

## Bombings at Boston Marathon cause chaos

*Students, alumnus with ties to Boston reflect on bombing*

By **MARISA IATI**  
Assistant Managing Editor

Senior Betsy McGovern escaped danger Monday afternoon by approximately 15 minutes.

McGovern completed the Boston Marathon shortly before two bombs exploded near the finish line on Boylston St. at 2:45 p.m. The explosions killed at least three people and injured more than 140, according to the Associated Press.

"I was probably a block away, and I picked up my bag and I heard it," McGovern said. "I heard the first one and it didn't really register. ... I think I was just so tired that I didn't really think about it."

"It became pretty chaotic, and then I noticed the ambulances starting to come, and you heard the police kind of go over there."

Two other undetonated bombs were found near the end of the marathon's 26.2-mile course, according to the Associated Press.

McGovern, who is from approximately 20 miles north of Boston, said she was on the phone with her father when she heard the second explosion. She met up with her other family members who had been waiting at the finish line earlier, and they immediately got in the car and left.

"We just feel really, really fortunate that I finished earlier and that they weren't around there when the bombs went off," McGovern said. "I was lucky because I was picking up my bag, I had my cell phone, but there were a lot of people who hadn't picked up their bags yet. So you can just

see MARATHON **PAGE 5**



People react as a bomb explodes near the finish line of the Boston Marathon on Monday. The two explosions at the event killed three people and injured more than 140.



Approximately 90 students gather in Our Lady of Mercy Chapel in Geddes Hall on Monday night to pray for the victims of the bombings at the Boston Marathon.

*ND students attend prayer service for victims of marathon*

By **NICOLE MICHELS**  
Assistant Managing Editor

More than 800 miles from the site of Monday's bombings at the Boston Marathon, the Notre Dame community gathered in solidarity with the attack's victims during an evening prayer service in Geddes Hall.

Freshman Jake Grefenstette helped organize the prayer service in Our Lady of Mercy Chapel on Monday evening. The service drew approximately 90 students to the chapel fewer than 12 hours after the first explosion in Boston.

"There's definitely an expectation at this University that we respond to things with faith, and it was definitely incredible to see that happen here," Grefenstette said.

Grefenstette said the numbers exceeded what the organizers had expected.

"Some people were worried if we were even going to be able to fill the chapel, but we ended up having to go and tap every room surrounding the chapel to pull in chairs, and we had people standing and sitting on the ground," he said.

Student body president Alex Coccia said he hoped all in attendance would reflect on the events and the content of University President Fr. John Jenkins' statement, which he issued Monday evening.

In his statement, Jenkins encouraged all to not lose sight of their need for support.

"The prayers of the Notre Dame

see SERVICE **PAGE 5**

## ND study-abroad students meet Chief Justice Roberts

By **MEG HANDELMAN**  
News Writer

Notre Dame students studying abroad in Washington, D.C. experienced the opportunity of a lifetime Monday when they met Chief Justice John Roberts of the United States

Supreme Court.

"The meeting was unforgettable," sophomore Matthew Mleczo said. "[Chief Justice Roberts] immediately had us take our seats and before we knew it, he was sitting a few feet from us, happily sharing his knowledge and passion of the

institution with us."

Junior Patrick Grimmer said the meeting was particularly special for him since Chief Justice Roberts is the most famous alumnus of his high school, La Lumiere High School.

"I was a member of the first class at La Lumiere

after his nomination and confirmation [as Chief Justice], so he always cast a big shadow and we were expected to live up to the standards of excellence he set," Grimmer said. "It was special to meet him."

The opportunity to hear Roberts discuss the

process of preparing for his confirmation hearing was the most interesting part, junior Mia Counts said.

"I never really realized just how extensively you need to prepare for the hearings," Counts said. "Chief Justice Roberts studied minute details

of the law for months on end and compiled a team to test him and ask him questions, creating hearing simulations."

The most memorable part of the meeting, Mleczo said, was the stories shared about

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# THE OBSERVER

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# QUESTION OF THE DAY:

Have a question you want answered?

Email [obsphoto@gmail.com](mailto:obsphoto@gmail.com)

What is one uncommon talent you have that is completely useless in real life?



**Michelle Pham**  
freshman  
Lyons Hall

"I'm really good at pretending to be awake while I sleep in class."



**Ryan Boccabella**  
freshman  
O'Neil Hall

"I can do the splits."



**Ben Willner**  
freshman  
Carroll Hall

"I can quote any movie you give me."



**Joshua O'Brien**  
freshman  
Dillon Hall

"I can squirt water out of my nose."



**Tesa Kubicek**  
junior  
Ryan Hall

"I can write with my feet."



**Grace Deardurff**  
junior  
McGlenn Hall

"I'm really good at getting freckles."



JACK HAWLEY | The Observer

Dr. David E. Hayes-Bautista, professor of medicine and director of the Center of Latino Health and Culture at the UCLA School of Medicine, spoke on Monday about the future of young Latinos in America. The lecture was followed by a reception in McKenna Hall.

# THE NEXT FIVE DAYS:

Want your event included here?

Email [obsnews.nd@gmail.com](mailto:obsnews.nd@gmail.com)

## Tuesday

### Men's Baseball

Eck Baseball Stadium  
5:35 p.m.-7:35 p.m.  
The Irish take on the Michigan Wolverines.

### Film: "Switch Energy Project"

Jordan Hall of Science  
7 p.m.-9 p.m.  
Explores the world's leading energy sites.

## Wednesday

### MFA Reading

Hesburgh Library  
7:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m.  
Reading of creative writing pieces.

### Wellness Wednesday

Coleman-Morse Center Lounge  
6 p.m.-8 p.m.  
Arts and crafts event to relieve student stress.

## Thursday

### Women's Softball

Melissa Cook Stadium  
5 p.m.-7 p.m.  
The Irish face off against Valparaiso.

### Wham! Bam! Poetry Slam

Snite Museum of Art  
5 p.m.-7:30 p.m.  
First annual poetry slam.

## Friday

### Soup and Substance: Education in Africa

Geddes Hall  
12 p.m.-1:15 p.m.  
CSC discussion.

### Spring Concert

DeBartolo Performing Arts Center  
8 p.m.-10:30 p.m.  
The Symphony Orchestra performs.  
Friday

## Saturday

### Blue-Gold Spring Football Festival

Notre Dame Stadium  
1 p.m.-5 p.m.  
Sneak peek at the 2013 Fighting Irish.

### Men's Lacrosse

Arlotta Stadium  
2 p.m.-4 p.m.  
The Irish take on the Villanova Wildcats.

# Anthropology week hits SMC

**KAITLYN RABACH**  
Saint Mary's Editor

Saint Mary's Anthropology club planned to kick off its annual "Anthropology Week" on Monday with a mock archaeological dig, an event cancelled due to poor weather conditions, club co-president Cristina Bueno said.

"Because of the weather we were unable to do the dig," Bueno said. "However, we do plan on rescheduling it for later in the semester. We are still looking forward to the rest of our events for the week."

Bueno said she hopes this week will promote the study of anthropology on the whole campus, as the club wants students to know about all the different facets of the discipline. "There are a lot of different ways people can get involved with it and that is what we love about the subject the most," Bueno said. "It is broad and can reach out to a wide range of people."

The first event, the mock dig, was supposed to draw in students focused on the archeology subfield of anthropology.

"This subfield of anthropology focuses on material remains such as pottery and sometimes

## ANTHROPOLOGY WEEK

**TUESDAY:**  
Speaker Melissa Medich  
7 p.m. in Spes 134

**WEDNESDAY:**  
Film Showing, *Gorillas in the Mist*  
7:30 in Spes 134

**FRIDAY:**  
Holi Festival of Colors  
5 p.m. on Dalloway's Green

SARA SHOEMAKE | The Observer

includes human remains," Bueno said. "For the mock dig we were planning on placing little prizes on the volleyball courts so students could dig and see what it is like to be out in the field doing this work."

Today, the club will switch gears and focusing on cultural anthropology, she said. Melissa Medich, Global Studies Department lecturer, will speak about the Etruscan Mortuary Practice.

"Professor Medich will be doing a comparative analysis of

funerary art in Etruscan tombs during the fourth and fifth centuries BCE," Bueno said. "This represents a mix between cultural and archaeological anthropology. She is going to discuss how materials remains can be used to learn about past cultures."

Wednesday's event will move into the biological subfield of the discipline, Bueno said. We will be filming "Gorillas In the Mist," a film about the life of Dian Fossey, a naturalist who dedicated her life to the study of gorillas in Rwanda during a civil war, she said.

"Part of biological anthropology focuses on primates," Bueno said. "This is a perfect film to show because it entertaining, but also very educational."

The week will conclude with a Holi Festival of Colors, an event focused solely on the subfield of cultural anthropology, she said. "This festival originated in India and is celebrated in the spring," Bueno said. "It celebrates the arrival of spring with the throwing of color powder. We wanted to have our last day of the week include a very fun and vibrant event."

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# 'Girl Talk' creates conversation

By **CAROLYN HUTYRA**  
News Writer

"Girl Talk," a three-week discussion series focused on facilitating dialogue on college issues among Notre Dame women, came to a close Sunday.

The series was created as part of the Right to Life club by senior and Joys of Life commissioner Samantha Stempsky. Topics of discussion included birth control, feminism and gender relations.

"It was about creating a space for girls to come together and talk about issues that are particular to women," she said.

During the first week, the group approached the topics of feminism in a general sense and the Church's view of women. Stempsky said the discussion centered on the question, "What does it mean to be a woman?"

"The article we read was a bunch of selections from Pope John Paul's letter to women which is a document that a lot of people don't know about," she said. "[It] basically [says] you're equal, thanks for working, thanks for being in the world."

The following week the topic of discussion was birth control, and Stempsky said her committee asked South Bend fertility care specialist Suzy Younger to speak on this topic. The series then concluded with a third and final discussion on beauty, the worth of women and the ways women are viewed by men, including a short discussion on pornography.

"Although we're aware that women are objectified in the media, how much progress have we actually made in feeling better about ourselves and knowing how to recognize our own self-worth even when we don't look

like a model?" Stempsky said.

"I think how women relate to men is very much affected by how women are portrayed in the media, both from how men view women and how women choose to interact with men."

Stempsky said several factors contributed to her creation of this discussion series. One reason in particular stemmed from the recent presidential election, she said.

"During the political debates people were very generalizing and theoretical and [making] sweeping statements about women," she said. "I think it's really important to acknowledge the personal experiences behind these women's issues."

Whether people are pro-life or pro-choice, for or against contraception, and women in the church, those opinions stem from personal reasons which need to be recognized, Stempsky said.

"Growing up, your experience of being a woman is going to shape how you think about feminism and these issues, and so we wanted to recognize that and try to focus the discussion on that." Stempsky said.

The plans for this series also arose from talks by George Mason University law professor Helen Avare, Stempsky said.

"I was really very inspired by her "Women speak for themselves" campaign and just this idea that women have their individual, unique voices," she said.

Often people think they know other's opinions on certain issues and later find out they really do not, Stempsky said.

"We may have different ideas about what's best for women, but usually all women want what's best for women," she said.

Through this series, Stempsky said the committee hoped to facilitate an open dialogue and create a tone that would encourage others to share their opinions, thought, and feelings to last for years to come.

"I think it was really fruitful even for people who couldn't attend," she said. "It got people thinking about the different variations of women's issues and women's thoughts and feelings on these issues."

Stempsky said she believes this sort of dialogue is important especially on a Catholic campus in light of the recent health mandate and issues like contraception in the media today.

"On a campus like Notre Dame's that's Catholic yet very prestigious in the secular world women's issues can become more complicated," Stempsky said. "There's more chance for misunderstandings because you are interacting with Church teaching."

Contact Carolyn Hutyra at  
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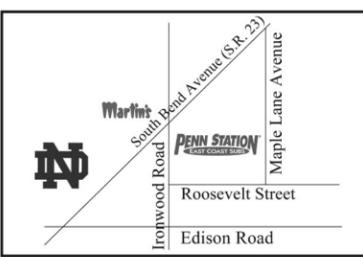


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## D.C.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Chief Justice John Marshall. “As he talked about the man whom he so admired, he also gave us a glimpse into his judicial philosophy and the legacy he is trying to leave behind,” he said. “We were, in essence, speaking with our generation’s Chief Justice Marshall.”

Chief Justice John Roberts also spoke about Supreme Court history, sharing stories about former Supreme Court chief justices, Mleczko said.

**“I believe I am leaving D.C. with direction and that direction is really, really valuable.”**

Matthew Mleczko  
Study-abroad student

Mleczko said his experiences advocating for budget provisions on Capitol Hill and coordinating advocacy campaigns with other non-profit leaders helped him discern his future career plans.

“I believe I am leaving D.C. with direction and that direction is really, really valuable,” he said.

But the memorable meeting with Roberts was one of many opportunities that has made studying abroad in Washington a valuable experience for Notre Dame students, Mleczko said.

“To be addressing the chief justice of the United States, a man who has been building quite the judicial portfolio in the past few years, was sort of an out-of-body experience,” Mleczko said.

Contact Meg Handelman at [mhandelm@nd.edu](mailto:mhandelm@nd.edu)

# Professor lectures on Latinos

By GRACE MCCORMACK  
News Writer

Dr. David Hayes-Bautista, director of the Center for the Study of Latino Health and Culture at the University of California Los Angeles, addressed the implications of the United States’ increasing Latino population Monday in McKenna Hall.

In a lecture titled “Young Latinidad and the Future of America,” Hayes-Bautista said the growing percentage of Latinos in the United States is inevitable and beneficial.

“In Texas and in California and in New Mexico, over 50 percent of the babies born are Latino,” he said. “This is the norm.”

Latinos are also a sizable minority in other states, such as Illinois and New York, Hayes-Bautista said.

“As a whole, the state will work more, work more hours per week,

use less welfare, have fewer heart attacks, have fewer cancers, have fewer strokes [as the Latino population grows],” he said.

Hayes-Bautista said his research shows these statistical shifts are largely due to cultural differences between Latinos and other Americans.

“Latinos have the highest labor force participation of any group in the country and are far more likely to start a business,” he said. “Latinos have historically very low welfare utilization rates.”

Despite their potential positive impact on the United States, the media portrays Latinos mostly negatively, Hayes-Bautista said.

“If you go home and watch the 11 o’clock news, what’s it likely to be?” Hayes-Bautista said. “Gangs, illegal immigration, teenage moms.”

This portrayal differs largely from present Latino realities and history, Hayes-Bautista said. North America

contained early Latino settlements whose people participated in past wars and helped finance the American Revolution, he said.

“Because of Latinos, because of the values, because of the families, because of the faith, we have always been building this country since 80 years before [the settlement of Jamestown, Va.],” he said. “Latinos have been helping to defend the freedoms of this country since 1776.”

November’s elections clearly indicate present-day Latinos will have a similarly-profound impact on the United States, Hayes-Bautista said.

“The Latino electorate stepped forward and changed the course of this nation’s history by causing the re-election of President Obama,” he said. “Not because of President Obama, but because Latinos made the difference.”

Contact Grace McCormack at [gmccorma@nd.edu](mailto:gmccorma@nd.edu)

“He spent most of his time with us answering questions,” Mleczko said. “Considering his position in the government, it’s incredible that he spent a good 30 minutes with us.”

During their meeting, Counts said the students had the opportunity to talk to Roberts about a range of topics, and she said she was surprised by the informality of the meeting.

“He is an obviously intelligent, driven man with an excellent poker face,” she said. “He never let on if he thought our questions were dumb.”

Grimmer said Roberts also discussed the politicization of law through judicial nominations.

“He argued that the current system of nomination and confirmation could change so as to avoid rampant political posturing through court nominees,” Grimmer said.

The focus of Grimmer’s trip to Washington, D.C. was an internship. He said his experience has helped him obtain insight into the professional world while still maintaining his status as a student.

“I feel it is an underrated program, as many students desire to go overseas but ignore the practicality and convenience of living in such a fascinating city,” Grimmer said.

The trip to Washington was truly memorable because of both the class and work experiences that have helped mature the students politically, Mleczko said.

“I’ve whole-heartedly enjoyed every minute of my time as a Notre Dame student, but studying in D.C. has arguably been the most formative semester so far,” Mleczko said. “I’ve gained insight from professionals in policy areas that I hope to someday pursue.”

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## Service

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

community are with those who lost their lives and were injured, as well as with their families and friends, in the bombing Monday in Boston," Jenkins said in the release. "Such tragic events have become all too common in our world, and yet I call upon all to avoid treating them as routine, but instead to lift up those who are suffering."

At the service, Coccia called upon students to internalize this willingness to lift up the victims of Monday's attack.

"Something Fr. Jenkins said in his statement was about the need to make sure we do not view these things as routine and that we continue to act against them, against violence like this," Coccia said.

Notre Dame junior Chris Glueck was among the students to share his reflections on the bombings and their aftermath, calling students to remember those injured and deceased and all of those affected by the day's events. Glueck invited students to consider their roles as the "light of Christ in a time of darkness."

"As we stand here, we stand upright in the face of violence, just as Christ did," Glueck said. "He taught us not to run in the face of darkness, not to take fear at the violence, but to counter it with light — with His light. When our brothers and sisters around us weep, often the only thing we can do is to offer them a shoulder."

Other students stood before the crowd in the chapel to read Bible passages and offer petitions for

those affected by the bombing. When students shared their own intentions, some prayed for healing for the victims in Boston and the first responders, as well as for compassion on the part of journalists and elected officials who are handling this crisis.

Freshman Bridgid Venard said she came to the service because although her family was not directly affected, many of her friends were struck by the tragedy.

"I do have a lot of friends at Boston College, and one of my very good friends was [running] in that marathon," Venard said. "She was at her 22nd mile [when the bombs went off] and I believe it happened at the 26th mile, so she was very close to where it happened. I'm very thankful to God that she was okay, along with her sister."

"This was indeed a tragedy, and we need to come together and somehow grow from it."

Junior Brian Duffy said he wanted to stand in solidarity with those hurt by the tragedy.

"My No. 1 motivation to attend was out of support for those affected — the city of Boston, the families involved and the nation," Duffy said. "Secondly, I wanted to pray that this wouldn't inspire further acts of violence."

Coccia said student government planned to reach out to Boston College to coordinate a joint support effort. He invited any students with ideas about the shape of that support to contact him or student body vice president Nancy Joyce.

Contact Nicole Michels at [nmichels@nd.edu](mailto:nmichels@nd.edu)

## Marathon

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

imagine that the explosion goes off and no one has their phone to contact their family and their friends."

The bombs were placed in trash cans and blew out the front of a store called Marathon Sports, McGovern said. She said she, her dad and her uncle bought shoes there Sunday.

When she watched news coverage of the explosions, McGovern saw people she had spoken to earlier in the day.

"It just feels like, 'Oh my God,'" she said. "Boston's a small town and it's just kind of crazy."

Monday was Patriot's Day in Massachusetts, McGovern said, and the Boston Marathon is typically held on this holiday. Government jobs give their employees the day off and schools shut down. She said as a result, there is "huge public participation" in the marathon.

"I think that's another thing that makes this a little scary, because there are just so many people out," McGovern said.

Sophomore Paul Kearney was affected by the explosions at the Boston Marathon in a different way. His brother Damian, a 2009 alumnus of Notre Dame who works at the University's Institute for Educational Initiatives, ran the race.

"I was actually in class at the time of the bombings, and I was getting these texts from various people, like friends and family," Kearney said. "As soon as I got out of class I started calling people, and I couldn't reach



Firemen, police officers, and paramedics work together to restore order after the chaos of Monday's explosions at the Boston Marathon.

anyone. And about 15 minutes later I finally reached my brother ... and we were able to talk for a few minutes.

"It was good just to hear his voice. ... He said everything was all right."

Kearney, who lives approximately 45 miles west of Boston, said the rest of his family was with his brother at the marathon.

"They were parked in Boston downtown, and there was no way to get to their cars, so they had to walk out to a suburb," he said. "Someone was going to pick them up and drive them home."

Kearney said his brother completed the marathon well before the bombs detonated. He said he was pretty sure his brother did not hear the explosions.

"But he saw all the people running and evacuating the general area, and he said that he was just pretty confused at the whole situation," Kearney said. "And at the time he said, 'You might actually know more than I do because it's just a pretty hectic scene.' And he just told me ... to put a [Facebook] status up saying he was safe because what he was concerned about was not having friends and family freak out."

Receiving text messages from family and friends while he was in class caused "sensory overload," Kearney said.

"The first [messages] I saw were kind of ambiguous and I didn't know what to make of them," he said. "I remember the last 15 minutes of class, just, I couldn't pay attention because I was just concerned about my family, and I immediately called them when I got out. And thankfully I finally reached them and that really calmed me down. It was just a very confusing hour there."

Kearney said his brother was unable to return to South Bend last night as planned and was trying to reschedule his flight for today.

"I'm just thankful that my family's okay," Kearney said, "and I'm thinking about all of the other families affected."

Saint Mary's sophomore Allie Stride said she was visiting her sister, with whom she is part of a triplet, at Boston College (BC) on Monday. Stride said she went to Boston to visit her sister and participate in the city-wide celebration.

Stride said BC, where she watched the marathon, is at the 21-mile mark. She said she was back in her sister's dorm room when she saw coverage of the explosions on the news.

"[There was] just a lot of worry about students who are running, and making sure everybody is okay has been the biggest concern I have seen so far, just a lot of confusion also," Stride said. "I know there was an initial concern about ... a potential bomb being right on the [Boston College] campus that turned out to be false."

"Just everybody is glued to the TV is all that's going on right now. ... Everybody's trying to talk to people from home and whatnot."

Gary Kaneb, a Notre Dame alumnus of 1983, said he completed the race one hour before the explosions rocked the finish line.

"[It was] literally 25 yards from the finish line," Kaneb said. "I finished at 3:29 [minutes], so I got off the course at 1:45 p.m. or so."

Kaneb said he ran with the second seed of runners and that the explosion went off around the time the third seed would have crossed the finish line.

"The third wave is mostly the [people running to support charities]," he said. "Those are the numbers 18,000 and above."

Kaneb said he was on his way home when he heard the news. He said officials pulled runners, including one of his coworkers, off the course as they closed down Boylston St.

McGovern said the runners were very excited about the marathon before it began.

"It's such a big deal for people who love to run, and you're so proud to have your bib number," she said. "When you're running and there's all these spectators and they're cheering you on, it's really an incredible experience. ... So I think that makes it especially tragic that something like this completely soiled what should be an exciting day for everybody."

Managing Editor Meghan Thomassen and Saint Mary's Editor Kaitlyn Rabach contributed to this report.

Contact Marisa Iati at [miati@nd.edu](mailto:miati@nd.edu)

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## INSIDE COLUMN

# Good old 42

**Samantha Zuba**  
Sports Writer

42. It's the only number retired by every Major League baseball club. And now it's a movie that depicts the life of the great Jackie Robinson, the man behind good old number 42. By taking a walk through Robinson's playing career, "42" does a good job reminding us why he mattered.

The filmmakers tackled quite the challenge when they decided to make a movie about Jackie Robinson. Robinson's legend as a ballplayer and groundbreaking person deserves representation as great as the man himself. So thank goodness the film is pretty good.

Could the storyline have delved a little deeper into his character? Yes. Were there a couple of awkward moments? Yes. But "42" is a good movie that addresses more than Robinson's baseball legacy.

The movie vividly depicts the hatred and threats he endured in every ballpark he visited. Robinson repeatedly insists, as he did in real life, all he wants to do is play baseball. It should have been simple. There should not have been a reason Robinson couldn't play if he was good enough to make the Dodgers.

When Robinson finally made the team, America quickly discovered he certainly was good enough. He won Rookie of the Year in 1947, and then played his way to an illustrious Hall of Fame career with a .311 career batting average and 1,518 hits.

Robinson was a great baseball player, but that's not the reason one player from each Major League Baseball team wears the number 42 for a game on Jackie Robinson Day each year. Other baseball icons like Babe Ruth and Hank Aaron don't enjoy that honor.

But Jackie Robinson was more than a baseball icon. He was, and still is, an American icon.

Robinson was posthumously awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom and the Congressional Gold Medal, the two highest civilian honors in the United States. Robinson did not receive these medals for the number of hits he got. He was honored because of how he hit them: with dignity. He refused to be marginalized, but he also refused to use violence to silence his abusers.

Did Robinson change America overnight? No. He just wanted to play ball. But in doing so, he showed America courage that it desperately needed to see.

That's what "42" reminds us. Robinson's legacy extends far beyond baseball, as it should.

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

## On staying Catholic

**Christopher Damian**  
Ideas of a University

I almost gave up Catholicism twice while at Notre Dame. For two weeks during freshman year, a class I was taking had convinced me that the existence of God was incompatible with rational belief. During the middle of my college career, a traumatic personal experience left me angry, lonely and wanting to give up any faith. Reflecting on those experiences, I am sometimes surprised I am still here, will be graduating in a few weeks and am still Catholic.

I came to Notre Dame in 2009 seeking a Catholic liberal arts education. I wanted to pursue the various facets of human knowledge and understand how they connected with each other. I wanted to see how this knowledge as a whole connected to the teachings of the Church. After seriously pursuing this connection for four years, I now see that I was naïve to assume it would be easy to find.

The Church's teachings often seem terribly unbelievable. A friend once told me about when he explained the Church's teaching on transubstantiation to his roommate. The roommate, a Catholic his whole life, responded, "Why didn't someone tell me that? I can't believe it." At that moment, he gave up Catholicism.

I think I'm too stubborn to give up on Catholicism so easily. At the same time, I can't belong to a religion that is contrary

to the truth of reason. If the Church has even one teaching that is so contrary, that teaching may be grounds for me to seek truth in another religion. I don't want a religion that has some truths. I want the fullness of truth.

My faith is an intellectual struggle. Some people decide the Church's teachings don't coincide with how they feel, so they adopt personal spirituality rather than institutional teaching. I couldn't do this. I know if I decided to be "spiritual, not religious," my spirituality would consist of self-worship and accommodation. I need standards external to myself so I don't create a God in the image of my desires. Instead of giving up, I struggle to understand the Church's teachings. In a freshman science class, I was taught to assume atoms exist, even though I had never seen them. If I can have faith in science, I can have faith in religion. I believe and then seek to understand.

It's harder to believe in Catholicism when its members don't understand you, when you feel like they don't love you, when they hurt you. A priest once said (to one of my friends) that my sins and struggles were dangerous to those around me. He told my friends they should distance themselves from me. Perhaps he was right, but I know he was wrong to never reach out to me, to never ask if I was okay in the midst of all of this, to never offer me support. I was left alone. I walked around campus at night, fearing that the world was crumbling

around me. I considered transferring schools. I considered changing religions.

My faith was saved by many things outside of my control. I met a priest who made sure I knew that I was loved by God and by him. I found friends who showed me love in a Church for struggling sinners. I learned that the Church is bigger than its hypocritical members, even myself. I learned suffering can facilitate growth and love is real.

I recently showed a prospective student around Notre Dame's campus. She asked me what it was like to be Catholic here, the kind of Catholic who believes in and cares about the Church's teachings, who tries to cultivate a life of prayer, who seeks to root every act in the sacramental life. I told her it was difficult.

Yet, here I am. I am a student graduating from the University of Notre Dame who believes in the Church's teachings. I struggle every day to live up to these teachings. Most days I fail, but I take faith in the saints who assure me Catholicism is a religion for the sinful and the struggling. To give up is the greatest failure. I'm sticking with the intellectual and the practical struggling. I'm staying Catholic.

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

## Freedom for everyone

**Conor Durkin**  
Out of Right Field

The past few weeks have been extremely eventful with respect to the issue of gay marriage. Senator Rob Portman of Ohio came out with a public statement announcing his support for marriage equality, making him the first Republican senator to do so. The Supreme Court heard arguments regarding California's Proposition 8 (which prohibits gay marriage in the state) and the Defense of Marriage Act.

Those who know me well know I have pretty strong opinions on most public policy issues. For as long as I have cared about politics, I have been a Republican. But, that doesn't mean I oppose gay marriage. It's precisely why I support it.

I am a firm believer in individualism. I believe in the free market because I think individuals are better economic decision-makers than central planners. I believe in civil liberties because I don't trust the government to decide how I should think, which God I should worship, or what I should be allowed to say. I oppose efforts like Mayor Bloomberg's ban on large sugary drinks because I think people should be able to make their own decisions on what to eat and drink. And I support marriage equality because I don't think the government should decide whether two consenting adults are or aren't allowed to marry.

Most conservative objections to marriage equality focus on the inherently

religious nature of "marriage." I can understand this objection, but I believe it highlights a fundamental misunderstanding. Yes, the sacrament of matrimony is a fundamentally religious ceremony, but that's not what we're talking about when we discuss gay marriage. We are talking about the civil institution of marriage that exists alongside the religious institution. When a straight couple is married, they don't just participate in the sacrament of matrimony, but they also enter into a civil union recognized by the government. There is nothing inherently religious about this pact; it's a civil contract. When our government prohibits same-sex couples from entering into this civil contract, they are making an implicit judgment about the validity of their union as opposed to those unions of straight couples.

That's not a role they should have. I don't want a government to dictate morality. This is partially because I believe in a separation of church and state, and a country that holds religious freedom to be a central value should not create law restricting others' freedoms based upon one's religious view of God's will. Yet more fundamentally, having government dictate morality to us diminishes our capacity as individuals to understand for ourselves what morality is. Morality comes from God, not the government, and in a liberal democracy our civil institutions should permit the greatest possible degree of freedom to the individual in determining the moral course of action.

How do we do this? To some, the right course of action is to allow 'civil unions' for same-sex partners, to give couples equal status under the law. I used to be in that camp. But if the state makes gay couples equal to straight couples in every capacity save one — the right to actually refer to the union as a marriage — then what the state has implicitly done is stated the gay union is somehow less valid than the straight union. Otherwise, there is no reason for the state to use a different word. The proper course is far simpler: To permit same-sex couples to participate in the civil institution of marriage.

Primarily, I believe the single best argument for the marriage equality case is one of freedom. I don't presume to fully understand God nor do I believe it appropriate for me to judge whether someone's union is in accordance with God's will. Neither should our government. We live in a liberal democracy, and a fundamental respect for individual liberty means we must protect the rights of individuals to decide what constitutes a marriage. Former Vice President Dick Cheney — who, incidentally, publicly favored marriage equality before President Obama did — perhaps said it best: "Freedom means freedom for everyone."

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## To the perpetrator...

Dear not-so-gentlemanly boy of Stanford Hall,  
Because you feigned ignorance to the reason I slapped you this past Saturday night, please allow me the opportunity to explain (although, quite frankly, you do not deserve the courtesy). No, it was not because it was in my nature as a black woman as you very loudly lamented. It was because I am a woman, a human, who is simply deserving of respect and courtesy. It was because the moment you decided to swing your hand down at my bottom, you believed it was okay to put your unfamiliar hands on my private part without my permission, and I am NOT okay with that.

For the past month, I had been thoroughly consumed with writing my very important final paper for the graduate course I was taking, so I elected to spend my Saturday night in. My friend had graciously vacated his room in Stanford for me so I would not need to confine myself in the library which was already swarming with students hard at work. At half-past midnight, I decided to step out into the lobby to use the restroom when you, not-so-gentlemanly boy, stopped me to ask, "Who are you?" Knowing well enough nothing good could come out of the situation, being that you were so intoxicated, I decided to continue on my way without answering. Upon my return, you and several of your cronies had congregated around the door of the party you were at and were effectively blocking my passage through the hallway. As I made my way through the throng, you decided it was a good idea to slap my behind. Try your best to imagine my shock and disbelief at having you, a complete stranger, put his hand on me as if I wanted it there. I did what I would have done had the situation occurred in a bar, on the street or anywhere else; I slapped you and walked away. I was upset and visibly shaking when I re-entered the room. I did not care to have your hand on my behind, good-natured though the intention might have been. I did not know you and did not give you the permission to touch me. When I closed the door behind me, it was all I could do to keep my calm as my bottom continued to sting where your hand had abused it.

My head was swimming in fury and humiliation. Yes, humiliation. Do you understand that? Then I noticed something else, my eyes were stinging with unshed tears. No, not because of what had just occurred. I was upset because

of the analysis that you and your buddies were giving for my slap. "Why would she do that?" "Oh my God, that was out of nowhere" "Wow, I am really glad that I am not a black man ... I would never want to deal with women like that." And from you, dearest not-so-gentleman, "That was so black of her!" Wait, what? Why was it so easy for you to blame my actions on my skin color? I was mad, furious, to be perfectly honest. Mad at the girls who stood there and did nothing when you slapped my bottom, at those very girls (notice that I do not call them women) who seemed astonished that I should react in the manner that I did, mad at the boys (for I shall not call you or them men) who did not chastise you for your inappropriate behavior and mad at being reduced to a race instead of the human that I am.

You see, not-so-gentlemanly man, before you, I had never had a racist encounter. Before you, I had often had conversations with my friends where I expressed fears that one day I would have to face racism. I had survived all 12 of my years in the United States without ever going through that moment and I had hope it would never happen to me ... until you.

When you and your friends said those things about me, I froze. I could feel something inside me screaming, "This is it, Priscilla, look at it in the face," begging me to react and put you to shame, but I couldn't.

I was so dumbfounded and so incredibly hurt that I couldn't move. The pain was visceral and consuming. I was angry at you for tearing down what little hope I had in you as a human being and at myself for not being able to react the way I wanted to.

I slapped you not because I am black, but for the profound respect that I have for myself as a woman. I do so hope you read this because I write it especially for you. How does it feel to be the perpetrator of my first racist experience? Congratulate yourself. Not many can say they were able to bring Priscilla Nyankson to tears, but you can.

**Priscilla Nyankson**  
senior  
off-campus

## Conversations about mental health

Like many of you, we have enjoyed reading about our fellow Domers' misadventures and silly secrets on the anonymous ND Confessions Facebook page. Recently, however, some of the posts have taken a more serious tone: From confessions about mental illness, to eating disorders, grief and anxiety. While most reactions to these confessions have been supportive, some have been downright disrespectful. Recent Viewpoint letters ("A different sort of confession," April 9; "Not for ND Confessions," April 12) have highlighted the need for a conversation about the issues raised on this page. We believe this situation particularly highlights the need for a genuine discussion about the way mental health is addressed on campus and online.

According to the American College Health Association, 25 percent of college students are diagnosed or treated for a mental health disorder each year. But, as many of the posts on the ND Confessions page report, students often feel like they don't have a safe outlet to discuss their concerns on campus, even with their closest friends. Comments that stigmatize, blame or poke fun at students struggling with these issues perpetuate

misconceptions and contribute to a campus environment which often feels inhospitable to conversations about mental health. This is unacceptable.

We need to create space for genuine dialogue about mental health at Notre Dame, where individuals feel they can share their stories safely and without judgement. Every person on this campus is responsible for helping to make that happen — and the process has to begin by checking the way we talk about about these issues in the dorms, dining halls and online.

We commend those who have taken the time to post supportive comments. We also recognize the good intentions of the moderator(s) of the page and their efforts to make it a place which is tolerant of a wide variety of experiences and perspectives. However, we would like to remind all involved of the difficult and complex nature of many of these concerns. Commentators, please continue to post links to official support services and provide words of encouragement. However, please do not offer unsolicited and unprofessional advice, as this may do more harm than help. We ask that the moderator(s) of the page use discretion in posting confessions of a

serious nature, and that they develop a systematic response to submissions which suggest a need for immediate support.

If you're struggling, know that you're not alone and the Notre Dame family is here to support you. We encourage students with concerns big or small to check out the great services provided by the University Counselling Center, and to consider joining NAMI-ND (National Alliance on Mental Illness), a student organization that's working to end the stigma surrounding mental illness on campus.

Confession is brave and cathartic, but it can also be a one-way street. Let's start a real conversation about mental health on campus and how we can best support each other.

**Christina Mondri**  
junior  
abroad

**Patrick Cruitt**  
junior  
abroad

You've read the

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## MTV MOVIE AWARDS FASHION



By **CLAIRE STEPHENS**  
Scene Writer

**Classy:**

**Skylar Astin:** If you didn't already fall in love with him from "Pitch Perfect," you will now. The well-cut, classy suit can never be over appreciated, plus a dashing smile is the perfect accessory.

**Emma Watson:** The sharp black and white angles on the edges and the blue and white short dress as the focus made for a cute, fun look for the red carpet.

**Zoe Saldana:** Long sleeve black top and floral print skirt are a look that could have been frumpy and disastrous, but Zoe pulls it off with a sheer cut-out in the skirt to add some sexiness.

**Childish:**

**Chloe Moretz:** The biggest fail goes to this play date-esque denim dress. This event is for big girls only, Chloe.

**Ke\$ha:** She was clearly having a hard time deciding whether she was a hippie, a goth or someone who wears opaque pants.

**Snoop Dogg:** Sorry, Snoop, but putting on a bright furry coat doesn't make your fitting pants and country boy plaid suddenly look fancy.

**Crazy:**

**Will Ferrell:** There's not much left to be said for a money suit. It's literal enough to speak for itself. And obviously not done in seriousness, so good for a laugh.

**Hana Mae Lee:** What would have been a best-dressed look in a sexy geometric black dress is completely overshadowed by the giant cigarette hat. Is this pro or anti-smoking?

**RuPaul:** A completely metallic suit would be great for the red carpet of a bad futuristic sci-fi movie. In real life, it's just bad and sci-fi.

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## REBEL WILSON HOSTS

By **MADDIE DALY**  
Scene Editor

**Host Rebel Wilson:**

Although MTV has always been known for airing sexually promiscuous and inappropriate for ages 17 and under shows, this year's movie awards took that stereotype to a whole new level with its raucous humor. The MTV Movie Awards was hosted by Australian actress and comedian Rebel Wilson, better known as Fat Amy from the movie "Pitch Perfect." Wilson is famous, or should we say infamous, for her vulgar unrestrained sense of humor and her performance on Sunday night was no exception. From the endless sexual innuendos (mostly directed at "Magic Mike" hottie Channing Tatum) to the numerous drug and alcohol references, Wilson held nothing back. However, compared to previous hosts Russell Brand and Jason Sudeikis, I personally felt that Wilson fell behind. Many of her jokes were followed by near-silence, probably because the audience didn't know how to respond to such strange and inappropriate humor. Not to mention the fact that she was wearing what looked like a futuristic spacesuit made out of a garbage bag.

**Winners:**

Movie of the year went to "The Avengers," bringing Chris Evans, Samuel L. Jackson, Tom Hiddleston and director Joss Whedon to the stage to accept the award.

Bradley Cooper won the award for best male performance for his role in "Silver Linings Playbook."

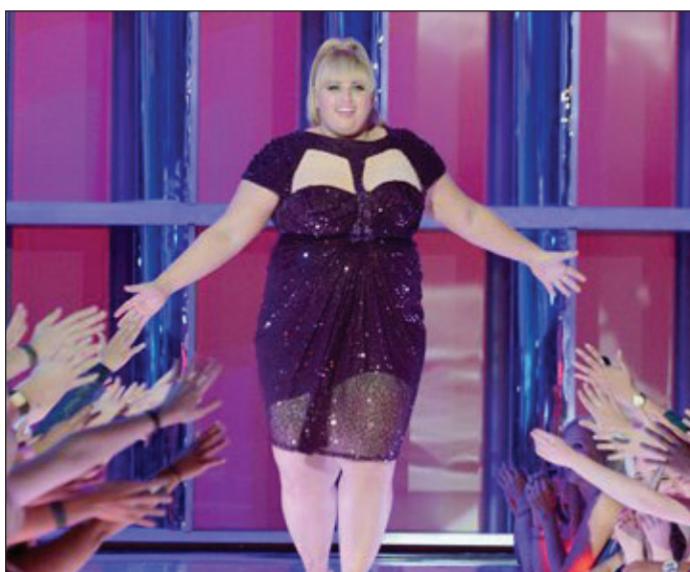
His "Silver Linings" costar Jennifer Lawrence took home the award for best female performance, and the two of them won best kiss for their onscreen chemistry.

The new category, best shirtless performance, was a tough choice I'm sure, but the prize went to Taylor Lautner for his role as Jacob Black in "Breaking Dawn." How he beat Channing Tatum in "Magic Mike" is beyond me. To accept his award Lautner jokingly wore a fake beer belly and carried a large coke, hiding the fact that he has a perfect six-pack and could be mistaken for a Greek god.

Unsurprisingly, the award for breakthrough performance went to host Rebel Wilson for her role as Fat Amy in "Pitch Perfect."

The comedic genius award went to veteran comedian Will Ferrell.

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## Adapting to Climate Change

by expert Dr. Jennie Hoffman

By **MADDIE DALY**  
Scene Editor

For my French culture class, we have been reading the book “Globalia,” a futuristic novel exaggerating the possibility of a complete change in our society resulting from the complete destruction of nature as we know it. To supplement this reading, our class attended one of the Climate Change talks in McKenna Hall last Wednesday, presented by Jennie Hoffman.

After walking into our regular classroom where the lights were off and the door locked, I remembered that our class was moved to McKenna and sprinted across the quad to make the talk on time. When I arrived, I stepped into a circle with my classmates who all felt a bit out of place among what looked to be big-time scientists and professors. After snatching some of the fancy free food, we entered the small yet official auditorium that reminded me of a courtroom (not that I’ve ever been in one, but if I had to picture what a courtroom looks like that would be it).

Dr. Jennie Hoffman was introduced as a marine ecologist who has co-authored

and edited “Buying Time: A User’s Manual for Building Resistance and Resilience to Climate Change in Natural Systems,” published by the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) in 2003 as well as researched climate change for the past 10 years. She began her talk by speaking of mitigation and adaptation, defined as what we do to decrease global climate change and what we do to limit the harm posed by climate change, respectively. Clearly an expert on this topic, Hoffman provided a comparison we were able to wrap our heads around, designating good road designs as an example of mitigation and seat belts as an example of adaptation.

Next she spoke about specific protected areas in South America. She brought up a map of South America on her PowerPoint with areas color-coded based on environment type.

“The Amazon rainforest is critically important,” Hoffman said, “as it’s a center of global biodiversity. There is an all-out effort being made to protect this huge area of South America against the destruction of rain forests.”

Call me ignorant, but I never knew climate change in itself was turning the lush rain forests of South America into sparse

savannah, yet according to Hoffman, this is a huge issue. And despite all the efforts of ecologists, the chances of saving the endangered rain forests are low.

“They put in all this effort to protect South America and only about a third of that area is certain to remain as tropical rain forest,” Hoffman said. “The other two-thirds, because of climate change, no matter how good we are at mitigation, may or may not remain forest. In fact, one-third of that is almost guaranteed to disappear.”

It impresses me how much time and effort people are willing to invest in these projects that have such a low success rate, but at the same time I am glad of their efforts because we are all depending on them. Whether we realize it or not, without ecologists like Dr. Jennie Hoffman, I am certain our world would be far worse off than it already is and most of us would be completely clueless as to how to go about solving these ecological problems.

Her next example was more relatable as it referred to our world’s beaches. Specifically she brought up the issue of sea turtles and their possible extinction.

“Sea turtles are a popular sight for tourists, but with the climate change

their numbers are falling,” Hoffman said. “The temperature of the nest determines the sex of the baby turtles, so the warmer the nest, the more females are hatched. If there are too many females, the turtles are going to stop reproducing all together.”

I have always adored sea turtles and even owned a fresh water turtle for 10 years, so this example connected directly to my emotions. She pointed out efforts of locals who have nightly shifts to protect the turtles (think of the scene in “The Last Song” where Miley sleeps outside to guard the turtle nest ... don’t be ashamed, we’ve all seen it).

Despite the efforts already being put forth by people like Dr. Jennie Hoffman, so much more needs to be done in order to protect our planet from becoming completely unrecognizable and possibly unlivable in the future. Although attendance was required for my French class, I am glad I had the chance to listen to Dr. Hoffman’s climate change talk, and I hope it inspires others as well to at least become aware of the problem of climate change, if not put in an effort to change.

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By **ALLIE TOLLAISEN**  
Scene Writer

I stepped into Marvel Tattoo on Indiana 933 on a Friday afternoon not knowing what to expect. I had never been to a tattoo parlor before besides just stepping in to browse. There was one day last year when I had dropped into a small shop in downtown Denver. There I had looked only at the tattoo books and imagined how funny I would look with inked-on image of a mermaid or an anchor on my arm. I never thought I would find myself in a tattoo shop for any serious transaction.

Yet, after class last Friday, I took a seat in a booth inside Marvel, holding the hand of a friend as she got a beautiful tattoo. The tattoo artist at Marvel, a large man not surprisingly covered in tattoos of his own, seemed to know what he was doing. As my friend squirmed, shook and yelped, he held the needle firmly and confidently inked a symbol into her side.

As he worked on her tattoo, we talked

about the possibilities for my future ink.

“You should get a panther,” he told me, “panthers are bitchin’.”

Despite the occasional foul language and maybe some crude humor heard around the place, Marvel is a clean, comfortable space to meet your ink and piercing needs. The year before, when I had giggled at catalogs of tattoos in Denver, I never considered actually getting inked, probably because the Denver store was dim and the employees unfriendly. Tattoos seemed out of the question. But as I held my friend’s hand in Marvel this weekend, my thinking shifted. Though a panther tattoo certainly wasn’t on my plate that afternoon, Marvel seemed like the perfect place to go to make a change.

That’s why the very next day I walked into Marvel with another friend who planned to get a tattoo. This time, I decided, I wanted to leave Marvel with something of my own as well. After my friend gritted her teeth and went through the pain of her very first tattoo, which turned

out exactly how she had hoped, I decided to bite the bullet and finally get my nose pierced — something I had been talking about for months.

While I won’t go into all of my feelings and worries about getting my nose pierced, I will talk about how pleasant my experience was on that Saturday evening. After a few minutes of anxiously filling out paperwork and waiting for the piercer, I was brought into a back room. I asked questions about the piercing — how long it would take to heal, what exactly what my nose ring was made of and how the process would go. She calmly explained exactly how she would go about putting a hole in my nose, knowledgeably explaining to me the ins and outs of piercings. After a few deep breaths on my part, I opened my eyes to see my very own nose ring in place.

After a few seconds of pain and some cheers from my friends, the employees at Marvel congratulated me and gave us information about aftercare. The staff was a comforting mix of at-ease and

professional. They were clearly knowledgeable but brought a great sense of humor to our experiences. With my friends and I doing some combination of smiling and wincing in pain, I left Marvel on Saturday night immediately reflecting on the eventful weekend.

I could not be happier with my choice to go to Marvel, and my recently-tattooed friends would say the same. I felt welcomed and comfortable in the shop and couldn’t imagine going anywhere else. I will spend the rest of my time in South Bend encouraging others to stop by, even if only to cheer a friend on as they go through that classic college experience of getting their very first tattoo. It was an experience of a lifetime. And even if my nose ring doesn’t last forever, my memories at Marvel will.

You can visit Marvel Tattoo at 51976 Indiana 933, South Bend, IN 46637.

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## SPORTS AUTHORITY

# Huskers display philanthropy



**Jack Hefferon**  
Sports Writer

The sports world has a tendency to take itself pretty seriously.

This past weekend, a giant fell when Kobe Bryant tore his Achilles tendon. Australia put everything else aside and celebrated as one when Adam Scott won that country's first green jacket at the Masters. And with the Cubs putting a Jumbotron in at Wrigley Field, the last of our sacred traditions has died, and the apocalypse is nigh.

These sentiments were not far from reactions I heard across the sports media landscape this weekend, and these types of hyperbole and melodrama are all too common in sports. At their core, sports are more about the games you played as a kid than the "epic battles" they're made out to be.

It's true that sports are a billion dollar industry and that millions do invest their hearts in following their favorite teams and players. And, sure, the biggest games on the biggest stages do come around once in a while and deserve such hallowed tones.

But on most days, we're talking about inconsequential, overhyped matchups. Spring training. Exhibition games against Division III schools. The Bobcats vs. the Jazz. In the grand scheme of things — really, in any scheme of things — these games don't matter, but the parties involved try to convince us that nothing could be more important.

The pinnacle of these non-events, though, is college football's spring game. The spring game is an open practice masquerading as a game, tryout and celebration all in one, when it is in fact none of these things.

That's why it was so refreshing to see one program push the football somewhat aside and use the platform of the

spring game to do something actually worthwhile. On the last play of its scrimmage, Nebraska brought seven-year-old cancer patient Jack Hoffman onto the field and into the game at running back. With 60,000 fans cheering him on, Hoffman ran 69 yards for the score and was carried off the field on the team's shoulders.

Hoffman said the experience made him feel "almost like he was a Husker," and the moment has become a nationwide story — gathering just a bit more attention than which backup center had the best showing that day. Stripping the game of its self-importance was a win-win for Nebraska and Hoffman's family, and there's no reason other programs shouldn't follow suit.

Some already have, as several of the nation's top college basketball programs have begun to play early-season games for American soldiers on aircraft carriers stationed overseas.

Most teams do some sort of public outreach and charitable work, but by putting that mission at or above the level of their least important games, they can create a true opportunity to do more good on that greater stage. I'm not saying that sports are irrelevant, and I believe competition and tradition should be preserved at every level. But Nebraska struck a chord last week that other teams are more than capable of emulating, and really there's no reason not to.

So to college and professional teams that are busy hyping up their next all-star game, preseason exhibition or spring game: Stop taking yourselves so seriously.

And maybe then you can do some serious good.

Contact Jack Hefferon at [wheffero@nd.edu](mailto:wheffero@nd.edu)

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

## NBA

# Lakers must forge a new identity without Kobe

## Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — The Los Angeles Lakers' locker room had several conspicuous absences Sunday night. Kobe Bryant was at home in Orange County after surgery on his torn Achilles tendon, and Steve Nash hasn't played in seven games.

Also absent? Doom, gloom and any sense the Lakers are finished without Kobe.

Although Bryant's season is over, Dwight Howard insists the Lakers' fun has just begun.

"This is a great opportunity for myself and this team to show who we are," Howard said. "We've got to give it everything we've got. We're going to fight to the end and do our best. Despite whatever has happened this season, we've got a chance to win this next game, go into the playoffs and make history."

The All-Star center radiated quiet optimism after the Lakers rallied in the fourth quarter to beat the powerful San Antonio Spurs, putting them on the brink of a playoff spot. Eighth-place Los Angeles needs only a win in its season finale Wednesday against Houston or a loss by Utah in either of its final two games to clinch another postseason berth.

Although the buzz was respectfully tempered just a day after Bryant's surgery, the Lakers' excitement at their persistent, well-rounded performance against a top opponent was impossible to suppress. Without the ball-dominating, sublimely talented guard who has defined the franchise for most of his 17-year career, the remaining Lakers emerged with confidence they can excel without Kobe even if the rest of their season is only a couple of weeks long.

"This is a great opportunity, so there's no need to get down about it," Howard said. "This is a great opportunity for us to do something special and make believers out of everybody."



Lakers forward Pau Gasol congratulates forward Metta World Peace after the Lakers' victory over the Spurs on Sunday at Staples Center.

Even after everything that's gone wrong for the Lakers' star-studded roster this season, Bryant's abrupt loss seemed over the top. Perhaps that's why the Lakers still absorbed it with grace and why a team that's on a 27-12 roll since late January believes it can keep going.

Mike D'Antoni suggested one of the Lakers' problems has been their excess of "alpha dogs," or players who are used to being the star of their own show. Bryant, Howard, Nash, Gasol, Metta World Peace and even sixth man Antawn Jamison have been the most important players on their own teams at various points in their careers, and D'Antoni thinks they never had time to learn complementary roles after the new coach arrived early in the regular season.

Bryant's absence changes just about everything for the Lakers, who obviously run their offense through the ball-dominating guard currently third in the NBA in scoring. Howard is the biggest star in Bryant's absence, but he insists everybody must assume part of Kobe's enormous responsibilities.

Howard knows he must score more aggressively, and he knows he'll get more shots from better spots. The Lakers already are working to get the ball quickly into the low post to Howard, who went aggressively at Tim Duncan and the Spurs' big men from the opening minutes.

Gasol plans to assume more leadership and playmaking duties, particularly while Nash is still out of the lineup. His two championship rings give him added credibility.

And when Nash returns to run D'Antoni's preferred schemes, he'll immediately be the Lakers' most important ball-handler, no longer deferring to Bryant.

Bryant assumed a playmaking role for long stretches of this season, but also seized chances to roll up big offensive performances, such as 47 points in Portland last week.

The Lakers can't duplicate Bryant's play, but Howard is eager to assume more leadership for the rest of Los Angeles' season. An unrestricted free agent this summer, Howard sounds comfortable at the center of the Lakers' new order.

## CLASSIFIEDS

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## SMC SOFTBALL

# Sullivan expresses confidence in Belles' stamina

By MEREDITH KELLY  
Sports Writer

The Belles will look to overcome their poor road record when they head to Grand Rapids, Mich., to face Calvin at 3:30 p.m. today.

The Belles (12-12, 2-0 MIAA) hope to continue their winning streak, which began when they swept Manchester in a doubleheader Sunday.

Belles coach Erin Sullivan said Saint Mary's is at the top of its game heading into the matchup against Calvin (11-9, 2-4).

"We have been building confidence all year," Sullivan said. "I think coming back

after being down 4-0 [on Sunday] helped our team believe in itself and the plan we have to bounce back from errors and after facing adversity."

Sullivan said the Belles hope to stay sharp despite the lack of practice time. The team has been unable to practice outside for two weeks due to rainy weather.

"We plan to go out [Monday], which will be a great change of pace from our indoor practice," Sullivan said. "It is obviously much more game-like when we get on the field with the dirt and grass as opposed to a gym floor."

Sullivan said although practicing inside in Saint Mary's gym is not always as effective as practicing outside, the team was still able to improve key elements of its game.

"Inside, we work mostly on continuing to develop and maintain strength, especially core strength," Sullivan said. "Also, we spend most of our time hitting. Preparing for different pitchers can be just as effective inside as outside."

Sullivan said Calvin has improved greatly in the last couple of years by bringing in three junior college transfers who have all contributed to the team's success.

"They also have added to their staff with a few excellent former collegiate players," Sullivan said. "That being said, I believe we are the stronger team. If we play to the best of our abilities, we should beat Calvin in both games."

A potential obstacle for the Belles will be playing on the road. So far, the Belles are 6-0 at home, but 6-10 on the road.



GRANT TOBIN | The Observer

Belles senior catcher Morgan Bedan lines up behind the plate during Saint Mary's 10-2 victory over Defiance on March 28.

They have dropped their last two road doubleheaders to North Park and Anderson.

"We need to put together seven full innings in each game and not let the travel to an opposing site throw off

our confidence on the field," Sullivan said.

Saint Mary's will take on Calvin today at 3:30 p.m.

Contact Meredith Kelly at [mkelly29@nd.edu](mailto:mkelly29@nd.edu)

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## SMC TENNIS

## Campbell focuses on doubles

By D.H. KIM  
Sports Writer

Coming off a successful week, the Belles travel to the campus of Michigan State today to take on conference rival Adrian.

The team rolled to two straight wins last week,

breezing past Bethel, 7-2, and edging Alma, 5-4.

Belles coach Dale Campbell said the pair of wins was a great confidence booster for the team, which will look to keep that momentum going into Saint Mary's (8-5, 3-1 MIAA) matchup against Adrian (7-8, 0-4).

"We were very pleased with the results this past week," Campbell said. "It's important to keep the streak to have momentum going into conference tournament."

The Belles will look to build on the strategy that made them so successful earlier in the season — aggressive doubles play.

Against Alma, the Belles struggled in doubles, managing to win one of three doubles games.

According to Campbell, the focus for the Belles will be on reinvigorating the doubles lineup through strong doubles play and aggressive net play.

"We hope to work on sharpening our doubles play, attacking first ball and going for our shots a bit more," Campbell said. "Setting our partner up at the net by taking a bigger first shot is certainly one way."

Campbell said the focus on doubles play would give the Belles an advantage early in

the match.

"We are pretty much set for the year with our lineup, but we are still examining our doubles play," Campbell said. "However, I think we will work towards winning all three doubles matches so we can get an early start."

Adrian comes in with a four-game losing streak. Sophomore co-captain Audrey Kiefer said the Belles have beaten Adrian before without much problem, but after losing her match Saturday against Alma, she said preparedness would be key to winning today.

"Adrian shouldn't be too tough, but we always have to be prepared for matches and expect close matches like Alma," Kiefer said.

Campbell said his team won't make any assumptions against Adrian, as the Belles should always be mentally prepared for a grueling match.

"Adrian has not fared well in the conference, but we will not overlook them," Campbell said.

The Belles hope to stay focused in conference play as they take on Adrian today at 4 p.m. at the Michigan Athletic Club in East Lansing, Mich.

Contact D.H. Kim at [dkim16@nd.edu](mailto:dkim16@nd.edu)

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16

## ND WOMEN'S SOFTBALL

# Momentum carries Irish to Michigan State

By MEGAN FINNERAN  
Sports Writer

Riding the momentum of this weekend's three-game sweep of Rutgers, the Irish square off against Michigan State on Tuesday night in East Lansing, Mich.

Notre Dame (29-10, 10-1 Big East) took down the Scarlet Knights by a combined score of 16-3 in the first two games of the series before defeating Rutgers, 8-6, behind seven runs in the bottom of the seventh inning.

"The Rutgers games showed us that we can overcome anything and fight back no matter what the score," senior catcher Amy Buntin said. "Everyone in the lineup did their job and executed when we needed it the most."

Freshman catcher/outfielder Casey Africano earned a spot on the Big East Weekly Honor Roll for her contributions during the weekend series.

Africano went 3-for-6 with a 1.667 slugging percentage and six RBI in the three

games. She added a home run during the first game Sunday against Rutgers after smacking her first career home run Saturday.

The Irish will continue to look to Africano and other key hitters on the offensive end.

Sophomore catcher Cassidy Whidden, whose walk-off home run in the seventh inning capped the three-game sweep of Rutgers, also figures to play a key role offensively.

Despite the excitement of the late-game heroics, Buntin said the Irish need to regain momentum quicker.

"We learned this weekend that, when the momentum shifts to the other team, we need to do a better job of regaining that momentum back," Buntin said.

Defensively Notre Dame will look to junior pitcher Laura Winter (18-8) to hold steady on the mound.

Michigan State (21-17, 7-4 Big Ten) dropped all three games to No. 12 Michigan in their series this weekend. The Spartans fell 21-2 in five

innings in the first game of the weekend and 11-2 in six innings in Game Two before losing 8-7 in eight innings in Game Three.

Senior outfielder Kylene Hopkins leads the Spartans offensively with a .424 batting average, ranking her seventh in the Big Ten. Junior outfielder Sarah Bowling leads the squad in RBIs and home runs with 30 and six, respectively.

Junior pitcher Kelly Smith (16-9) has been the ace in the Michigan State circle and has posted a 2.48 ERA and 174 strikeouts in 161 innings. Smith also has recorded six shutouts on the season.

"We're going to approach Michigan State like everyone else and worry about playing Notre Dame softball for seven innings," Buntin said. "If we can do that, we'll be just fine [Tuesday]."

The Irish face off with Michigan State on Tuesday at 5 p.m. at Secchia Stadium in East Lansing, Mich.

Contact Megan Finneran at [mfinnera@nd.edu](mailto:mfinnera@nd.edu)



GRANT TOBIN | The Observer

Irish junior pitcher Laura Winter stares down the hitter during Notre Dame's 8-6 victory over Rutgers on Sunday.

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JULIE HERDER | The Observer

Irish senior outfielder Charlie Markson swings at a pitch during Notre Dame's 10-6 loss to Villanova on April 7. The Irish have lost every game since the contest against Villanova.

## Baseball

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

"Some of these losses, it's just the cyclical nature of baseball, you know," he said. "I told [the team] to just keep doing what they're doing and keep competing and keep being really positive and keep supporting one another, and, like I said, hopefully some of these balls that we're hitting well will find a little green grass to roll around on."

Aoki said there is nothing in particular that his players need to tweak to get a win; instead, keeping a "glass-half-full" mentality might be the best solution.

"I don't know that I would say to our team, 'Hey, let's change this or let's change that,'" he said. "Maybe just the only thing I would do is encourage it, and I have encouraged our guys just to stay as positive as they can throughout a pretty frustrating turn."

Notre Dame's chance to turn its luck around starts today, when

freshman left-handed pitcher Zak Kutsulis leaves his usual position in right field to make his first start on the mound. He posted a 1.08 ERA in 10 relief appearances for the Irish.

Kutsulis will have to counter a strong Wolverines batting order that features five players with .300-plus averages. Included in that quintet is first-year shortstop Travis Maezes, named Big Ten Freshman of the Week yesterday after hitting .467 in Michigan's last four games.

Aoki said he hopes the Irish will put the last meeting with Michigan behind them and end up with a different result on a different day.

"I think it's a new game, new circumstances," he said.

The first pitch of the matchup between the Irish and Wolverines will come at 4:05 p.m. from Ray Fisher Stadium in Ann Arbor.

Contact Mary Green at [mgreen8@nd.edu](mailto:mgreen8@nd.edu)

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## Gargon

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

4-4 at halftime, Gargon exploded for four second-half goals and helped power the Irish to a 13-12 win over the Hoyas.

Halfpenny said Gargon's play was just what the Irish needed at that time and just another example of the midfielder's willingness to go the extra mile for her team.

"She's a player that will do what the team needs," Halfpenny said. "Obviously, putting this amount of goals in gives her confidence, and she knows that she's critical to our success, so we're thrilled with what she's doing. She's incredibly athletic and incredibly dynamic, and her poise absolutely is starting to be a trickle-down effect for the rest of our attackers."

Gargon's play may be needed more than ever this weekend, when the Irish travel to the Carrier Dome to take on No. 5 Syracuse in a crucial conference matchup. And while Gargon admits her production has been a bit inconsistent this year, she sees no reason why she can't continue her recent tear.

"This season, I have been [streaky]," Gargon said. "I started off a little cold, but I think I'm hitting my stride now."

Contact Jack Hefferon at [wheffero@nd.edu](mailto:wheffero@nd.edu)

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KEVIN SONG | The Observer

Irish senior guard Skylar Diggins dribbles downcourt during Notre Dame's 83-65 loss to Connecticut on April 6.

## Diggins

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

Diggins will put her talents to the test in the WNBA against a collection of the world's best women's basketball players. Her turnaround will have to be quick, as the Shock begin pre-season play May 9 against the Atlanta Dream. The regular season opens May 25. Diggins said she trusts the team's professionalism will pull the

***"The good thing is that at this point we're all pros. ... They know the game, and it's just a matter of us settling into a system."***

Skylar Diggins  
senior

Shock together.

"The good thing is that at this point we're all pros," Diggins said. "They know the game, and it's just a matter of us settling into a system."

Born and raised in South Bend, Diggins will finally take her game on the road to Tulsa. In addition to adjusting to the WNBA style and caliber of play, Diggins will have to learn to play far from home in front of a new fan base. Diggins said she is looking forward to making the move and getting to know Tulsa.

"I've never owned a pair of

cowboy boots," Diggins said. "Then again, I've never really been outside of South Bend. I'm looking forward to buying a pair. ... I heard the steaks are good. I'm looking forward to that."

The franchise has struggled since 2010 and finished last season with a 9-25 mark. Diggins was optimistic about the Shock's future prospects and for her own opportunity to make an impact.

"You have a coach [Gary Kloppenburg] that's just excited about the future of this team," Diggins said. "I think Tulsa made some great moves getting [guard] Candice Wiggins and [forward] Nicole Powell."

Beyond the court, Diggins has the potential to be an ambassador for the Shock in the same way she was for Notre Dame. She helped the Irish reach a larger fan base with her Twitter account that garnered attention from many, including rapper Lil Wayne. Diggins said she plans to maintain her social media presence.

"I'll continue to be on Twitter, that's for sure," Diggins said.

Above all, Diggins said she is excited to have an opportunity to play in the WNBA.

"I'm such a huge fan of the league and I've always been, and it's such a dream come true to finally have a chance be a part of the league," Diggins said.

Contact Samantha Zuba at  
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Dr. Richard Ekins is a Tutorial Fellow in Law at St John's College. He received his BA and LL.B degrees from The University of Auckland, before going on to read for the BCL, MPhil and DPhil at Oxford. He has worked as a Judge's Clerk at the High Court of New Zealand at Auckland, and a Lecturer at Balliol College, and was a Senior Lecturer in Law at the University of Auckland.

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## ND WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

## Getting Shocked

*Tulsa Shock drafts Irish senior guard Skylar Diggins in third overall pick*

By SAMANTHA ZUBA  
Sports Writer

It has to be a big deal if it's on in primetime, and that's where the WNBA draft was Tuesday night.

The Tulsa Shock selected Notre Dame's senior guard Skylar Diggins with the third overall pick.

The Shock snagged Diggins after the Phoenix Mercury selected Baylor senior center Brittney Griner with the No. 1 pick and the Chicago Sky took Delaware senior forward Elena Della Donne at No. 2. The star power of the top-three prospects made this the first WNBA draft to grab the media spotlight, but Diggins expressed deep respect for the league she is about to join and its efforts to grow.

"You have to come in with a level of respect for the players that came in before you and paved the way for you,"

Diggins said. "Within a matter of minutes, I went from being a fan to wearing a different hat and being a team member. I'm still giddy in my little-kid moment."

Tulsa will gain an experienced leader and multi-faceted talent in Diggins. Diggins was unanimously named to the Associated Press All-America first team and earned the Nancy Lieberman award as the nation's best point guard. She recorded 2,357 total points, 745 assists and 557 rebounds in her Notre Dame career. Diggins said she will strive to bring the same game and work ethic to the WNBA.

"I just really want to go in and do whatever is asked of me," Diggins said. "I want to bring in that competitive nature and work ethic and be that leader that I was for four years at [Notre Dame]."

see DIGGINS PAGE 14



Irish senior guard Skylar Diggins holds up a Tulsa Shock jersey with WNBA President Laurel Richie after Tulsa selected Diggins as the No. 3 pick in the WNBA draft Monday.

## BASEBALL

## Losing streak looms over ND



Irish sophomore pitcher Matt Ternowchek winds up a pitch during Notre Dame's 6-2 victory over UIC on April 2.

By MARY GREEN  
Sports Writer

As baseball great Yogi Berra would say, it's déjà vu all over again for No. 20 Notre Dame, who will head to Ann Arbor, Mich., to face Michigan for the second time in a week. Last Tuesday, the Irish (19-14, 4-8 Big East) fell 4-1 to the Wolverines (20-14, 7-2 Big Ten), which marked their second consecutive loss. Notre Dame's losing streak has since increased to five games, as the Irish have not won since April 6.

After dropping the game to Michigan and one to Villanova, Pittsburgh swept the Irish in a three-game series this weekend. Notre Dame managed only eight hits combined in the first two games of the series. But with the exception of their last game, the Irish have lost each contest by four runs or fewer. In Friday's loss to the Panthers, Notre Dame players made contact in 17 of 32 at-bats but only had three hits.

Irish coach Mik Aoki said he believes the losing streak is just a result of bad luck and unfortunate circumstances that are common in baseball.

see BASEBALL PAGE 13

## WOMEN'S LACROSSE

## Gargan dominates from midfield

By JACK HEFFERON  
Sports Writer

It's been a heck of a ride for No. 7 Notre Dame, as the team jumped out and tied the best start to a season (10-0) in program history. And while the red-hot Irish hit a bit of a speed bump in suffering their first loss in double overtime to No. 17 Loyola on Friday, Notre Dame was jumped right back on the gas thanks to the team's driving force: sophomore midfielder Caitlin Gargan.

After a slow start to her second season, Gargan has come on strong over the past few weeks. She broke out of her shell with four goals and six points against Villanova on March 24, and Gargan helped keep the Irish in the game against Loyola with a hat trick.

Irish coach Christine Halfpenny said Gargan's emergence has allowed the team to construct an offense around her and Notre Dame's other playmakers.

"She drives this offensive bus for us," Halfpenny said of

Gargan. "She loves the spread offense. ... It's not her fitting the offense; she's actually helping us build that offense. We're building it around her and all the other threats, so it's really nice to see that chemistry take form."

Gargan's surge has helped push the sophomore into the starting lineup, after she came off of the bench as a freshman and earlier this season. The New York native said being a starter has helped her perform even better, as it's easier to get into the game when she starts playing from the opening whistle.

"It's a lot of fun," Gargan said. "You don't have to be the guy every time, but when you're in the starting lineup, you get to be in the flow a little bit more and have more opportunities."

That flow was on full display Sunday as the Irish tried to bounce back from their Friday loss against No. 8 Georgetown, arguably the toughest team Notre Dame has faced all season. Knotted

see GARGON PAGE 13