes or to watch movies and exchange gossip.

A great percentage of student knowledge is, and should be, acquired outside of the college classroom. Though the importance of socializing is definitely less than the importance of academic and professional endeavors, the college social scene can arguably provide equally important lessons and preparedness for the real world. It is a great stage for networking among people of similar interests and goals as well as an ideal location for developing friendships and relationships. It is important for becoming familiarized with different types of people and for learning from them and their opinions. It is also a place for letting loose, relaxing and participating in fun, "that's so college" experiences that will forever remain fond memories. It is the place to make a few mistakes, partake in some shenanigans and then to learn from those mistakes and become more sure of self and personal values.

College is the place to create lifelong friendships based on cherished bonds and shared experiences. To miss out on

the social scene is to miss out on one of the greatest and most rewarding parts of the college experience. It could mean missing out on making the friends that will someday be in your wedding or missing out on pursuing a truly satisfying relationship.

Though it may not be the most important part of college, social interaction is arguably the most memorable aspect of one's college years. It is the time to create lively experiences that can one day be shared with children and grandchildren. It is the epic storming of a football field in the rain, the funny story of a dorm party occurrence and the all-nighter with the group of equally stressed friends that will serve as the fondest memories and the best stories of the in-between time.

It will never again be possible to live within a five-mile radius of everyone and everything. There will never again be an as accepting, forgiving place to make mistakes and learn from them. There will never again be a fun-filled, dynamic environment of people in the prime of life. This is the in-between, and it is fantastic. Do not let it pass you by.

Bianca Almada is a freshman residing in Cavanaugh Hall. She is studying English, Spanish and journalism. She can be contacted at balmada@nd.edu

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

Clarifying the gay marriage debate

Shane O'Connor

Guest Columnist

Several recent columns on the issue of gay marriage and traditional marriage have caused me to wonder if the two camps are even entering in the same debate.

Mark Gianfalla argues in his column ("True matrimonial equality," Apr. 10) that if gay marriage is recognized, there will be a fundamental shift in the understanding of the procreative aspect of sexuality within a marriage. He then asks the question: "If this aspect of sexual intercourse is removed ... why is [sic] prostitution and bestiality both illegal and immoral?"

Let's break this question down. Is prostitution immoral? Yes. Should it be illegal, in the sense prostitutes face jail time or financial penalties for their actions? My guess is there are more compassionate ways to deal with people driven to such desperation. Equating bestiality and homosexuality, however, is foolish. Consensual homosexual relationships do not create a victim. Moreover, the right to homosexual sex is not up for a legal debate.

Mr. Gianfalla's errors continue with his question, "Why should America change to accommodate the minority with dissenting opinions?" First, democracy exists to

protect the rights of the minority. Secondly, supporters of same-sex marriage are no longer the minority.

Carter Boyd's column ("Somewhere over the rainbow," Apr. 10) shows similar fallacies. He says people cannot argue "God made this person that way" to justify non-heterosexual orientation because we do not do the same for "alcoholics, murderers, rapists, adulterers, robbers, swindlers, lairs, cheaters or terrorists." Even if you believe homosexual orientation is something a person struggles with, something that deserves your prayers and support, the distinction between homosexuality and Mr. Boyd's list is obvious. Alcoholism is a sickness we must treat before it kills the alcoholic or someone else. The rest of the list consists of people who have violated someone else's rights.

So what, if anything, did these columnists get right? They are both within their rights to believe, as Mr. Gianfalla concludes, "marriage is marriage." You can believe marriage is a religious institution, that it is a sacrament and a promise not only to a spouse but to God. The gay marriage debate, however, does not presume to change this any more than the government already has. Civic marriage has adopted the term and changed the meaning, so that now, sinners and

atheists may have a union commonly referred to as "marriage." The religious aspect of marriage has become an optional add-on to the legal proceedings. This may be a cultural change worth decrying, but extending what has become merely a legal contract to some, a legal contract and institution of loving commitment to many others, has what ramifications for the rights of anyone else?

People pray for others to end many different sinful habits. Mr. Boyd is right to want to show compassion to all people in this world, regardless of their sins. If he thinks homosexuality is a sin, he is obligated to pray for those who practice it as he is to pray for adulterers and polygamists. Yet, gay marriage still does not pose a threat to any of his rights. However, for people who embrace homosexuality, prohibition of gay marriage may pose a threat to theirs. The traditional marriage advocates are correct to want to preserve their tradition of marriage as a sacrament. But is there some way in which civically recognized gay marriage takes that away?

Shane O'Connor is a sophomore residing in Dillon Hall. He can be contacted at soconno7@nd.edu

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

The beauty of multiculturalism

Amanda Peña

The Bubble

I would like to begin by revealing myself as the actress who performed the role of “Ethnic Goddess,” an anonymous submission from a fellow Notre Dame peer, in this year’s “Show Some Skin: It’s Complicated.” The past few months were dedicated to discussing the content matter of each monologue, engaging in various exercises to extort fresh perspectives on the pieces and committing four-to-five hours to daily practices. In short, we treated these anonymous stories with the utmost respect.

“Show Some Skin” brought together students from all corners of the University. Diverse opinions on race, sexuality, body image and mental disorders were shared, and by pouring over each punctuation mark and line, the actors discussed their own personal stories and resignations along with the anonymous ones we were to perform. The amount of time spent in these discussions and the vulnerability of revealing personal information to each other united us into a family, a family that respected each other’s opinions and feelings on issues that are normally suppressed in the Notre Dame community.

“Show Some Skin” accomplished its goal of fostering dialogue and encouraging students to evaluate their own stances on these issues. It called on the Notre Dame family to be sensitive, understanding, caring and loving to all of its members, because we all experience complicated issues that, in turn, make us complex individuals.

Here at Notre Dame, diversity and multiculturalism officially belong to Multicultural Student Programs and Services. Granted, this office is necessary for locating resources and support, but race and culture are intrinsic

to the human identity and should be embodied in every institution on campus. We have people from all walks of life in the Notre Dame community. We need to stimulate dialogue in order to fully appreciate each person’s uniqueness.

All of Notre Dame can be segmented into a variety of communities — ethnic, religious, homosexual, international, athletic, dormitory, quad etc. We might not all be star athletes, but you’ll catch a number of students at a football or basketball game. Maybe you live in Stanford Hall but you’re participating in Howard Hall’s Totter for Water. Maybe you’re a heterosexual Catholic but you signed a petition to the University for a gay-straight alliance. Maybe you’re an African American and performing in Asian Allure, or learning foreign languages and studying abroad. If more members of the Notre Dame community attended functions like Asian Allure, the Black Cultural Arts Council Fashion Show and Latin Expressions, maybe there would be greater appreciation for that cultural part of our peers’ identities. Our identities converge with one another’s, and so it is important to not only be exposed to, but to discuss and reflect on, multicultural experiences.

Race-based groups allow ethnic minorities to bond with peers who may be struggling with some of the same cultural issues as them. It provides a closer community with which you can be as involved or removed as you want to be. Each group hosts a series of events — often reflective of their respective cultures — to create awareness, celebrate their uniqueness and invite others to appreciate and share in part of their identity. Part of their identity. It is not all that they are, and it provides a space to break from stereotypes, since there are many at Notre Dame.

My monologue, “Ethnic Goddess,” attempted to express a Puerto Rican student’s struggle with feeling unique and appreciated as an ethnic minority. Her allusion to the white girl stereotype in terms of working out and eating only lettuce was only one example of not fitting into a superficial mold created by the Notre Dame culture. She also shared her frustration with being referred to as Mexican or an illegal immigrant when people discover she is Hispanic. These weren’t crude comments to ridicule the Caucasian majority — they were simply her opinions on how undervalued she felt as a Puerto Rican woman at Notre Dame. The point is many students — white or not — are experiencing confidence issues, identity crises and discouragement from standing out. The “Show Some Skin” monologue “Average ND” also articulated this idea very well.

If you view multiculturalism as a caste system, then perhaps you have not engaged in enough respectful and reflective dialogue on diversity. Diversity isn’t an issue because we make it one. It is an issue because there are still many who struggle to accept interruptions to “normative” constructs. By assimilating to the norm, we distance ourselves from the very essence of our identities. Race sculpts part of you from the day you are born because it is a characteristic that makes you a shade different from the rest. If you aren’t afraid to show some skin, then maybe you’ll be able to see how beautiful that is to your identity too.

Amanda Peña is a sophomore sustainable development studies major with a poverty studies minor. She can be contacted at apena4@nd.edu

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Staring down homophobia

Please gather around, everyone. Today’s lesson concerns Carter Boyd’s article “Somewhere Over the Rainbow” published in Wednesday’s Observer.

Let me provide several quotes from Mr. Boyd’s article: “As a society, we don’t use the ‘God made this person that way’ argument to justify the behaviors of alcoholics, murderers, rapists, adulterers, robbers, swindlers, liars, cheaters or terrorists. Why do people use this argument for homosexuals.” “These crazes and fetishes of homosexuality have only developed in lavish, wasteful societies . . .” “Jesus loved some of the wickedest people in his time . . . We must find a way to enter the hearts of those in our communities who struggle with homosexuality . . . heal them and change their hearts and lives.”

This is homophobia. Right here. Can

everyone see clearly? Step forward and take a good look. Notice the false equivalencies at work (between homosexuals and terrorists, no less), stemming from an outdated and scientifically-refuted understanding of human sexual orientation and compounded by an inexcusable misreading of one of the most thoroughly studied books in existence today. Notice the pseudo-scientific, pseudo-historical analyses of the nature and extent of homosexuality in society, as well as the en passant dismissal of homosexuality as a “craze” and a “mania.” Notice especially the total lack of empathy (not compassion, Mr. Boyd, empathy) with any member of this community who identifies himself or herself as a homosexual, as well as the almost-willful disregard for the social and cultural stigmas which might perhaps have led to the rise of this “latest

social justice fad” — or as it’s sometimes known, the LGBT rights movement. And above all, notice the laughably inaccurate and thoroughly discredited idea that a person can somehow determine his or her own sexual orientation is not just an unintended byproduct, as is often the case with this type of argument, but rather the foundation upon which rests the entire article.

I also draw your attention to the fact that although some of the points made by Mr. Boyd might possibly be worthy of inclusion in a mature and well-informed debate, their salience, and indeed their validity, are thrown into jeopardy by the prejudiced and generally uninformed nature of the article as a whole. For check of proof, I refer you to the article directly across from Mr. Boyd’s, “True Matrimonial Equality” by Mark Gianfalla, that manages to address the

timely issue of gay marriage, and in fact argue against it, without finding it necessary to include a quote about the gay movement as a “destructive attack on God’s plan.”

This is homophobia. Don’t shy away. Don’t be afraid to look it in the eye, and, most importantly, don’t be afraid to call it what it is. Do note that it is not the person himself who is the problem (I am not accusing Mr. Boyd himself of being homophobic. I am sure he is not) but rather the arguments such as these, which create an unhealthy and at times actively-hostile environment for the LGBT community on this campus.

Any questions?

Raymond Herrly
senior
Fisher Hall

Spread the love. Spread the equality.

We cannot all write Viewpoints about why we support marriage equality, and we take this opportunity for argument in numbers. The importance of these signatures lies in their collective power to perpetuate love and create solidarity for those on our campus who need our love and who have felt marginalized by yesterday’s Viewpoints. We should not have to defend and fight for equality of love, and we are proud to stand on what we feel is the right side of history. Spread the love. Spread the equality.

Editor’s note: The list of 415 names included with this letter can be found in its entirety at <http://www.ndsmcobserver.com/viewpoint/spread-the-love-spread-the-equality-1.3025210#.UWYqgoWBSis>

Dylan Parent
sophomore
Breen-Phillips Hall

Lauren Morisseau
sophomore
Breen-Phillips Hall

FUN.NY HOW THINGS CHANGE: A SHAKESPEAREAN PLOT TWIST



Gabriela Leskur
Scene Writer

Here ye, here ye. I come to proclaim the gospel accord-
ing to fun.

Oh, ye folk doth not know of what I am speaking? Hath
your ears not bled from the overplaying of the little ditty
“We are Young?”

Doth that freshen your memory?

Ah, I knew ye hath heard such a tune as you rode your
Chevy Impala across the wilderness that is downtown
South Bend.

Yet, have no fear, for I bring the good news — the min-
strels of the band fun. are more than they appear. They
possess substance and spark, a talent to be lauded. They
exist within a new age of hip hop and pop, in which I no
longer need speak as if I am of ages long past.

Why then, you ask, is my syntax so Shakespearean?
Because, damsels and knights, we have on our hands a
switcheroo not too unlike the unexpected plot twist at
the climax of a Shakespearean tragedy!

The Case at Hand

The band fun. probably came onto your radar screen
with their sensation, “We are Young,” and later with
“Carry On” and “Some Nights.” The hit singles all came
off of their new album, “Some Nights.”

As a true and blue fan of fun. I am here to alert you
that indeed, before these songs, the band was already
fairly successful and had already produced a gem with
their first album.

Although both albums are phenomenal in their own
right, there is a large discrepancy: these two albums are
absolutely nothing alike. Perhaps they’re a little similar,
but the difference is nonetheless startling.

It’s like listening to Taylor Swift’s “Love Story” and
thinking, “Oh what a nice little country singer.” Then
the next moment you’re having your mind blown with
“I Knew You Were Trouble” and exclaiming in your per-
plexed state, “Taylor Swift? Dub-step?”

That, my dear friends, is how I felt when compar-
ing “The Gambler” from fun.’s first album and “It Gets
Better” from their second album — the difference was
that unsettling. Let me try to explain to you how listen-
ing to these two albums left me feeling confused and yet,
somehow, content.

“Aim and Ignite”

Fun.’s first album, released in 2009, definitely gets high
marks for heart and wit, demanding acknowledgement
from critics. What made this album stand out was fun.’s
willingness to take risks with many different genres,
instruments, and styles.

For example, “Be Calm” manages to be both whim-
sical and dark, much like the movie “The Nightmare
Before Christmas.” The song starts off with a whining

accordion before the breathy vocals break through and
steal the spotlight. Violins and flutes seamlessly mix
with guitar and symbols. Lead singer Nate Russ appears
unafraid to use his voice like a synthesizer, allowing
both his strengths and weaknesses to convey varying
emotion.

“All The Pretty Girls” inspires a very different feel-
ing, forcing me to stop writing for a moment and dance
around the basement of Farley Hall. Although I some-
times receive weird looks during these dance breaks, if
you listen to this song you will understand why such an
action is warranted. “All the Pretty Girls” is very remi-
niscent of the Beach Boys’ in that you cannot listen to
it without imagining the warm summer sun, rolling
waves, and sand between your toes.

“Benson Hedges” begins with a triumphant chorus
singing the Holy Ghost, not too unlike a showy Gospel
choir. Somehow, the choral ode flows naturally into
upbeat rock anthem with lyrics depicting a spiritual
struggle.

However, the entire album isn’t perfect. For example,
“I Wanna Be the One” is a little too much like running
through a field of daises, but for no apparent reason.
Joyful trumpets and the like gleam throughout, but the
lyrics are uninspiring. I always hit next when it comes
on.

Overall, the sound of their first album is risky and
riveting. However, at the times, their sound can feel
somewhat muted. The strength of this album is truly the
stand out pieces that defy genre. Though I enjoy them, I
can understand why some may find the other songs on
the album lacking, since they don’t include the typical
catchy hook expected of number one hits.

“Some Nights”

Part of what makes “Some Nights” so different from
the first album is the prevalent hip-hop elements. Where
“Aim and Ignite” dabbled in piano and accordion solos,
“Some Nights,” released last year, utilizes electronic
beats and synthesizers.

The songs for which the album is titled, “Some Nights”
and “Some Nights Intro,” exemplify the album as a
whole. “Some Nights Intro” has a lot of similarities to
Queen, with ghoulish whoops and eerie sounds — more
akin to a musical theater tune than a typical pop song.
“Some Nights,” on the other hand, takes on a tribal feel
— with a hint of folk rock. Quite adventurous, indeed.

“All Alone” perfectly displays the band’s shift from
the first album. Screeching records and heavy beats, as
well as assistance from drum machine, create a decid-
edly different experience. Yet, this song in particularly is
pretty successful.

Not all of their ventures into hip-hop inspired songs
are effective, though. I find myself wondering exactly
what is going on in “It Gets Better.” Where fun. once had
been the epitome of exciting melodies and impressive
vocals in their “Aim and Ignite” album, “It Gets Better” is

anything but better. “It Gets Better” meshes odd distort-
ed whiney vocals with a cheesy synthesizer. Also, “Stars”
is a little all over the place. I honestly have never made it
more than a minute or so into the song without becom-
ing annoyed and hastily switching to something else.

However, the album has high points with hidden
gems like the marching tempo and soulful lyrics of
“Out on the Town,” the tasteful lamenting in “Why Am
I the One?” and a subtle return to piano throughout the
thoughtful tune “All Alright.”

Fun.ny, I Hardly Knew You

Just as I was beginning to fall in love with the calm
quirky sound of fun. as displayed in “Aim and Ignite,”
suddenly, my beloved band underwent a metamorpho-
sis with the effervescent, high energy beats in “Some
Nights.” Though at first I felt overwhelmed by the pangs
of lost love, I was eventually was wooed by the new vigor
in their second album.

Perhaps the change isn’t so tragic after all. Although
I still enjoy their first album, I’ve grown to love their
second one as well. I recommend you make a playlist of
both albums and listen to them on repeat for at least a
day.

Okay, yes, I admit at first I was skeptical about their
second album and their new sound.

“Ye of little faith,” right?

But with more time spent with both of fun.’s albums,
I do have faith that they will continue to impress and
surprise me in the years to come.

“Aim and Ignite”

fun.

Label: Nettwerk

Tracks: “The Gambler,” “Be Calm”

If you like: Of Monsters and Men, Death Cab for Cutie



“Some Nights”

fun.

Label: Fueled by Ramen

Tracks: “Out on the Town,” “Some Nights”

If you like: Queen, Vampire Weekend



Contact Gabriela Leskur at gleskur@nd.edu
The views in this column are those of the author and not
necessarily those of The Observer.

WEEKEND EVENTS CALENDAR

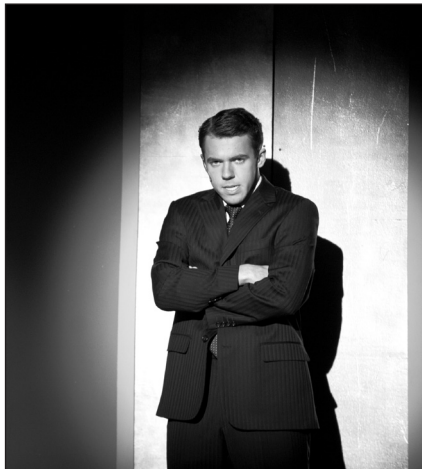
THURSDAY



What: The Joy Formidable
When: 10 p.m.
Where: Legends
How much: Free

The Welsh indie rock band will be gracing the Legends stage this Thursday. The group released its second album, “Wolf’s Law,” this January and have been around the world touring since. Meanwhile, their latest single, “This Ladder is Ours,” made it to 24 on the Alternative Charts. Look out for the band’s front woman, Ritzy Bryan, a talented guitarist and surprisingly powerful singer, and the rest of the group this Thursday.

FRIDAY



What: The PEMCo. Revue
When: 7:30 p.m.
Where: LaFortune Ballroom
How much: \$3

The Pasquerilla East Musical Company is back. After impressive performances like “How To Succeed in Business Without Really Trying,” the players are back to bring you favorite performances from “Footloose,” “Godspell,” “West Side Story” and more. This show is a must-see, so if you can’t make it to Friday’s show, you can catch PEMCo. on Thursday at 7:30 p.m. or Saturday at 1:30 p.m. Tickets are available at the LaFortune Box Office.

SATURDAY



What: “On The Road”
When: 5 p.m.
Where: Browning Cinema, DPAC
How much: \$4

This 2012 adaptation of Jack Kerouac’s famous novel “On The Road” stars Sam Riley, Kristen Stewart and Amy Adams. The film is directed by acclaimed filmmaker Walter Salles, known for directing “The Motorcycle Diaries.” The film, like the 1957 novel, follows Sal Paradise, a young writer, and his new, troubled travel companion, Dean Moriarty. As the two embark on a journey together, they meet a variety of odd, entertaining characters.

SUNDAY



What: ND National Robotics Week 2013
When: 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Where: Stepan Center
How much: Free

To celebrate the upcoming National Robotics Week, the College of Engineering is hosting its second annual ND National Robotics Week event. Stop by Stepan Center to learn more about robotics, interact with robots and talk to students and faculty members developing robots on campus. There will be exhibitions ranging from football-playing robots to robots developed to aid children with Autism at this free and unique event.

TRISTAN PRETTYMAN COMES TO LEGENDS

By **CHRISTINE ANSPACH**
Scene Writer

Let’s be honest, the free “Single of the Week” downloads on iTunes are not always good tracks. On the up side, the artists are usually not well known, which is cool both because they get some publicity and music aficionados can discover new artists. However, the tracks are not always something I want to have in my iTunes library, even if they are free. Every once in a while, though, iTunes posts a good song that I deem worthy of my iPod. One such time was back in 2007, when I downloaded the song “Madly” by Tristan Prettyman.

I instantly became a fan and I downloaded her 2005 debut album, “twentythree,” and all of her subsequent albums thereafter. In fact, “Madly” still makes regular appearances on my most recent playlists. So, being the fan girl that I am, I freaked out a little when I heard Tristan is coming to Legends this weekend.

A former amateur surfer from San Diego, California, Tristan began playing guitar as a teenager, touring local clubs and bars. She gained national attention when she toured with Jason Mraz on his 2004 tour and recorded her first album in 2005. Her sophomore album, “Hello,”

released in 2008, reached the No. 2 position on iTunes Digital Albums Chart, and she embarked on a two-year worldwide tour.

However, she felt burned out following her quick rise to success and took a break from making music. After a few years of traveling and questioning whether she wanted to continue her musical career, she returned to the studio reinvigorated. She released her third studio album, “Cedar + Gold,” in October last year.

Her songs have a folk rock, singer-songwriter vibe, which place Tristan’s guitar and vocals front and center. She has cited Ani DiFranco as one of her main influences, which absolutely comes across in her own music. She has a classically expressive folk voice that will make her successful for years to come. Her laid-back and playful yet soulful sound is similar to that of Missy Higgins, Rachael Yamagata and Priscilla Ahn.

Her most recent album has an earthy, smoldering sound that includes more bass and drums than in previous albums. Her lyrics are profound and well written and conjure emotions ranging from spirited and whimsical to poignant and heartbroken.

For lighthearted, upbeat tracks, look to “My Oh My,” “Quit You,” “Echo” and “Madly.” Two of her most popular songs,

“Say Anything” and “I Was Gonna Marry You,” have a tender yet robust sound with very personal lyrics. Many of her songs, especially from her first two albums, are light guitar ballads that sound like they should be played on a warm California summer night, including “Simple As It Should Be,” “Hello,” “Blindfold” and “Never Say Never.”

Tristan also occasionally collaborates with other artists who have a similarly guitar-based, soulful and playful sound. Her collaborations sound easy and natural, complimenting her sound rather than grating against it. In 2005, she recorded “Shy That Way” with Jason Mraz, one of the more popular tracks from her first album. Her most popular song on iTunes is a collaboration with G. Love on the song “Beautiful,” an upbeat and catchy song that has the tendency to get stuck in your head — in a good way.

If you haven’t heard Tristan before, you should make listening to her newest album the first thing on your to-do list today. She has a timeless voice, her songs are relatable and easy to listen to. Plus, after watching YouTube videos of her live performances, I expect her to give a fantastic show at Legends this Saturday at 10 p.m. Of course, the best part is it’s free. I’ll see you there.

Contact Christine Anspach at canspach@nd.edu

EMILY DANAHER | The Observer

SPORTS AUTHORITY

Interleague play advances game



Brian Hartnett
Sports Writer

If you've been too focused on basketball and hockey to notice the start of the Major League Baseball (MLB) season, I certainly can't blame you.

But you might want to take a look at today's schedule. There's an interesting afternoon tilt between the new-look Blue Jays and the defending American League (A.L.) champion Tigers. There's also a matchup between the Orioles, last year's Cinderella, and the surging Red Sox, as well as an AL West showdown between the A's and Angels.

One matchup, however, may catch your eye just a little bit more: Nationals vs. White Sox.

Relax. It's not a misprint or a make-up of a spring training game.

It's the new reality of interleague play.

While the college sports landscape was changing in waves of realignment, MLB commissioner Bud Selig dipped his toe in the waters and sent the Houston Astros over to the American League. This marked the first time since 1998 that a team had switched leagues.

Given the Astros' woeful record, that wasn't much of a big story in and of itself but it did have an important consequence: for the first time, both professional baseball leagues would have an equal number of teams. Thus, the switch meant that interleague play would not be only a three-week gimmick at the start of summer, but a year-round fixture on the baseball landscape.

It was certainly an interesting move by Selig. After all, the MLB seems to have no imminent expansion plans and divisions had been well established.

But it was also a smart move, in an era where baseball is always trying to keep with the times, to potentially really help the game reach out to its fans.

I'll probably offend some baseball purists here, but I'm not afraid to admit that I've always really liked interleague play.

Interleague helps foster natural rivalries, as it often pits teams against each other that are geographically close. As a Yankees fan, I've always found the "Subway Series" matchups with the cross-town Mets to be some of the most entertaining games on the schedule. I also get a kick out of such rivalries as the "Bay Bridge Series" between the A's and Giants, the "Crosstown Classic" between the Cubs and White Sox and the "Freeway Series" between

the Dodgers and Angels.

Interleague play also gives fans a chance to see teams and players they would otherwise never get to watch. Sure, it may create some unappealing matchups like the Marlins-Twins series at the end of this month, but it also features some intriguing show-downs like the Angels-Reds series played last week or next month's Tigers-Nationals series. And, either way, I'm sure the average Twins fan would be more interested to see Marlins slugger Giancarlo Stanton play at Target Field than watch another inter-divisional game against the Royals (who the Twins still play 19 times this season).

After looking at the other three professional sports leagues, it's just natural to wonder why MLB didn't institute any form of interleague play until 1997. The NFL, NBA and NHL have had interleague matchups since their very beginnings, making baseball's resistance to such matchups seem downright draconian. Last time I checked, both the American League and National League play nine innings, and players are traded between the leagues every day — why then are the two leagues kept apart from each other?

Ultimately, it comes down to the elephant in the room — the designated hitter. Until the two leagues come to an agreement on which nine players should be in the lineup, there will always be an awkwardness surrounding interleague games (though it's hilarious to see A.L. pitchers attempt to swing the bat).

At the same time, though, it's silly for America's two oldest professional sports leagues to simply avoid each other because of a disagreement over one position. That's why Mr. Selig — who I still begrudgingly refer to as the guy who settled for a tie in the All-Star Game — deserves applause for helping to ensure the two leagues play on a season-long basis.

In essence, that's why today's White Sox-Nationals game is being played. And it's why many other untraditional matchups will soon be part of the baseball landscape. While these games may require you to pore over some foreign rosters, you can rest assured knowing they're just another step in the evolution of a sport that's been developing since 1839.

Contact Brian Hartnett at bhartnet@nd.edu

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

MLB

Errors doom Pirates in loss to Diamondbacks

Associated Press

A first-inning throwing error by Jonathan Sanchez set the tone for what was going to be a long afternoon for the Pittsburgh Pirates.

The left-hander threw wildly to third base, allowing the Arizona Diamondbacks to score the first run in a 10-2 romp Wednesday.

Still, the Pirates took two of three from the Diamondbacks in the series, a nice turnaround after Pittsburgh's 1-5 start to the season.

"We win the series, and we move on," manager Clint Hurdle said.

Sanchez (0-2) had pitched well in a 3-0 loss to the Los Angeles Dodgers, but after Wednesday's throwing miscue, he had all kinds of problems.

"The overall stuff wasn't as sharp," Hurdle said. "There wasn't one pitch that was as sharp here today as it was in L.A."

A.J. Pollock homered twice for the Diamondbacks and Wade Miley (2-0) gave up two runs on five hits in 6 2-3 innings.

Pollock doubled in the first, then tried to steal third, taking off a tad too soon. Sanchez saw him and should have easily thrown him out, but the throw sailed past third baseman Josh Harrison. That left Hurdle to wonder what might have been if the throw had been better.

Pollock, who began the day in an 0-for-14 rut, also made a diving catch in center field to rob Andrew McCutchen of a hit in the first.

Sanchez was charged with nine runs and eight hits in 3 1-3 innings. The last two of those runs came after Sanchez left and reliever Chris Leroux walked two batters, on four pitches each, with the bases loaded in the Diamondbacks' four-run fourth.

Pollock, a long shot to make the opening day roster before spring training injuries to



AP

Arizona's Martin Prado reaches first base as Pittsburgh's Gaby Sanchez misses the ball during Arizona's 10-2 victory on Wednesday.

Adam Eaton and Cody Ross, hit a three-run homer in the second and a leadoff shot in the fourth. He had two home runs in 81 big league at-bats last season and only 14 in three seasons in the minors.

But, manager Kirk Gibson said, Pollock has some power, especially against left-handers.

"You get the ball up like that on him and he has the ability to hit it out of the ballpark," Gibson said.

Pollock said he has more pop in his bat than people think.

"For me, hitting home runs is not about power," he said. "It's about hitting the ball correctly and your approach at the plate. It's 340 feet down the line. It's not like you need to hit it 600 feet to hit it out. It's more about getting the right pitch and taking the right swing in the right count."

Sanchez tried to shrug off the performance.

"We have 30 starts out of the year," he said. "We're going to have bad outings and we're going to have good outings. You've just got to focus on the next one."

Martin Prado followed Sanchez's error with a walk, advanced to third on Paul Goldschmidt's single and scored when Miguel Montero

grounded out. Alfredo Marte brought home the inning's third run with a two-out double.

In the second, there was more trouble for Sanchez. Josh Wilson reached on a walk and Gerardo Parra singled before Pollock homered into the left-field seats to make it 6-0.

Miley, runner-up in NL Rookie of the Year voting last season, had his second strong outing in as many tries.

"I was getting ahead of guys early," he said. "I went to the slider a couple of times. Mainly it's about getting ahead and controlling at-bats. They were putting the ball in play, and the defense was making plays."

Miley retired 10 in a row after Starling Marte opened the game with a double. The string ended when McCutchen walked with one out in the fourth. Gaby Sanchez singled and Harrison had an RBI single.

Pollock's second homer made it 7-1. Sanchez walked Goldschmidt and gave up a one-out single to Montero before getting pulled by Hurdle.

Leroux came on and promptly walked three straight. Another run scored on Miley's groundout and Arizona led 10-1.

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Contact ghadley@nd.edu to name these quotes. Free smoothie at Recker's for the first person to name both.

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PGA

Ishikawa hopes to close gap on McIlroy

Associated Press

AUGUSTA, Ga. — Ryo Ishikawa and Rory McIlroy made their Masters debut together, two teenagers in the same group, both filled with potential.

Four years later, they are nowhere near each other.

McIlroy is a two-time major champion who was No. 1 in the world until two weeks ago, and there are signs he has patched his game back together in time for the first major of the year. Among betting favorites at Augusta National, he is second only to Tiger Woods.

Ishikawa didn't even think

he would be at the Masters this year.

The 21-year-old from Japan had to rely on a special invitation for international players to return to Augusta for the fifth straight year. There was even some criticism at home that it was time for the prodigy to prove himself.

"I was surprised," Ishikawa said in a recent interview. "My world ranking is not so high, so I thought I was not coming."

As for the criticism?

"I didn't look at any Internet news for a while so I wouldn't know what they were thinking and what they were saying," he said.

Ishikawa has plunged to No. 115 in the world. He won the Taiheiyo Masters late last year on the Japan Golf Tour for his 10th career victory, ending two years without a win on his home circuit. His first full year on the PGA Tour has not gone the way he had planned.

Ishikawa had made only three cuts in nine starts, his best finish a tie for 39th in the Puerto Rico Open, the same week the world's best players were at a World Golf Championship in Florida. This is the third time he has received an invitation to the Masters, and likely the last. Augusta National tends to look differently at players who join the PGA Tour because they have



AP

Ryo Ishikawa, of Japan, tees off on the 12th hole during a practice round for the Masters on Wednesday.

more avenues to qualify.

It's time for him to deliver.

"Someday I'd like to win the Masters," Ishikawa said. "I want to be a big player like Rory and Rickie (Fowler) and Tiger."

Woods once raved about Ishikawa when he was winning with regularity as a teenager. He won his first Japan Golf Tour event as an amateur when he was 15, and he won The Crowns in 2010 by closing with a 58, the lowest score on a major tour.

McIlroy thought it was tough when he faced scrutiny for signing a major equipment deal, and walking off the course at the Honda Classic. Ishikawa has dealt with that his entire career, perhaps more than any other player except for Woods.

He speaks to a dozen or more Japanese reporters after every round, no matter the score or whether he makes the cut. Ishikawa sits in a folding chair as he endures questions from two Japanese networks, and then the print reporters. How was your driving? What happened with your putt?

If the attention is wearing on him, he doesn't show it. He once played 19 consecutive tournaments to appease sponsors in Japan, where golf fans still yearn for the star they've lacked since the days of Jumbo Ozaki.

Andy Yamanaka, an official with the Japan Golf Tour, once said Ishikawa was singularly responsible for driving interest in Japan for his play and his model behavior.

"Ryo is the complete package," Yamanaka said in a 2010 interview. "I'm not sure if it was the same situation with Tiger Woods in the U.S. when he was younger, but I've never seen anyone like Ryo in terms of his potential as an international athlete."

Ishikawa, who has houses in Las Vegas and San Diego, will return to Japan for the first time this year after the Masters, but not for long. His emphasis this year is on keeping his PGA Tour card.

"Japanese people are watching me all the time," Ishikawa said. "I'm pretty comfortable now to play here all the time. Of course, I'll go home to play Japanese golf tournaments. The biggest thing this year is to keep my tour card. They want me to be a (PGA) tour player next year."

He has shown flashes of what he can be when playing with Ernie Els in the Presidents Cup two years ago in Australia. They lost two straight matches, and Els insisted on keeping him as a partner. They won their third match, and then Ishikawa beat Bubba Watson in singles.

"He's a special kid, man," Els said. "He's got integrity. He's got the right bits in a youngster that you need. He's trying hard."

Still, the South African noticed a big burden on the shoulders of such a young player. Ishikawa is rarely without an entourage that includes his agent, girlfriend Yuri, his father, an equipment rep, a chef and his trainer.

"It's such a long road," Els said. "What am I, 43? And I got my (behind) kicked by the game. I'm a grown man. Imagine a kid who goes through that turmoil all the time. To get into this business, you have to get your priorities straight. I spoke to Ryo when he left the Presidents Cup. I said, 'Please stay who you are. Stay the Ryo we know.' It's going to be tough."

For Ishikawa, it seems like a career ago when he first played the PGA Tour at Riviera in 2009. Officials had to increase the size of the media center by 50 percent to accommodate all the reporters and photographers. His hair was long and wild, adding to the rock star treatment he received. Ishikawa watches himself on YouTube trying to speak English in that press conference and laughs at how "very slow" he was talking.

That much as improved. He conducted a 20-minute interview in English, none of his handlers nearby.

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Upcoming Events

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MLB

Cardinals dominate in 10-0 victory over Reds

Associated Press

ST. LOUIS — It's no mystery to Homer Bailey why the Cincinnati Reds have so much trouble winning in St. Louis. After all, look what happened to him.

Bailey was cuffed for three home runs and seven runs, abruptly ending his string of 23 consecutive scoreless innings, in a 10-0 loss Wednesday. The Reds are the defending NL Central champions and finished nine games ahead of the wild-card Cardinals last season, but since 2003 have won just three of 28 series in St. Louis with two splits.

"Probably because they have a really good team," Bailey said. "That has a lot to do with it. I don't think it's necessarily over here so much."

Manager Dusty Baker had his hopes up after the Reds' nine-run ninth stunned the Cardinals in the home opener. But the Reds were outscored 15-1 the last two games.

"The thing about it is their pitching really shut us down," Baker said. "(Lance) Lynn was tough last night and (Jake) Westbrook was tough today."

Westbrook pitched a five-hit shutout and the Cardinals totaled four homers. Jon Jay, Carlos Beltran and Matt Adams homered in a span of seven at-bats off Bailey in a game that was scoreless into the bottom of the fifth.

"Day games always feel a little bit off, but I'm not using that as an excuse," Bailey said. "I rolled them pretty quick in the first couple of innings, then they started seeing the ball pretty well."

Matt Carpenter added a two-run homer on a four-hit day. Adams homered for the second straight game and added an RBI double and walk.

Westbrook (1-1) threw his fourth career shutout, walking four and striking out three.

Westbrook pitched his first shutout since Aug. 9, 2006, against the Angels when he was with Cleveland, and this was his 15th career complete game. He held the Reds hitless in six at-bats with runners in scoring position, and contributed his 11th career RBI with a single in the seventh for St. Louis' final run.

Bailey's innings-streak included his no-hitter against Pittsburgh last season. After getting the first two outs in the fifth against the bottom of the order, the right-hander gave up hits to seven of the last eight batters.

Bailey dropped to 3-8 with a 5.52 ERA against the Cardinals, including 0-4 with a 6.93 ERA at Busch Stadium. Baker pulled Bailey after Pete Kozma's liner struck the pitcher just above his right ankle, with the ball caroming into left field. But Bailey walked off without a limp.

"He was throwing well and then he lost it," Baker said. "He put the ball over the plate and they've got some guys who know what to do with it when you do that."

The Cardinals advanced only two runners into scoring position in the first four innings and Bailey got two quick outs to start the fifth before running into trouble

against the top of the lineup. St. Louis scored 10 runs on 11 hits in the fifth, sixth and seventh off Bailey, Logan Ondrusek and Alfredo Simon.

Jay's second homer just cleared center fielder Shin-Soo Choo's leaping attempt at the wall. Carpenter followed with a single and Matt Holliday hit an RBI double, prompting a visit from pitching coach Bryan Price.

Beltran then hit his first homer of the season on to make it 4-0.

Adams hit a two-run homer in the sixth off Bailey. Carpenter's two-run shot homered three batters later made it 8-0.



AP

Cincinnati starting pitcher Homer Bailey throws a pitch during the Reds' 10-0 loss to the Cardinals on Wednesday.

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RAINOUTS

Weather cancels games

Observer Staff Report

Baseball

Notre Dame postponed Wednesday's game against Eastern Michigan due to poor weather conditions. The game will now be played at Frank Eck Stadium on May 1. The first pitch is scheduled for 5:35 p.m.

The No. 22 Irish (19-11, 4-5 Big East), have now dropped two games in a row after winning four straight. Notre Dame's next home game will be April 17 when Bowling Green visits for a midweek matchup.

The Irish return to the field this weekend when they travel to Pittsburgh to take on the Panthers. The games at Charles L. Cost Field will begin at 6 p.m. Friday, 3 p.m. Saturday and noon Sunday.

Softball

Notre Dame's game against Toledo that was scheduled for Wednesday was canceled due to inclement weather. The game was rescheduled and will be played this afternoon instead.

The Irish (26-10, 7-1 Big East) enter the contest on the heels of a disappointing 11-3 loss to Northwestern on Tuesday. The team is looking to rebound from being mercy-ruled before they enter this weekend's series against conference opponent Rutgers.

The Rockets (9-23, 2-6 Mid-American Conference) most recently split a non-conference doubleheader against Oakland. This will be Notre Dame's final game before this weekend's Strike Out Cancer campaign.



JULIE HERDER | The Observer

Irish senior catcher Amy Buntin smacks the ball during Notre Dame's 9-3 victory over Villanova on Sunday.

This initiative began in 2011 to support Irish coach Deanna Gumpf and her daughter Tatum, who was diagnosed with leukemia in 2010.

The weekend's events include a silent auction, trivia night at The Brick in South Bend, a home run derby, and various promotions. Last year, the team raised more than \$25,000.

Also notable for the Irish has been the play of sophomore outfielder Emilee Koerner. Koerner has been named one of the 25 finalists for the 2013 USA Softball Collegiate Player of the Year award, given by the Amateur Softball Association of America and USA Softball. Koerner began this week leading the nation in batting average at a .513 clip and leads the team with 58 hits,

31 RBI, 104 total bases and 33 runs scored in 36 games this season.

The action begins tonight at Melissa Cook Stadium at 5:00 p.m.

Saint Mary's Softball

Saint Mary's game against Hope College was postponed due to poor weather.

The Belles (10-10, 2-0 MIAA) are hoping to stay undefeated in conference play with wins against the Flying Dutch.

Saint Mary's won two slugfests against Albion on Saturday to get off to a perfect conference start but followed that performance up with two losses at North Park College on Sunday.

The doubleheader was pushed back until Thursday at 3:30 at Saint Mary's College.

SMC TENNIS | ALBION 8, SMC 1

Belles drop four-game win streak

By SAMANTHA ZUBA
Sports Writer

The Belles came into Wednesday's contest riding a four-match winning streak but lost a bit of their momentum with an 8-1 defeat at the hands of Albion in a conference showdown Wednesday.

Due to bleak weather conditions, officials moved the meet indoors to the Eck Tennis Pavilion, and action finally got under way approximately two hours later around 6 p.m.

Belles coach Dale Campbell said the poor weather conditions could not be used as an excuse for the loss.

"Not really a factor, I guess I would say," Campbell said. "We knew early in the day we were going to play indoors. Both teams [were] doing the same thing."

The only win for Saint Mary's came at the sixth singles spot. Sophomore Jackie Kjolhede delivered the victory 6-1, 6-2 as the meet came to a close.

Sophomore Audrey Kiefer nearly snagged a second victory at No. 4 singles but lost the tiebreaker. Campbell praised his team for its aggressive play but recognized areas where the Belles could still improve.

"I thought we played with a little bit more urgency because we knew we were playing a strong opponent," Campbell said. "I still think we have a lot of mistakes we can correct in doubles in terms of movement, in terms of going for first shots."

Now Saint Mary's must recover and move on to its next match, when it takes on Bethel this afternoon. Though the contest is technically on the road, the Belles will be playing at home against the Pilots from neighboring Mishawaka. Campbell said this set-up could give the Belles a slight boost.

"It could be a small advantage because we know the surface," Campbell said. "We practice here, so it probably is a bit of an advantage."

Bethel (12-4, 6-2 Crossroads) has put together a strong season so far and has performed well in conference play. Campbell said the Belles will just have to stick to what they do well.

"It's mainly about playing your own game and just doing your game better, but Bethel is a team that has played us a bit closer last year," he said. "We have beaten them the last four or five years, but they did play us closer, and I know they're a more formidable opponent."

Bethel had a six-game winning streak stopped by Marian in the Crossroads tournament back in October. Bethel rallied to end the fall season with a 7-2 victory against Manchester College on October 11.

The match against Saint Mary's will be only the second of the spring for the Pilots. They triumphed April 6 against the Indiana Institute of Technology. Saint Mary's, on the other hand, has competed throughout March. Campbell said the layoff could help Saint Mary's, but he would avoid being overconfident. "When you do play matches frequently, I think they do help you mentally, so it could be an advantage," Campbell said. "I'm certainly not going to expect it to be an advantage, but it could."

St. Mary's will take on Crosstown rival Bethel on Thursday at 4 p.m.

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MEN'S LACROSSE

Irish focus on Georgetown matchup

By **MATTHEW ROBISON**
Sports Writer

Two weeks ago, after a narrow 7-6 win over Rutgers on March 24 and a 12-10 loss to St. John's on March 30, Irish coach Kevin Corrigan recognized his team had lost focus. But after a 17-5 beat-down over Marquette on April 2 and a 13-8 victory over Providence five days later, that focus is back.

"I feel good about where our focus is right now," Corrigan said. "I know our guys are working at that. We've tried to do a better job of giving them clarity in exactly what we want from them. I think they're doing a good job at working at it and being accountable for the things that we think are important."

That focus will be challenged again this weekend when Georgetown visits for a Sunday matinee. The Hoyas (5-6, 2-1 Big East) have struggled this season and have been dealt losses on the wrong end of some lopsided games. But their struggles do not indicate weakness, but rather some unforeseen circumstances.

"I think they're very good," Corrigan said. "I think they've had some injuries throughout the year that kept their lineup in flux a little bit. They had some injuries to some key guys. But they're coming off a huge win over St. John's who was No. 10 in the country last week. That shows what they're capable of doing."

In terms of style, Corrigan described Georgetown as a "mixed bag" of some of the teams Notre Dame (8-2, 2-1) has faced this season.

"Defensively, they get out and come after you a little bit in the style of the way Providence played against us," Corrigan said. "At the same time, offensively, they probably more resemble Villanova and Denver and some of the teams we've played that have a mix of Canadian and American influence in what they do."

The Hoyas fell 19-7 to Duke

on March 23 and 14-6 to Mount St. Mary's on March 12. But a 14-13 overtime win over No. 14 St. John's reminded the Big East that Georgetown is consistently one of the conference's best teams.

All season, one of Notre Dame's most valuable assets has been its balance offensively. The Irish have a number of scorers who have the potential to light up the scoreboard. Against Marquette, the offensive firepower came from junior attackman John Scioscia, who had six goals and an assist. Against Providence, senior attackman Sean Rogers led the way with four goals and an assist.

"On any given possession, we have a number of guys that can make a play," Corrigan said. "That makes us difficult to play against."

That balance comes from two sources, Corrigan said. First, the Irish have a wealth of talent on the field. Every player has the potential to make great plays. Second, Notre Dame has to play a system in which each player's potential can be maximized and turned into goals.

"That's a collective commitment that I think our guys have started to zero in on and will make us better as the year goes on," Corrigan said.

On Monday the NCAA released its first RPI rankings of the season, and Notre Dame was ranked No. 1. The RPI looks at strength of schedule, the rankings of the teams each team has beaten and to whom each team has lost.



WEI LIN | The Observer

Irish senior attackman Sean Rogers dodges defenders during Notre Dame's 12-10 loss to St. John's on March 30. The Irish will take on Georgetown in Arlotta Stadium on Sunday.

At the end of the season, the NCAA will use the RPI as an organizational tool when compiling the bracket for the NCAA tournament.

In order to rank highly in the RPI, teams must schedule games against as many strong programs as possible, in order to set themselves up for a good seed come tournament time.

"In scheduling, absolutely it's something you concern yourself with," Corrigan said.

But during the year, it doesn't have much relevance.

"At this time of year, your focus has got to stay and be solely on the team that you're playing this week," Corrigan said. "[The No. 1 ranking is] not something that surprised me, but it's not something that I'm going to concern myself with right now. That's something you worry about when you're scheduling, and it's something that you worry about at the end of the

year when you're tallying these things up. In between, I think our guys know, and certainly our guys know that the focus needs to stay pretty squarely on the team and the challenge that's right in front of you."

Right now, that challenge is Georgetown. The Hoyas and Irish will face off Sunday at 11 a.m. in Arlotta Stadium.

Contact Matt Robison at mrobison@nd.edu

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Buntin

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 20

the season in right field after former teammate Dani Miller got hurt. As a sophomore, she filled in as an outfielder, a designated hitter and a catcher.

Finally, in her junior season Buntin earned her big break, taking her spot as a starting catcher. She was named to the All-America team at the end of the season and led the Irish at the plate with a .360 batting average.

“Over the past four years, I’ve developed a lot as a player and a person,” Buntin said. “I have established my confidence in the batter’s box and behind the plate.”

As a senior, Buntin has continued to dominate behind the plate and builds up the confidence of her pitchers.

“It’s awesome to be able to throw to someone who knows me so well as a pitcher,” O’Donnell said. “We are always on the same page when it comes to attacking hitters.”

Buntin said she focuses on getting to know each pitcher’s style so she can better assist them in improving their game.

“Each pitcher is different,” Buntin said. “As a catcher it has been my job to work with and understand these

differences.”

Despite all her accomplishments on the field, Buntin said the most important thing she has done as a member of the Irish community is play in the Strike Out Cancer weekend in support of Tatum Gumpf, the daughter of Irish head coach Deanna Gumpf. Tatum was diagnosed with leukemia in 2010 at the age of four and the Irish began the event in her name the following spring.

“For our team to take part in something greater than ourselves and give back to a cause greater than our sport is truly special,” Buntin said. “Receiving the first pitch of the game from a smiling, healthy Tatum is one of my proudest moments as a player at Notre Dame.”

The fourth annual Strike Out Cancer weekend will take place Saturday when the Irish take on Rutgers in a doubleheader.

Though Buntin has prepared to pursue a career in medicine after graduation, she said she will never fully leave Notre Dame behind.

“Notre Dame will always have a special place in my heart,” Buntin said. “I am proud to say it’s my home.”

Contact Katie Heit at kheit@nd.edu

Johnson

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 20

now, so I definitely learned a lot from him in terms of my hard work. When I see him do something, it makes me feel that I can do it.”

The younger Johnson says he began to feel things “click” in his sophomore season, as he began to see dramatic improvements in his skills and his identity as a player.

But he was still second in line behind Joe Hudson, a junior who would be drafted by the Cincinnati Reds in the sixth round of the MLB draft in June.

“That destroyed me, it really did,” Johnson said. “All the guys on the bench just want to get on the field, that’s really all you think about. It really does crush you when you’re seeing your best friends out there, you’re working just as hard if not harder than anyone out there, and you’re not getting to play, not getting your opportunity.”

But Johnson finally got his opportunity after Hudson left to join the Reds organization. He won the job at the beginning of the season and has started all 30 games so far this spring.

“It really is the greatest feeling in the world, being out there, especially being on the bench the last two years and not really seeing even a single pitch,” Johnson

said. “More than even for me, it’s great for the guys still on the bench who look up to me as kind of the guy who made it through, because there are a lot of times where there’s not really a light at the end of the tunnel. To guy who hasn’t had that opportunity right out freshman year, to work up the system, I think it’s good to see for everybody.”

Johnson now finds himself in an odd role for someone so intensely competitive — he’s responsible for calming a struggling pitcher.

“It’s hard, I think, for Forrest,” Aoki said. “His family tends to be a group of Irish hotheads. I think he’s done a really good job of gaining the trust and respect of his pitchers. They can feel confident in throwing their breaking stuff because they understand that Forrest is willing to put any body part in front of the ball to keep it from going past him with a runner on third.”

But don’t think Johnson has completely changed his ways.

“I have that football mentality,” Johnson said. “There’s kind of that inner part of me that just wants to hit something when I get mad, but as I’ve gotten older I’ve seen how you have to conduct yourself as the catcher. You have eight guys looking at you, so you have to maintain solid and positive body language all

the time.

“It’s easy when things are going well, but when things start to get tough, when pitchers start to throw balls or guys are making errors, it really takes a lot to take a deep breath and talk to the pitcher.”

His footwork and hitting have improved, but Johnson’s throwing arm remains his greatest asset, and he maintains there is no better feeling than throwing out a runner on the base paths.

“We almost dare runners to run, because we have that kind of faith in Forrest’s ability to catch and throw,” Ristano said. “That’s why I think to this point there haven’t been a really high number of base runners who have attempted steals. We just tell our pitchers, be quick to the plate, dare them to ru, and Forrest will throw them out.”

And if Johnson is more like a linebacker than a Dr. Phil behind the plate, his coaches wouldn’t change that about him, either.

“He’s got that fire about him that we sometimes have to reel in,” Ristano said. “But I would rather as a coach have to reel him in than ask him to be competitive. He wouldn’t have been able to be the player he is now if didn’t have that fire.”

Contact Vicky Jacobsen at vjacobse@nd.edu

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Niklas

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 20

showing former Irish basketball guard Joey Brooks the same ropes he learned last season.

"Joey's doing well. He's kind of been thrown into a storm," Niklas said. "It's not easy to switch sports like this in your senior year. ... He's doing really well. He's staying positive, he's learning a lot and getting better every day, and that's the most important thing for him, to keep learning the offense and getting better."

Yet Brooks is not the only Irish tight end enduring the learning process. Early enrollee Mike Heuerman joined the team in January to get a head start on learning the offense, and senior

"I feel like regardless of how well-rounded, there's always stuff to work on, whether it's breaking out of a route, getting out faster in blocking or a different technique," Koyack said. "I think I'm definitely improving but there's always going to be work to do."

Eifert was a one-stop-shop in terms of tight ends, posing as a blocker, goal line threat and wide-out for the Irish. That versatility could very well result in a first round selection in this month's NFL Draft. But the 2013 collective is fine with doing things by committee, Koyack said.

"We may not be put in the same exact situation as Tyler was put into, but as long as we do well in the situations we are put into, that's pretty much the expectation of the

"You feel good about yourself to be part of the tight ends at the University of Notre Dame. But at the same time we're not trying to be any of those tight ends. We're trying to be ourselves."

Alex Welch
senior tight end

Alex Welch missed the entire 2012 season after tearing his ACL during summer training camp.

Welch didn't see action during his freshman year in 2010 after coming in as a four-star recruit and only had one reception for eight yards in 2011.

Welch said he sought the advice of former Irish and current Minnesota Vikings tight end Kyle Rudolph, who missed much of 2010 with a torn hamstring.

"I think this spring is really important for me just to get back into football shape and remember how you play the game and then come fall camp I'll be ready," Welch said. "I felt like I was playing at a pretty high level last fall and then after what happened, you kind of forget things."

Out of the five, junior Ben Koyack has seen the most playing time in his career, appearing in all 24 games. In 2012, the 6-foot-5 tight end caught three passes for 39 yards but struggled to hold onto the ball throughout the season. And of the four, Koyack seems to be the go-to receiving threat, as opposed to run-blocking standouts Welch and Niklas.



SUZANNA PRATT | The Observer

Irish junior tight end Troy Niklas runs through a defender during Notre Dame's 41-3 victory over Navy on September 1, 2012 in Dublin, Ireland. Niklas is one of five players battling to replace former tight end Tyler Eifert.

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7 Chili
13 Tennis world since 1968
15 Dan who drew "Archie"
16 Movable property
17 Good news on the economy
18 Plop preceder
19 Digital dough
21 So-called "Wheat Capital of Oklahoma"
22 One "coming" in a Three Dog Night hit
23 Big maker of power tools
24 European capital that's majority-Muslim
26 Ex-Yankee Martinez
28 Eisner's successor at Disney
- 30 Western Sahara neighbor: Abbr.
31 Slumps
32 What honor students often have
35 Third base, in baseball lingo ... or a hint for answering eight other clues in this puzzle
37 Means of divination
39 Shem's eldest son
43 1960 chess champ
44 Debate position in a Three Dog Night role
45 George Takei TV and film role
46 Formal "yes"
48 "Did I do ____?"
52 Fraternity letters
53 ____ Field
54 Slate, for one
55 Frequent abbr. in BBC announcements
- DOWN**
1 Snacks in the frozen food aisle
2 "Rich gifts wax poor when givers prove unkind" speaker
3 Making the rent?
4 Army ____
5 Heads overseas?
6 Hoover rival
7 Energy
8 Outer: Prefix
9 Certain kitchen knife
10 John is a common one
11 Current events?
12 Lover of souped-up engines
14 Jai ____
15 "Well, yeah!"
20 Plum brandy
24 Beach sights
25 "Dies ____"
27 Workplace watchdog, in brief
29 "The Hoax" star, 2006
32 "... ____ 'clock scholar"
33 "... to skin ____"

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

R	A	F	T	G	A	B	S	S	W	I	S	H
E	L	L	A	O	B	O	E	C	O	R	F	U
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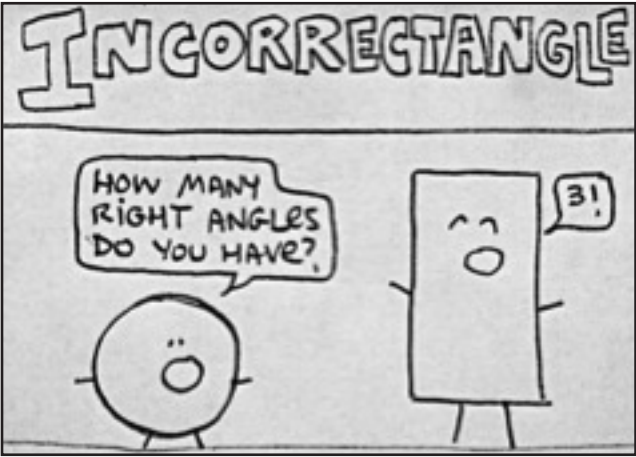
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PUZZLE BY JIM PAGE

- 34 Advanced deg. tests
36 Spanish waves
37 James Bond's lover in "From Russia With Love"
38 Undemocratic tendency
40 Thrusting suddenly
- 41 Barnard grads, e.g.
42 Spicy pretzel dip
43 It's hard to score
47 Blues vocalist ____ Monica Parker
49 Kettle sound
50 Put up
- 51 Latin lover's words
54 Subj. for recent arrivals, maybe
57 Electric ____
58 "Riddle me, riddle me ____"
60 Red fighter

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7		2			3		5		6
	6	5			7			4	
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				1					

SOLUTION TO WEDNESDAY'S PUZZLE 4/11/13

1	7	2	3	8	9	5	4	6
8	5	9	1	6	4	3	2	7
3	6	4	5	2	7	9	1	8
4	2	7	9	1	5	8	6	3
9	3	6	2	4	8	1	7	5
5	8	1	6	7	3	4	9	2
7	9	8	4	3	6	2	5	1
2	4	3	7	5	1	6	8	9
6	1	5	8	9	2	7	3	4

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: Keep an open mind and listen to what others have to say before you jump to conclusions. Timing must be acute if you wish to succeed. You will have added energy, but it's how you use it that will count. Engage in the causes, concerns, pastimes and talents you enjoy doing most and you will excel. Your numbers are 9, 12, 17, 21, 29, 32, 43.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): You'll find it difficult to sidestep emotional issues. Speak up and settle whatever is bothering you. A change may be necessary if you don't want to lose confidence or self-respect. Once you start down a certain path, you must complete your mission. ★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Put a little force behind your words and you will get what you want. You don't have to upset authority figures, but making diplomatic suggestions in a tactful manner will show who is in control. ★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You can make a difference. Suggest reforms you feel will help create a better environment at work, home or in your community. You don't have to donate financially; putting in time or offering services will help raise your profile and your reputation. ★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Sharing your thoughts will lead to interference and opposition. Make sure you are fully prepared to address any issues that arise. Keep your statements simple, to the point and within reason. Treat your responsibilities seriously. ★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Take initiative. Size up your situation, target your goal and proceed to the finish line. Don't let personal demands stand in the way of your professional responsibilities. Love is on the rise and romance should be scheduled. ★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Listen carefully to what's being discussed. You shouldn't overreact, but you also must make sure that you fight for what you want. Don't back down, and don't allow a change to a settlement or contract leave you at a loss. ★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Partnerships will be under scrutiny. Diplomacy is encouraged if you want to get your way. Know what you are up against and be willing to compromise in order to close a deal or secure your position. Expansion is apparent but must be reasonable. ★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Ask questions and you will get answers. Once you are able to put all the pieces together you will have a very good chance of getting what you want. Use your skills, talents and power of persuasion and you will capture attention. ★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Size up your personal situation and make the alterations to your home and domestic life that you desire. Socializing and networking will do wonders for your confidence and your overall appeal. Share creative ideas. Love is highlighted. ★★

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Caution will be necessary physically, financially and verbally. Don't stir things up or meddle in other people's affairs. Now is not the time to confront, but instead the time to protect your assets, reputation and your health. ★★

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Self-improvement projects will lead to compliments. You will make a good impression on people from your past if you make it a point to reconnect. Love and romance are in the stars and should be used to stabilize an important relationship. ★★

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Don't let anxiety lead to impulsiveness or promising more than you can deliver. Patient and well-thought-out plans will be your ticket to success. Take on a job that will keep you busy and satisfy you. Let your imagination lead the way. ★★

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

JUMBLE | DAVID HOYT AND JEFF KNUREK

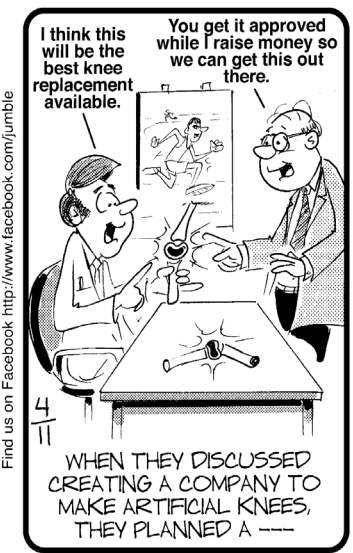
Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

ROJEK

ONTEK

TEBNIT

NEUEVA



A:

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: FETCH EXERT POLICY BEAUTY
Answer: After his wife struck it big on a slot machine, he was happy to have a — "BETTOR" HALF

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THE OBSERVER

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FOOTBALL

Out of the shadow

Irish tight ends battle to replace former All-American Tyler Eifert

By **ANDREW GASTELUM**
Editor-in-Chief

Last season, Tyler Eifert racked up 624 yards, 44 receptions, four touchdowns, broke two receiving records and picked up an All-American honor along the way.

The five men trying to replace him in 2013 have a combined nine receptions, 122 yards, one touchdown and shoot 32 percent from 3-point range.

But for the Irish, it's all a matter of perspective.

"We're all different. I don't think we feel pressured as a unit to replace [Eifert]," junior tight end Troy Niklas said. "The offense is going to morph into doing what we're good at, and that's what we're going to do."

Niklas is entering his second season at the tight-end spot after spending his

freshman year as a defensive end.

In 2012, the 6-foot-7, 250-pound Fullerton, Calif., native said it took time to pick up the offense. He eventually caught his first touchdown against Boston College, one of his five total receptions.

But according to the man nicknamed 'Hercules,' one year really does make a difference.

"Now it's like second nature," Niklas said. "I always thought it was pretty natural, but it was a little tougher to learn the offense and pick up all that stuff. But now that I know the offense, all those little technique things are coming pretty easily."

In just one year, Niklas has gone from defensive lineman to veteran tight end, especially when it comes to

see NIKLAS **PAGE 18**



MACKENZIE SAIN | The Observer

Irish junior tight end Troy Niklas sprints downfield during Notre Dame's 41-3 victory over Miami on Oct. 6. Niklas has posted a total of five receptions with the Irish, including a touchdown.

ND WOMEN'S SOFTBALL

Buntin acts as quiet example



JULIE HERDER | The Observer

Irish senior catcher Amy Buntin throws to first during Notre Dame's 9-3 victory over Villanova on Sunday.

By **KATIE HEIT**
Sports Writer

Though not as vocal as many of her teammates, senior catcher Amy Buntin leads by example from behind the plate.

"I am not overly vocal," Buntin said. "I don't resort to emotional pregame pump-up speeches, but I'm always striving to do the right thing and always looking for ways to better myself."

Senior pitcher Brittany O'Donnell said Buntin doesn't need to be heard to lead the younger teammates, because the experience she's gained from four years in an Irish uniform speaks for itself.

"Her level of play and work ethic speaks for itself," O'Donnell said. "For a catcher to endure the days and never complain is a special person. I'm proud to call her my teammate."

Buntin has supported the team in a variety of ways during her time with the Irish. As a freshman, she filled in wherever she was needed, playing part of

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BASEBALL

Johnson follows in brother's footsteps

By **VICKY JACOBSEN**
Sports Writer

Two seasons ago, the Notre Dame coaching staff wasn't really sure what to do with junior catcher Forrest Johnson.

Irish coach Mik Aoki, who was then in his first year at Notre Dame, took the unpolished freshman aside to let him know he might not get a chance to play with the team.

Pitching coach Chuck Ristano saw potential in Johnson's monster arm and tried to convert him into a pitcher.

But Johnson didn't show much more promise on the mound.

"Coach Ristano took me out and we threw a bullpen. Fastball looked pretty good, slider was okay," Johnson said. "The deal breaker was the changeup. I've never been a pitcher my entire life, I've always been a catcher, so naturally I wouldn't have a changeup lined up. But I threw a changeup 90 feet over the backstop, so that was the end of my pitching career here."

But even as Johnson spent his first two seasons at Notre Dame relegated to the bench and the bullpen, he was impossible to

ignore, in part because of his relationship with his fiery older brother, Cole, who graduated in 2011.

"Forrest is a pretty intense kid. We got to know his personality by getting to know his older brother, who pitched for us," Ristano said. "We play a game in the bullpen when pitchers try to match each other's pitches, and Forrest was catching Cole. And Cole didn't think Forrest was doing a good enough job, so in the middle of the bullpen Cole would yell at his brother. And even though I'm the coach, I can't do anything to stop a brotherhood rivalry, so I tried to make sure they didn't kill each other."

Threats of bodily harm aside, the younger Johnson said his older brother motivated him even when he knew there was no guarantee of playing time in his future.

"He's definitely one of my heroes, because he had a similar experience to what I did. He was a recruited walk-on here and then worked his way up the system," Johnson said. "He ended up getting drafted and is doing great

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