

Boxers prepare for 85th Bengal Bouts

Tournament participants reflect on event's significance, impact before preliminary rounds begin Sunday

By PETER DURBIN
News Writer

Sunday marks the start of preliminary rounds for the 85th Bengal Bouts tournament, held annually in the Joyce Center Field House.

For all participants, the long-running boxing tournament is an opportunity to raise money for Holy Cross missions in Bangladesh. For others, the fight goes farther.

Bengal Bouts captain Pete McGinley said the tournament, which is broadcast on ESPN3 for the final round, "combines elements of sport and service to create a really unique experience."

"Like Dominic 'Nappy' Napolitano [who organized

the first tournament] once said, the beautiful part of Bengal Bouts is that while there are some students who join simply for the boxing, most of the boxers are there because they know that they are doing something good for someone else," McGinley said.

McGinley said he has seen marked improvement in how connected the boxers feel with the people they are aiding.

"This year we started having 'Mission Mondays', which would typically feature one of our boxers who has gone to Bangladesh either telling stories from his experience or just emphasizing

see BOUTS PAGE 5



WEI LIN | The Observer

Andy Faustone (right) fights Jeffrey Wang in a round during last year's Bengal Bouts. The Bouts benefit Holy Cross missions in Bangladesh.

Shakespeare acting group visits ND classes



ROSIE BIEHL | The Observer

A few members of the AFTLS perform a Shakespeare play on campus. Members of the group visited classes this week.

By MEGAN VALLEY
News Writer

Members of the Actors From The London Stage (AFTLS) group visited Arts and Letters classes at Notre Dame this week, holding workshops while they were on campus for their five-person performance of "Macbeth" this week.

Peter Holland, associate dean for the arts and professor of Film,

Television and Theatre (FTT), said Notre Dame has been the United States home to AFTLS for more than 15 years.

"We had booked their tours to visit us regularly before that, but when they were looking to shift from their previous home, we were thrilled to be able to take it on," he said. "We have the responsibility for creating

see ACTORS PAGE 5

SMC appoints laywoman as vice president of mission

By HALEIGH EHMSSEN
Associate Saint Mary's Editor

Judith Fean, director of Saint Mary's Campus Ministry since 1995, will be the first laywoman to lead the College as vice president for mission.

The vice president for mission position is a joint appointment of the president of the College and the president of the Congregation of the Sisters of the Holy Cross.

Fean will head the Division for Mission, working with both the College and the

Judith Fean
vice president for mission



Congregation to integrate the Saint Mary's College mission statement into community

life.

Fean said she looks forward to continuing to integrate the mission throughout the College.

"I'm excited to work with so many people who have been developing and living the mission," Fean said. "The position also means continuing our relationship with the sisters and assessing what it means to be a Catholic women's college in

see FEAN PAGE 5

Three employees injured after aerosol can ruptures

Observer Staff Report

Three South Dining Hall employees sustained minor injuries Thursday around 11 a.m. after an aerosol can ruptured in the kitchen of the dining hall, University spokesman Dennis Brown said.

Brown said the employees were transported to St. Joseph Regional Medical Center for evaluation after the incident, which occurred when the can was accidentally exposed to heat.

Brown said the kitchen was not damaged.

Director of Notre Dame Food Services Chris Abayasinghe said the dining hall's response procedure is to coordinate with other campus departments, such as the Notre Dame Fire Department, Notre Dame Security Police and Risk Management, and to review the incident afterwards.



THE OBSERVER

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QUESTION OF THE DAY:

What is your favorite class this semester?

Have a question you want answered?

Email photo@ndsmcobserver.com



Jen Cimons

sophomore
Lyons Hall

"Chemistry across the periodic table."



Reed Hunnicutt

freshman
Morrissey Manor

"Stats."



Stephanie Mellert

freshman
Walsh Hall

"Econ."



Sophia Buono

freshman
Lyons Hall

"PLS great books seminar, where you read classic books and discuss them."



Luisa Mader

freshman
Pasquerilla West Hall

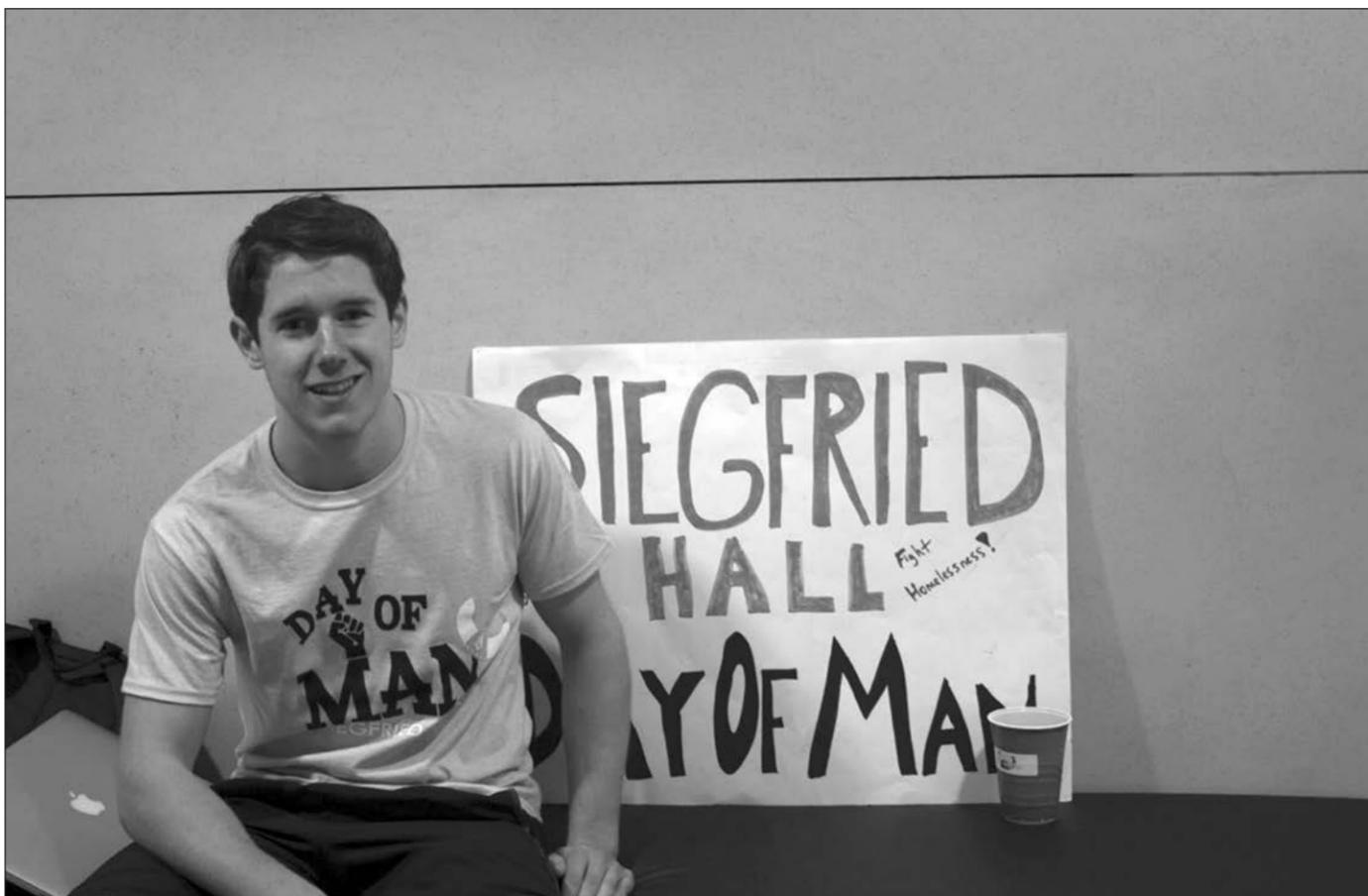
"Developmental psychology."



Matthew Gambetta

freshman
Knott Hall

"Econ."



KAT ROBINSON | The Observer

Aided by a poster and plastic cup for donations, freshman Pierce Cunneen prepares to brave the cold air during Siegfried Hall's Day of Man. Thursday, Siegfried's inhabitants shed their winter coats to fundraise for the South Bend Center for the Homeless.

Today's Staff

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Corrections

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

THE NEXT FIVE DAYS:

Want your event included here?

Email news@ndsmcobserver.com

Friday

Cookie Decorating

LaFortune Student Center
3 p.m. - 4 p.m.
Celebrate Valentine's Day with cookies.

"Macbeth"

Washington Hall
7:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.
Actors From the London Stage perform Shakespeare.

Saturday

Men's Lacrosse

Loftus Sports Center
12 p.m. - 2 p.m.
The Irish take on Georgetown.

Hockey Game

Compton Family Ice Arena
8:05 p.m. - 10:05 p.m.
The Irish take on Providence.

Sunday

"Treasure Island"

DeBartolo Performing Arts Center
3 p.m. - 5:15 p.m.
National Theatre Live.

Men's Boxing

Joyce Center
3 p.m. - 6 p.m.
85th Annual Bengal Bouts Preliminaries.

Monday

SonnetFest 2015

O'Shaughnessy Hall
11 a.m. - 3 a.m.
Public reading of all 154 Shakespearean Sonnets.

Women's Basketball

Purcell Pavilion
9 p.m. - 11 p.m.
The Irish take on Duke.

Tuesday

Men's Basketball

Purcell Pavilion
7 p.m. - 9 p.m.
The Irish take on Wake Forest.

Student Skate Night

Compton Family Ice Arena
10 p.m. - 11:50 p.m.
Proceeds support Operation Smile.

UN official examines global business ethics

By **MATTHEW MCKENNA**
News Writer

Joan Dubinsky, director of the United Nations Ethics Office, wrapped up the Mendoza College of Business's Ethics Week by sharing stories from her professional experience that contained lessons about business ethics in a world of mixed cultures and experiences.

Dubinsky said in today's world, ethics must be clearly defined, and people must not have arguments about what ethics is.

"Ethics is about how we make tough choices," Dubinsky said. "Or, put more eloquently, ethics is the set of criteria or principles that we use when selecting a course of action in the face of competing values."

Dubinsky said honesty in

business is important, and her field was recently created to ensure that morality occupies the proper place in the realm of business.

"We ethics officers, well, we're the experimental philosophers," Dubinsky said. "We creatively solve everyday problems and challenges. We look at rights, duties and obligations. We consider the perspectives of multiple stakeholders, and we examine how to exercise moral judgment in the every day challenges of business."

Dubinsky said while her particular field of work is relatively new, it has roots in the early history of humanity and civilization.

"The Hammurabi code of Babylon dates roughly to 1772 B.C.E.," Dubinsky said. "It represents, as far as archaeology can

tell us, the first written evidence of a legal system. In today's knowledge it's a bit draconian, an eye for an eye. But it set forth basic principles of justice like the presumption of innocence or the right of the accused to give evidence or speak.

"From this very early example, we learn that the rule of law matters," she said. "As part of the United Nations, we reinforce every day the importance of the rule of law, because in our world, might does not make right."

Dubinsky said never to assume people share the same ethical realities because an individual's perception of ethics can be influenced by culture and other factors.

"We are guests in the world," Dubinsky said. "As imperfect as our world is, there might not

always be a best, or even a good, answer to a moral choice that we face.

"Because we are an international and diverse organization, I have to ask if our conflicts of interest are absolute or if they are influenced by the countries in which they arise or by the nationality of the people in the drama," she said.

Dubinsky said there is a fine line between a genuine gift and gift given for reasons other than generosity.

"Sometimes I wonder if you can you ever exchange gifts in a business setting without strings attached," Dubinsky said. "Conflicts of interest are not always absolute, and detecting them requires a great deal of finesse and empathy."

Ethical action is not always

the obvious or easy solution, and it takes real courage and prudence to act in a moral fashion, Dubinsky said.

"Your ethical compass, as a business person and citizen of the world, permeates your choices," she said. "You hold a mirror through which you can reflect your ethical self, and my prayer for you is that this mirror is not distorted."

Dubinsky said United Nations ethics is a "contact sport" that is not purely theoretical.

"To do ethics, we must be willing to engage in the world as we find it, with all its imperfections, and not the world that we wish it to be," Dubinsky said.

Contact Matthew McKenna at mmcken@nd.edu

SMC to serve students' favorite home recipes

By **MARTHA REILLY**
News Writer

Instead of complaining for a weekend away or a good night's sleep at home, students can now cure homesickness with a simple trip to the dining hall. Saint Mary's new "Recipes from Home" initiative will introduce some students' favorite foods to the rest of the school, as the dining hall will now serve a different requested meal each month.

Senior Mary Kate Luft presented this idea to Barry Bowles, director of dining services, last year.

"He was more than happy to work with SGA and make these special meals of our choosing," Luft said. [Editor's note: Luft is

a Viewpoint copy editor for The Observer] "I'm excited to show students that dining services does take their opinions and wants into account when choosing what to serve."

According to Luft, the reaction so far has been a positive one.

"Many people have come up to me and told me they are looking forward to 'Recipes from Home,'" Luft said. "They think it's a great idea. Many people have already submitted recipes."

First-year Morgan Matthews said she looks forward to trying foods she normally would not. Although she hopes that her dad's seafood medley will be one of the featured "Recipes from Home," she also recognizes the value of

experiencing other people's favorite meals.

"I was so excited when I first heard about 'Recipes from Home,'" Matthews said. "There will be such a wide variety of foods presented. Everyone will get to try something new. A girl can only have so many hamburgers."

Matthews said "Recipes from Home" will make her feel like she's at her own dining room table back in Pennsylvania, but she mostly looks forward to the surprise element, since there is a new meal each month.

"I'm not going to know what to expect," Matthews said. "It'll add some excitement because it's more of a mystery."

Matthews also said she

appreciates the effort that the dining hall staff has invested to make this new initiative a success.

"By asking us our opinion, they are incorporating the views and opinions of the student body," Matthews said. "They are serving the exact meals that we ask for and trying to make us feel comfortable."

According to Luft, that is the whole purpose of this new approach.

"Part of being a college student is complaining about the dining hall food, because it can't compare to what we have at home," Luft said. "Barry Bowles and I will choose the recipe of the month based on the viability of it to be prepared in the dining hall and what we think students would most enjoy."

"The best part of 'Recipes from Home' is that students can have meals similar to what they eat at home, which hopefully will make them happy," she said.

With some of students favorite foods made available, Luft hopes that students realize that the dining hall prioritizes their individual requests.

"Recipes from Home" will personalize the dining hall for students by giving them more of a say in the food that is served, which will hopefully provide them with a more positive and interactive experience in the dining hall," Luft said.

Contact Martha Reilly at mreilly01@nd.edu

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SonnetFest 2015

Monday, February 16
11am – 3pm

The Great Hall of O'Shaughnessy

Spend a moment or an hour enjoying live readings of Shakespeare's 154 sonnets by members of the Notre Dame and Michiana communities.

Light refreshments will be served.

Free and open to the public.



SHAKESPEARE
AT NOTRE DAME

Professor examines prevention of civil wars

By **MADISON JAROS**
News Writer

In a talk Thursday, professor of political science at University of Colorado Boulder Jaroslav Tir said preventing civil war and the horrors that come with it require a change of perception.

Academia's study of civil war is often not as in-depth as its study of interstate war, which leads many experts to overlook the most important aspects of these conflicts, Tir said.

"We [Tir and colleague Johannes Karreth] think of civil wars as not just something where you pull a switch, flip a trigger of some sort and then you suddenly have a civil war," he said. "This is something that is actually a process that builds up over time. So we're thinking about looking at civil wars from a developmental perspective.

"Incidentally, this has been done in the context of interstate war, but it hasn't really been applied before to civil war all that much."

Tir said the goal of his research was to find the most effective way to prevent civil wars from breaking out because ending the violence of war is much more difficult once the fighting begins.

"Some of the consequences of civil wars actually turn out to be predictors of civil wars as well, which means that countries that have experienced one civil war find themselves in this business of what's called a civil war trap, or a conflict trap," Tir said. "... Basically,

Ms. Taylor Swift would be disappointed by these countries that cannot just 'shake it off' and that get caught over and over again [in civil war]."

Tir said one reason nations continue to fall into civil war is because of the distrust between civil war rebels and the governments they are fighting against. Tir described this lack of trust as the "credible commitment problem," which impedes peace efforts.

"The rebels [in a civil war] worry and fear that the government won't hold up its end of the bargain, and this is the story why peace deals may be difficult to reach or why they ultimately fall apart," Tir said. "... So if we're going to come up with a way to prevent civil wars, we have to tackle this really tricky problem."

While traditional intergovernmental organizations (IGOs) often lack the tools to influence their member states' policies, particular organizations known as highly-structured intergovernmental organizations (HSIGOs) hold the key to tackling the credible commitment problem and preventing civil war, Tir said.

"What it takes to qualify as one of these highly-structured IGOs is that they have independent administrative monitoring bodies

– which means the government of these member states can't just shut the organization down if the organization is doing something the government doesn't like," he said. "So they have some authority, some oversight, basically, that is independent from the member governments."

These organizations, which include the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, are able to influence the political policy of member states because they provide the aid on which many nations that struggle with conflict rely. This pushes governments to respond peacefully to rebel groups and even prevents violence from the rebel groups themselves, Tir said.

"If the rebels were to overplay their hand... what would happen is that these HSIGOs would probably stop constraining the government or at least release some of their constraints," he said. "... So we argue that the rebels are actually better off playing along in this structure of interactions, which actually constrains the government indirectly and the rebels as well, which basically pushes their preferences toward peace and away from public escalation."

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CAROLINE GENCO | The Observer

Professor of political science Jaroslav Tir discusses civil war and how to prevent its outbreak. Tir said the key to preventing civil war lies in the work of intergovernmental institutions.

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Author considers love in light of Christian teaching

By **GABRIELA MALESPIN**
News Writer

Jason Evert, a speaker on chastity and virtue and author of books such as "How to Find Your Soul Mate Without Losing Your Soul," offered a take on chastity, relationships and love to a packed audience at Jordan Auditorium.

The talk, sponsored by the Notre Dame Right to Life and titled "How to Save your Marriage Before Meeting Your Spouse," focused on redefining the virtue of chastity for young adults who seek to form healthy romantic relationships.

"Navigating the dating scene is obviously very tough," he said. "What I'm proposing is a return to the concept of the virtue of chastity."

Evert said while the contemporary connotation of chastity frames it as a repressive attitude towards sex and sexuality, chastity is actually a virtue that, when practiced, liberates and ordains sexuality to God's love.

"Chastity is a virtue like courage or honesty that applies to your sexuality," Evert said. "It does not eliminate your sexual desires; rather, what it does is it orders them according to the demands of human love. The purpose and function of it is to free the human person from a utilitarian attitude."

Evert said working with young adults showed him the desire young people have towards forming loving and healthy relationships but also their inability to learn how to date and engage in romantic relationships in

light of Christian teachings on abstinence and virtue.

He said one problem in contemporary dating lies in men's lack of initiative in pursuing relationships with women.

"What's happening is today, we're not initiating love. We're either initiating lust, or we're initiating nothing," he said. "... It's one thing to want this kind of love, but it's not enough to want to find it. We need to know how to give it and how to receive it as well."

Evert said women, meanwhile, feel social pressure against developing authentic relationships. He emphasized five points within his presentation that addressed the problems both men and women face when navigating contemporary dating. These points are enjoying and understanding oneself in single life, looking for love from within, facing fear, creating clear commitment and maintaining purity within relationships.

Evert said the distinction between sexual desire and lust was important to understanding through what lens people should view men and women. According to Evert, sexual desire is natural to men and women, whereas lust is an unnatural perversion that impeded the ability to appreciate the person, and rather only appreciate the pleasure that could be derived from the person. He said abstinence allows people to know and love the person as whole, and therefore stop lust.

"What we learn through abstinence, is that abstinence is not about waiting to love your girlfriend, it is about loving that woman perfectly, by caring about her body, and her soul, in all eternity," Evert said.

"When you grow in purity, you come to a greater awareness of the beauty of the human body, and that beauty becomes a light to your actions."

Contact **Gabriela Malespin** at gmalespi@nd.edu

Bouts

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

the importance of the missions," McGinley said.

McGinley said a crucial part of Bengal Bouts' relationship with the Holy Cross missions is the International Summer Service Learning Program (ISSLP), which sends boxers to Bangladesh every year. Freshman Chris Dethlefs, who will live in Bangladesh this summer, said he hopes his experiences abroad will make him even more committed to the club's mission.

"Participating in the ISSLP will give me the chance to dedicate myself more fully to the real purpose of Bengal Bouts, which is a fight for the poor and marginalized in Bangladesh," he said.

Dethlefs said he appreciates both the service aspect and the physical challenge of the tournament.

"After a grueling workout

and seeing how hard each individual was working, I could see that I was going to love the challenges the club presented," Dethlefs said.

For junior Chris Bertini, the fight is personal. He said he was unable to compete his sophomore year because he was recovering from cancer, but he worked to regain strength for the 2015 tournament.

"I was in terrible shape from my chemotherapy treatment four months prior, so I worked out on my own to get my fitness back," he said.

Bertini said the tournament is a way to show he has improved.

"Bengal Bouts is my chance to prove to myself that I am capable of anything," Bertini said.

In addition to its service component, McGinley said the tournament is a chance to connect with fellow students across grades — boxers commonly hear about the club from older friends,

and some even knew of the tournament while still in high school.

"That's one of my favorite parts of Bengal Bouts, the way that it allows older guys to connect with underclassmen, especially freshmen, and get them involved with a great team early on in the fall semester," McGinley said.

Bertini said he hopes everyone attempts a challenge on par with boxing at least once in his or her life.

"You don't know how strong you really are until you challenge yourself," Bertini said. "Whether it be Bengal Bouts, running a marathon, a grueling academic schedule or beating cancer."

Tickets for Bengal Bouts can be purchased through the tournament's website. Student tickets cost \$5, and a four-round season pass costs \$20.

Contact **Peter Durbin** at pdurbin@nd.edu

Fean

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

the liberal arts tradition and how the mission guides us."

Fean said she is inspired by an iconic quote of former College President Sr. Madeleva Wolfe: "I promise you discovery — discovery of yourselves, discovery of the universe and your place in it."

"I believe in this quote because I discovered myself here and what it means to be a woman in the Church," Fean said. "I'm excited to see what this new chapter looks like and how we can continue to promise young women discovery of themselves."

Fean said she sees the importance of connection and using the core values as stepping stones to make connections with students, faculty and staff.

The four core values of Saint Mary's are faith/spirituality, community, learning and justice, which go hand-in-hand with the mission, she said. The interconnectedness of the core values is important in making Saint Mary's a place for young women to call home.

"Coming here, students realize the importance of women and how they can develop their gifts and what a wonderful unfolding it is," she said. "Everything we do is grounded in the philosophy of education, divine providence of God [and] the hope of prayer, and the question is how do we integrate the core values and bring them to life on campus?"

In her experience as director of Campus Ministry, Fean said she has seen the mission statement guide programs such as the Ministry Assistant

Program. The program, new in 2012, trains and develops a leader in each of the four residence halls to be an extension of Campus Ministry and to help students explore and deepen their spirituality.

Fean said she will miss watching students grow and develop on such an intimate level, but she looks forward to working with faculty, staff and students to further the mission of the College.

"I'm looking forward to breaking open the stories of the Saint Mary's community and seeing how the lives of students, faculty and staff are centered around the mission.

"The sisters were mentors for me, and I look forward to carrying on the guidance I received and making a difference."

Contact **Haleigh Ehmsen** at hehmse01@saintmarys.edu

Actors

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

the tours, working with the Associate Directors [in London] who cast the shows and organize the rehearsal period."

Holland said AFTLS members act as ambassadors for Notre Dame as they travel across the country for their U.S. tours.

Ben Warwick, one of the actors, visited Holland's Shakespeare and Film class, where he gave feedback on students' performances of scenes from "Much Ado About Nothing." Holland said this workshop is offered every semester, and it is always a class favorite.

"Every semester, when I ask my students what have been the most useful and enjoyable sessions in the semester, they pick

the AFTLS visit — and that after 31 sessions with me," he said. "That stops me feeling too good about my own teaching."

Holland said the experience was useful because it offers a unique perspective for students.

"I think they get the insights into how to turn text into performance that only an experienced theatre professional, like Ben, can provide," he said. "Of course I'd love it if he could come back many times in the semester but they're on tour."

The actors didn't just visit FTT classes; Warwick also led an acting workshop in Fr. Kevin Sandberg's theology class titled Discipleship: Loving Action for Justice. Sophomore Catherine Wagner, a student in Sandberg's class, said it was a nice break from the usual class format.

"I really enjoyed how he made connections between [Martin

Luther King Jr.], Hamlet and Job — not three topics easily intertwined," she said.

Wagner said it was interesting to see the theatrical side of her classmates, and she loved the advice that Warwick gave them.

"It praised the art of acting because while it can be nerve-racking being on a stage in performance, it is because of this vulnerability that we enjoy the theatre," she said. "Our class today experienced a small bit of this vulnerability by trying new things, but we came out better because of it."

The last AFTLS performance of "Macbeth" will take place tonight in Washington Hall, and \$12 student tickets can be purchased at performingarts.nd.edu

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INSIDE COLUMN

Small moments

Zach Klonsinski
Sports Writer

Winter is upon us, finally.

It took its time getting here, that's for sure: when leaving for winter break, not having snow on the ground actually made me uncomfortable and question what was wrong with the world. Now, as I listen to others complain about being sick of winter already, I can't help but feel a little sorry for them.

My feeling of pity for those disgusted by the snow arises from the apparent inability of people on this campus to perform a simple act: to look up. In the last week and a half, there have been two or three of the most beautiful moments I have ever seen.

Last Thursday a bright, cheerful sun shone in a deep-blue sky creating sharp contrasts with the pure snow that covers this beautiful campus. I began walking to North Dining Hall but was struck by how defined the Dome was and couldn't help but take a few photos walking around God Quad. From there I just began walking. I spent almost an hour and a half outside before finally my phone succumbed to the cold and hunger drove me back.

I thought this was a pretty normal activity on such a beautiful day, yet almost everyone who passed me shot only weird looks and side glances my way. Indeed, the only acknowledgement I received directly the entire time was from an elderly couple who said 'Hello' to me while walking the shore of St. Mary's Lake.

Saturday night I was struck again, this time by the sunset as I trudged to DPAC for a screening I was supposed to see for a history course. I paused to take photos on God Quad again and looked down South Quad. In that time though, I was nearly run over by a group that approached while I was clicking away, oblivious of me and that sunset until the last possible second.

I missed the documentary that night. Although an email from Dan Graff is sure to follow this column, I wouldn't change a thing about that evening: sometimes living just gets in the way of life.

That is my only complaint about this great place. There are times I'm taught more about how to make a living than about how to live. Then again, you can't really 'teach' how to live, can you? Life is made up of moments that never return and you either seize or miss them and we can only help to draw attention to them.

Maybe I'm just weird for taking a few minutes out of my day to do something I won't directly obtain a degree, job or hangover from. I fear the possibility, yet it begins to feel more and more the most reasonable explanation.

Please, look up, pause and admire the small moments every now and then. I can't promise this suggestion will land you that internship, but hopefully it'll help you to live.

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

The two sides of anonymity

THE OBSERVER EDITORIAL

As humans, we experience a universal desire for connection, and in the age of social media this desire has only become more obvious. Various social networking sites that help us associate with others digitally allow us to be in contact with anyone, anywhere and at any time. However, one of the most vital human interactions is conversation: the act of saying our thoughts and having someone willing to listen and respond.

It is crucial that we have opportunities for constructive dialogue, particularly within a college campus community. It is necessary that students feel their voices can be heard in a respectful forum. The student body's obvious desire for campus-wide conversation is demonstrated by participation in various events, lectures and panels, but also is latent in more controversial forums like Yik Yak.

What makes Yik Yak unique is its anonymity, a feature of the app that has the potential to destroy constructive conversation as much as it provides a place for candid confessions. Having access to an anonymous voice gives the app's users the courage to say things they might not admit otherwise, but it also lends itself to the ignorance and cowardice that comes from hiding behind a social media mask.

There are two extremes that come with anonymity: the positive and negative. Yik Yak has often shown us the negative side of this coin, with users sharing discriminatory and hurtful messages with no accountability. But the positive results of anonymous speech can be found on campus as well. Forums like Loyal Daughters and Sons and Show Some Skin are constructive and empowering, giving voices to people who have been hurt or victimized and allowing them

to use this verbalization to help in their healing.

By its nature, anonymity magnifies the impact of what is said. In forums such as Loyal Daughters and Sons or Show Some Skin, presenting stories through anonymous voices provides a sense of universality to the accounts shared, allowing others to better understand these incidents that they did not personally experience. When anecdotes about campus life are shared through Show Some Skin and Loyal Daughters and Sons, we gather to listen, empathize, reflect and discuss, and anonymity helps us do so more productively.

On the other hand, when users on Yik Yak capitalize on the app's anonymity, often it is the ignorant and hateful voices that are heard the loudest and given the most weight. These voices might not represent the Notre Dame community at large, but behind a mask of anonymity and upvotes, we are bombarded with as many hurtful messages as helpful, and one voice can seem to represent many.

What's more, Yik Yak's medium doesn't allow for contemplation. As quickly as something is posted — whether poignant and interesting or hurtful and ignorant — the post disappears, and opportunities for further discussion are gone.

The popularity of Yik Yak may speak to a campus-wide desire for conversation, but we must ask ourselves whether the lack of accountability damages the potential for meaningful and productive conversation.

We all want to feel comfortable sharing our thoughts, opinions and experiences, and while anonymity can be a useful way to start a conversation, it can't simply end there. Only by speaking to each other — having that essential human conversation — will our anonymous comments begin to take shape into productive dialogue.

EDITORIAL CARTOON



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Philosophy belongs in the core curriculum

Alex Caton

Modest Proposals

I will never forget when my Introduction to Philosophy seminar professor taught me that “which begs the question” was not just a flashy phrase I used to introduce new paragraphs in my ACT Writing section. It turned out that begging the question was a specific kind of circular logical fallacy, and I had been using the term wrong for a very long time.

The University is now undergoing its decennial review of the core curriculum, the required courses every student must take to graduate and has given numerous indications that the two required courses in philosophy may soon get the axe.

Core curricula exist on a continuum. On one end is Brown University, where students have one required writing class and a major and pick the rest for themselves. Conversely, the University of Chicago prides itself on “The Core,” a roughly two-year gauntlet of liberal arts requirements that is closer to what we have currently.

Defending the two-course philosophy requirement requires us to establish three things: first, that it is worthwhile to have a core curriculum of required classes; second, that philosophy is important enough to explicitly include in those requirements; and third, that the current two-course system is the best way to do so.

While the question of whether having a core curriculum at all is plenty interesting, I am confident that at the end of this review the University of Notre Dame will still have a core curriculum of 10-14 classes. So I’m going to move on to the second and third more interesting questions.

In arguing that philosophy should be required at Notre Dame it is tempting to list the “peer institutions” which also include philosophy in their general education requirements and then conclude that Notre Dame should also require philosophy. For those interested, those colleges include Georgetown, Boston College, Princeton (one course in “Epistemology and Cognition”) and the University of Chicago. But listing peer institutions is a shoddy way of arguing that philosophy is a necessary part of a real liberal arts education, first because Brown, Harvard and Duke don’t explicitly require it (so much for peer institutions), and second because philosophy can stand on its own merits.

Philosophy is important for a number of reasons, and I will try to list the ones that are as divorced as possible from value judgments about the intrinsic worth of the humanities, reflections on “the unexamined life,” and the centrality of philosophy in an institution claiming a Catholic heritage and worldview. I believe these arguments wholeheartedly, but also recognize that they appear romantic and impractical to those not already convinced when the cost of a Notre Dame degree is \$62,000 per year. For those keeping score at home, that is about \$10,000 more than it was when I first arrived on campus.

Philosophy is worth keeping in Notre Dame’s core requirements because it structures your thinking in ways that very few disciplines can and does so very quickly. It improves your writing, forces creativity and punishes arrogance. It alerts us to the fact that sloppy and dishonest argumentation has too strong of a hold on our public discourse. If we believe that Notre Dame students will be leading that discourse down the road, then we better prepare them to do it well.

If Notre Dame’s philosophy requirement as currently practiced has fallen short for some

students, I think it speaks to the need to improve the quality of the philosophy 100- and 200-level philosophy classes taught here. It does not mean that philosophy forfeits its position as a subject Notre Dame undergrads should engage. Put another way, my struggles in statistics and calculus and the pencils I broke in the process do not invalidate the need for a University requirement in math.

Finally I would like to note that Notre Dame is a sufficiently impressive institution that it does not need to check in with other schools for final verdicts on its curriculum or any other matter. Internal committee documents, including a four-page list of the core requirements at Harvard, Chicago, Duke, Columbia and others circulated to Arts & Letters faculty in October by professor of French JoAnn Della Neva are indicative of this approach. These outlines can be instructive and I am not about to question the commitment of a two-time National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowship recipient. But adopting a general attitude of “I saw Harvard wearing army pants and flip flops, so I eliminated my philosophy requirement,” is a silly rabbit hole to fall down.

When the committee completes its review Notre Dame will still have a core curriculum of required classes. It should keep philosophy among them. If my arguments for taking two semesters to learn some of this discipline are not convincing (and they may not be) then I will defer to our President, Fr. John Jenkins. I hear he likes Philosophy too.

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

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Divestment: a financial argument

You’ve probably heard of the word “divestment” floating around campus, whether it was from classes, Facebook or a GreeND member knocking at your door about a petition. Maybe you haven’t heard the word at all. If that’s the case, it is important to understand what the word “divestment” means because it is a growing campaign not only at Notre Dame, but also nationwide.

Divestment is the opposite of investment — it is the act of removing the University’s endowment from companies involved in the production of fossil fuels. As part of the We Are Nine campaign, we are asking to withdraw the endowment from the top 200 fossil fuel companies (by size of coal, oil and gas reserves) and reallocate the money in more environmentally and socially responsible companies. This means that any new investments will be immediately frozen and any direct ownership or commingled funds in such companies will be divested over a five-year period.

Environmental implications aside, one must ask if divestment is a wise choice from a purely financial standpoint. The answer is a resounding yes. The main reasons are as follows:

1. Investment is a long-term commitment, but fossil fuels are in limited supply. This makes it an economically irresponsible investment and violates fiduciary

responsibility.

2. Strict regulatory controls from the EPA have forced the demand for coal to go down, negatively affecting power stations and mining companies.

3. If more than 20 percent of all fossil fuel reserves are burned, the costs of repairing the resulting global damage will enormously exceed the benefit of funding fossil fuel companies.

4. If the government takes action to keep 80 percent of fossil fuels in the ground, fossil fuel investments will become worthless, creating stranded assets.

5. Although it is unclear how much Notre Dame invests in fossil fuels, the worst-case scenario (for removing investments from the top 200 fossil fuel companies) would likely decrease the endowment by 0.075 percent. And, if the University were to divest from the top “Filthy 15” fossil fuel companies, there would be only a 0.0002 percent decrease. This translates to \$19,600 from a 9.8 billion dollar endowment.

Divestment has been successful in the past. In a protest against apartheid in South Africa, 155 universities divested from South African corporate collaboration by 1988, in addition to over 90 cities, 26 states and 22 countries. The movement dramatically affected the country’s international economy and caused considerable economic plight, contributing to

the system’s ultimate removal. Fossil fuel divestment has already occurred in a number of cities, religious organizations and large universities such as Stanford University. The University of Dayton divested in the summer of 2014 from all fossil fuel companies, a decision that was led by the Board of Trustees. In proudly becoming the first Catholic university to divest, the University of Dayton encourages other Catholics to respond to the growing necessity for the care of creation.

From a Catholic standpoint, divestment is the ethically appropriate decision, in accordance with Care for God’s Creation, a theme of Catholic Social Teaching. From an environmental standpoint, divestment is as necessary as it is urgent, and a powerful tool in spreading awareness. And finally, from a financial standpoint, divestment is both secure and responsible. Taking this into account, the We Are Nine campaign strongly encourages the University of Notre Dame to realize the importance of divesting from fossil fuels.

Sharlo Bayless
sophomore
Walsh Hall
Feb. 12

Join the Discussion
Have an opinion? *Let us hear it.*

Send a letter to the Editor at
viewpoint@ndsmcobserver.com

LYNNE TILLMAN: LADY, WRITER

Ladywriter

By **EMMA TERHAAR**
Scene Writer

Lynne Tillman is a lady writer I heard read at the Eck Visitors Center on Feb. 11, a very special experience. English professor Steve Tomasula said in Tillman's novel "Haunted Houses," Tillman is like an ethnographer who happens to be studying 20th century American girls. Tillman read from "Haunted Houses" despite the strangeness of returning to a work she finished 20 years ago — which she said was like "being dropped into a river." Tillman then read from her later novels "Motion Sickness" and "American Genius."

Tillman said it took seven years to write "Haunted Houses," and yet when

she went to read it, she had to remind herself that she wrote it. "Once I finish I can never go back," explained Tillman. She said she could never write the same book again. "I think we do what we can do when we're drawn to it."

I find this terrifying, the idea that you have a story inside you for a certain amount of time, and you'll never again be able to write it like you would right now. That's some serious *carpe diem* lifestyle right there. But I suppose by this logic we can also be too close to a story to write it properly. Some stories are impossible to tell later, and some stories need to gestate.

Most of Tillman's novels are lauded as defying conventions. As a millennial, it's hard to know what the conventions are or

what they were in the '80s and '90s when she was defying them. I think she must be different in the way she makes a person — she could tell you what every character in a scene is thinking and what they had for breakfast, even if it's a first-person story and none of that information ever enters. For "Haunted Houses," Tillman wrote three case histories of each main character in the text. The story is just a story; it moves and develops like any plot, but underneath the plot there's some psychoanalyzing of characters and an argument for a determinist worldview.

One of the best parts of the reading was when Tillman responded to a question from the audience about the association between feminine sexuality and fear in her novels. Tillman answered bluntly

that sex is scary. We have birth control now and unwanted pregnancy is less prevalent, and yet there are still consequences that come from having sex. My mother has said the same thing to me a dozen times, so hearing Lynne Tillman, ladywriter and child of the '60s say it was like a grand "I told you so."

But don't listen to me; check out Lynne Tillman's stuff for yourself. She's written five novels, three collections of short stories, one collection of essays and two nonfiction books. Keep in mind the next creative writing reading is Feb. 18, Ross Gay at the Hammes Notre Dame Bookstore.

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WORST THING EVER

YEEZY SNEAKERS

Jimmy Kemper
Scene Writer

Modern pop culture is an interesting phenomenon. It's an obsession for me. Between Facebook, Twitter, reddit, MySpace, AIM and whatever other outdated technology I'm hooked to, I'm constantly searching for any update I can get on the celebrity trends that make up the 24-hour news cycle. Sometimes, if I'm lucky, my editor lets me write about these important new pieces of culture that will shift the paradigm of our very existence. Like shoes.

On Saturday, 9,000 pairs of Kanye West's latest fashion project, the adidas Yeezy 750 Boost, will drop. Also on Saturday, I won't be getting a pair. Not because I don't have \$350 to drop on something as inane as sneakers or that I live an hour away from the nearest adidas outlet, but because I honestly think they're the worst thing ever.

Now don't get me wrong, I'm a huge Kanye West fan. All four of my roommates can begrudgingly attest to that fascination, especially since "Yeezus" is the only thing we listen to in my car on our trips to Meijer. It's just that

everything surrounding these sneakers, as hideous as they are, has been so ludicrous that I think the entire sneakerhead industry needs to take a step back and calm down.

I mean, seriously, the hype campaign alone for these new Yeezy shoes has been absolutely absurd. Adidas has done about everything it can to make this shoe seem as exclusive and as high-end as possible. For months, both adidas and Kanye have been as tightlipped as possible about their first shoe collaboration, occasionally dropping a hint here and there about how awesome the shoes would be. Meanwhile, Kanye's friends have been hyping up the shoes, including Big Sean and Theophilus London, who claimed that these would be "the future of sneakers." That's a pretty big claim for a shoe that has turned out to be as exciting and grey as the South Bend sky in the dead of winter.

Then, adidas announced that it had developed an app called "Confirmed" with the sole purpose of reserving shoes such as the Yeezy Boosts as soon as pickup dates are announced. On Feb. 5, Kanye linked to the mysterious website "yeezy.supply" on his Twitter. When you followed the link, a countdown timer

to 4 p.m. EST on Feb. 12 appeared. No one on the internet knew what the timer meant when it first came out. A number of people claimed that we would finally hear about Kanye's highly anticipated new album. Then the news came out that it was just for the announcement of the "Kanye West x adidas" shoe, and sneakerheads everywhere freaked out.

After all this hype though, adidas or Kanye didn't even get the opportunity to reveal the shoe first in the end, because Kanye's friend Ibn Jasper leaked a picture of them on Instagram on Feb. 6. It didn't matter to them, though, as the Instagram photo just became kindle for the flames of hype and demand. So more and more announcements about the official announcement came out.

The yeezy.supply website updated with the news that you could reserve tickets to see a live stream of the announcement at 50 theaters worldwide. What are you doing with your life if you're able to go to a movie theater in downtown Chicago in the middle of a Thursday to watch a live stream about an announcement that you already know about?

I honestly just do not get the shoe or the hype. The shoes aren't that good looking. The strap is about the same color and

size as duct tape, and the rest of the shoe is the same color and material as an Uggs boot. So I guess it costs \$350 for me to feel like a #basic Notre Dame girl?

"But these shoes are going to be worth the hype just because of the exclusivity," you may say. "There's only 9,000 pairs!" Wrong. Kanye confirmed in an interview with Ryan Seacrest this week that more pairs of the shoes would be made so that "everybody who wants to get Yeezys will get Yeezys." So while traditional adidas or Nike special sneakers will be worth more down the line, like Kanye's Nike Air Yeezy Red October collaboration — which can go for as high as \$20,000 on eBay right now — these ones will not.

No matter how I may feel about these shoes and the artificial hype that exists for them, I do not have a doubt that the initial run of the Yeezy Boosts will all sell out on Saturday. So I guess Kanye and adidas did their job, and 9,000 lucky people will be running around on Valentine's Day with \$350 Uggs.

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

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VALENTINE'S DAY PLAYLIST

By **ERIN McAULIFFE**
Scene Writer

A playlist featuring a song for everyone's unique Valentine's Day aesthetic.

"Multi-Love" — Unknown Mortal Orchestra

For those that can relate to the lyrics "you checked into my heart and trashed it like a hotel room," head bob in agreement to this breathy, synth track.

"Get It" — Matt and Kim

For those who are excited that Valentine's Day is on a Saturday so they can capitalize on the "At 1 a.m. we go for gold / At 1 a.m. we lost control" holiday aesthetic, this song's chorus is just like your roommate — repeatedly coming up to you on the dance floor and whispering "get it."

"Fool for Love" — Lord Huron

The swingy beat immediately entices you to bust into "The Carlton," causing you to look like a fool for more reasons than love.

"Love Me Like You Do" — Ellie Goulding

For those with pre-purchased tickets to you know what. You know who you are.

"Elastic Heart" — Sia

Although the video may have undergone some scrutiny for weird romantic undertones between a tween dancer and 28-year-old

"Even Stevens" veteran, this song's echoey chords can inspire a Henry Long-esque interpretive tutu dance from anyone. Keep practicing and change your name to something to do with the aloof singer (ex: Shia — Sia, Kristen Wiig — Sia wears a wig. Meta.) for a chance to be featured in one of her performances.

"My Baby Don't Understand Me" — Natalie Prass

Contrary to the lyrics, "I don't feel much / Afraid I don't feel anything at all," this song will you have you feeling everything. Seriously, break out the tissues. With lyrics like "our love was like a long goodbye" and "where do you go when the only home that you know is with a stranger," Nat Prass's crooning will have you in full on sob as you think about past flings, the rocky future of your relationship or the fact that you are now teary-eyed in the library.

"Crave You" — Flight Facilities, Giselle

For the person who everyone is in love with but doesn't care because the one who matters doesn't know you exist — A) are you a real person or the protagonist of a rom-com? B) this is your anthem. Some ideas to better (worsen?) this situation: let everyone who is in love with you follow you around like groupies and take all their compliments to heart, send out an ND Crush quoting this song, blast this song on your boombox outside his or her window a-la John Cusack in "Say Anything."

"The Ideal Husband" — Father John Misty

A tribute to those at Notre Dame on an ayahuasca-fueled search for that MRS degree.

"Feeling Myself" — Nicki Minaj, Beyoncé

Who needs a Valentine when you have Nicki, Beyoncé, a boombox and yourself? (At this point, log in to Amazon and purchase a boombox. You can even get a pink one because Valentine's Day. Trust me, it is my No. 1 most used/commented on purchase, besides the 12-pack of Heath bars I bought from the site last year when I realized North Dining Hall was never going to replenish their fro-yo topping supply).

"Lovers' Carvings" — Bibio

You are so sophisticated you would never buy into "this Hallmark-created b.s.," so stay in and jam to the reiterative chords in this groovy, mollifying track that invigorate your senses more than any cheap candy or ridiculous card could.

"Bonnie and Clyde" — Brigitte Bardot, Serge Gainsbourg

Francophiles with a proclivity for larceny and murder in the name(s) of love, this one's for you.

"Pedestrian at Best" — Courtney Barnett

"I love you, I hate you, I'm on the fence, it all depends / Whether I'm up or down, I'm on the mend, transcending all reality / I like you, despise you, admire you" — the angsty

Valentine aesthetic.

Ask your date for all his money in exchange for some homemade origami. If he refuses, tell him he's a joke and you don't find him very funny. Strut away while blasting the next track on this list.

"Dumb" — Jazmine Sullivan, Meek Mill

"You must be dumb, dumb, dumb / I ain't." — the "I'm too regal for this, so I'm strutting back to my throne"-Valentine aesthetic. This song is also the perfect anthem for walks to and from class when you're feeling sassy and better than everyone.

"Only One" — Kanye West and Paul McCartney

Kanye said this heartfelt ballad came to him as "my mom was singing to me, and through me to my daughter." The track, featuring Kanye's up-and-coming prodigy, offers sage advice and emotional sentimentality: "Hello my only one / Remember who you are / No, you're not perfect but you're not your mistakes."

"Bound 2" — Kanye West

Uh-huh, honey — this song is on this list. You should have known I was bound to feature my man twice. Pour one out for all the people "tired of lovin', of lovin' / With nobody to love, nobody, nobodyyy."

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By **ALLIE TOLLAISEN**
Scene Editor

Valentine's Day is fast approaching, and unless you're in a committed relationship or have been holding out for a secret admirer, you probably are less than thrilled about the holiday.

Some Valentine's Day grinchers have taken to calling it "Single's Awareness Day." Others refuse to acknowledge the Hallmark holiday and its crass-commercialism altogether. A third party, lead by "Parks and Recreation" wonder woman Leslie Knope, have opened the holiday up to more than just romantic couples exchanging chocolates and flowers.

In an episode of the show's second season, Knope invites friends to celebrate "Galentine's Day," a celebration of lady friendship on Feb. 13. That was back in 2010, and in the last five years, there's been a rise of real-life Galentine's Day celebrations as well.

In the spirit of Leslie Knope, rather than bombard you with a list of favorite rom-coms or sappy love stories, here are some movie suggestions to help you celebrate the

day of love without a significant other — or romance at all.

Whether you're feeling lonely and would rather not cry over "The Notebook," shrugging off the holiday (and maybe relationships) altogether or celebrating in your own way, this list is proof that you can watch a love story without the plot of a Taylor Swift song.

"Frances Ha" (2012) — Starring the delightful Greta Gerwig and Mickey Summer, "Frances Ha" follows Frances (Gerwig) as she struggles with adult life in New York City. While the film is undoubtedly a bildungsroman, "Frances Ha" is also a wonderful look at the love between two friends, and Gerwig and Summer are flawless in depicting the ups and downs (and ups again) of friendship.

"50/50" (2011) — While I was tempted to add a bromance movie like "I Love You Man" into the list, the relationship between Joseph Gordon-Levitt and Seth Rogan's characters in "50/50" is so much better. The film is heavy (and sure, it has a little romance too),

but Rogan and Levitt together make the film completely worth the watch.

"Auntie Mame" (1958) — If you're looking a great but platonic movie, look no further than the classic comedy "Auntie Mame." The tale of a young orphaned boy sent to live with his eccentric aunt, the film looks at the unlikely friendship between the two relatives.

"Big Fish" (2003) — Another family-centric film, "Big Fish" is a strange, fantastical tale of a man looking to make amends with his father. Maybe you're skipping "The Notebook" this year, but if you're looking for a cry, this one will have you covered.

"Lars and the Real Girl" (2007) — Though you could argue this one is a romantic tale, "Lars and the Real Girl" had to make the list for its unconventional love story. (Second place in the unconventional romance category goes to "Harold and Maude.") Starring Ryan Gosling in one of his weirder roles, "Lars and the Real Girl" follows Gosling's

character as he falls in love with a "Real Doll," a life-size doll that looks like a woman. The film is beyond bizarre, but is also fantastic and, at times, surprisingly heart-warming.

"Paris, je t'aime" (2006) — Though the rest of these suggestions are love stories between two people (whoever those two people may be), the object of affection in "Paris, je t'aime" is Paris itself. The film is actually a collection of short films by several directors, but the collection itself (and especially the movie's very last vignette) is one big love letter to the city.

"Cutie and the Boxer" (2013) — If you're a documentary-head, there are plenty of films about love and passion to explore (from "Man on Wire" to "Eames"), but "Cutie and the Boxer" looks at the lives of husband and wife Ushio and Noriko Shinohara as they discuss both their marriage and their careers as artists.

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SPORTS AUTHORITY

Just how good is Kentucky?

Tyler Wojciak
Sports Writer

Down by two points with 3.2 seconds left, the 35-0 and No. 1-seeded team in the NCAA tournament inbounds the ball to its starting point guard and conference MVP, who takes one dribble and pulls up from a few feet beyond the arc for the 3-pointer and the win.

The shot has a little bit too much on it and clangs off the back of the rim and into the hands of the opposing team's power forward. The buzzer sounds — game over. Kentucky moves on.

Wait ... what?

How does Kentucky move on? Aren't the Wildcats supposed to be the undefeated team and No. 1 seed?

On March 23, No. 8 Kentucky defeated previously undefeated Wichita State to advance to the Sweet 16 of the NCAA tournament in an instant classic. After starting the season as the country's No. 1 team, Kentucky struggled mightily during the regular season but appeared to finally display the level of talent that many projected the team would have by going toe-to-toe for 40 minutes with the Shockers and ultimately reigning victorious. The Wildcats eventually lost to UConn in the NCAA championship, but this game laid the foundation for one of the greatest teams in college basketball history.

This season, the Wildcats are off to their second-best start in school history, with a 24-0 record and No. 1 ranking in every major poll. Many think this team has the best shot to go undefeated and win the NCAA championship since Indiana did it 39 years ago.

But just how good is this Kentucky team? Coming off a 39-point demolition over UCLA, Bruins coach Steve Alford went as far to say, "In my 24 years of coaching, this is the best team I've coached against."

Regarding pure basketball talent, this Kentucky team might just possess the most of all time. Of the 12 players on scholarship, eight were five-star recruits coming out of high school, two were four-stars and the remaining two players were three-stars, according to ESPN. Nine of these players were McDonald's All-Americans, and there is so much talent on the roster that coach John Calipari has resorted to using two "platoons" to balance playing time among the team's 10 best players. At this point in the season, ESPN's Chad Ford projects that at least four Kentucky players will be drafted in the first round of the upcoming NBA draft,

with the potential for more depending on the amount of Kentucky players that declare for the draft after the season's end.

With that said, talent doesn't always lead to championships. In order for this team to go undefeated and win it all, it must have good team chemistry and buy into Calipari's system. So far, Calipari said that hasn't been an issue. After throttling Kansas earlier in the season, Calipari raved about the Wildcats' teamwork in his post-game press conference.

Statistically, Kentucky's offense has been relatively average through this point in the season. The Wildcats are 48th in the NCAA in points per game (73.5) and 66th in field goal percentage (46.1 percent), but they make up for this on the defensive side of the ball, where they are absolutely remarkable. Kentucky is currently second in the NCAA in opponent points per game (52.2) and in blocks per game (7.1) and first in team defensive efficiency rating (0.788) and opponent field goal percentage (34.2 percent).

Opposing teams have hardly any chance of scoring inside on Kentucky's imposing frontcourt, composed of 7-foot junior Willie Cauley-Stein, 7-foot sophomore Dakari Johnson, 6-foot-11 freshman Karl-Anthony Towns, 6-foot-10 freshman Trey Lyles and 6-foot-9 sophomore Marcus Lee. This has been frustrating for opponents, especially when finding open looks on the outside over 6-foot-6 sophomore guards Andrew and Aaron Harrison comes seldom.

With 16 games left to pull off the undefeated season, there are still some questions surrounding the Wildcats. The inconsistent play by the Harrison twins has been a concern for some fans, and close calls against Mississippi, Texas A&M and LSU could be reasons to believe this Kentucky team won't be able to go all the way without a loss.

But these games also serve as examples of a great team underperforming on the road yet still walking away with a win — something not often done in college basketball. Tough games will still be in the Wildcats' future, but with this much talent along with enough experience to compliment it, along with a great coach leading the way, Kentucky will finish this season 40-0 and win the NCAA championship.

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

PGA TOUR | AT&T PEBBLE BEACH NATIONAL PRO-AM

Daly surprises field with opening-round 65

Associated Press

PEBBLE BEACH, Calif. — Sunshine is always a pleasant surprise at Pebble Beach, and Thursday brought a real stunner: John Daly was near the top of the leaderboard.

With his best opening round on the PGA Tour in nearly 10 years, Daly kept a clean card at Pebble Beach on a magnificent day along the Monterey Peninsula for a 7-under 65, leaving him one shot behind J.B. Holmes and Justin Hicks in the AT&T Pebble Beach National Pro-Am.

Daly won an exhibition in Turkey last year. The last official win for the two-time major champion was at Torrey Pines in 2004. So when Daly rolled in a 15-foot birdie putt on his final hole, one of the volunteers wasn't joking when he said, "Daly is at 7 under? On his own?"

Daly laughed when he heard that. Then again, this day could

put anyone in a good mood.

His golf was as glorious as the sunshine. Three years ago, a beautiful day gave way to fog and then rain without notice in a two-hour span. Last year, the third round was ravaged by rain and 30 mph wind. Thursday brought long shadows.

"To have weather like this now — it's supposed to be like this all week — it is absolutely incredible," said Jim Furyk, who made his 2015 debut with a 64 at Monterey Peninsula. It's already one of the most beautiful places I've been to and then to have weather like this, it's just spectacular."

Hicks and Holmes each shot 8-under 64 at Pebble Beach, typically the easiest course in the rotation in benign conditions.

Furyk, former Pebble winner Brandt Snedeker and Chesson Hadley were at 7-under 64 at Monterey Peninsula, while J.J. Henry and Dudley Hart joined Daly at 65 at Pebble Beach. The

low score at Spyglass Hill belonged to Alex Prugh at 6-under 66.

Jason Day, coming off a playoff win at Torrey Pines that included Holmes, struggled to a 72 at Pebble Beach. He wasn't even the low Day in the day. Glen Day, in his final year before he is eligible for the Champions Tour, shot a 5-under 66 at Monterey Peninsula.

Holmes had a start as ideal as the weather. He holed a wedge from 123 yards on the 10th hole for eagle, and then hit another wedge to 5 feet for birdie on No. 11. For all his length, he only birdied one of the par 5s, and that was with a 20-foot putt.

Even so, it was good way to forget last week, where he lost on the second playoff hole.

"I've just got to keep reminding myself it was a great week for me, and I did everything I could do and just carry that on to this week and maybe things will go a little bit different this week," he said.

LITTLE LEAGUE WORLD SERIES

Mayor calls for reinstatement of title

Associated Press

CHICAGO — Hours after Little League International announced its stunning decision to strip a Chicago team of its national championship, the city's mayor was on the phone asking the organization to reverse a decision that he said unfairly made the young players responsible.

But Little League International CEO Stephen D. Keener would not budge, telling Mayor Rahm Emanuel that as difficult as the decision was and as tough as it has been emotionally on the children and their families, the decision by the organization's charter committee was final, according to the organization's spokesman.

The organization announced Wednesday that Jackie Robinson West had been stripped of its title because team officials falsified

boundaries so they could add ineligible players to the roster and that the officials then scrambled to persuade surrounding leagues to go along with what they'd done.

Little League International spokesman Brian McClintock would not detail the conversation between Keener and Emanuel. But the Chicago mayor's office said that during the 10-minute call, first reported in the Chicago Sun-Times, Emanuel suggested alternative punishments could apply, including banning the league from playing for a certain period of time.

The decision has turned the young players into "perpetrators when they are victims," Emanuel said, according to his office.

Though McClintock said the decision is final, in Chicago where the march of the all-black team from the city's South Side was one of the most heartwarming

stories in recent memory, angry community activists made it clear that the fight to give the boys back their championship at the Little League World Series is not over.

"We are asking a law group to look into this, to investigate, because we are hearing from folks all over the country that the (boundary) standards that Jackie Robinson West is being held to is not being held to by other teams across the United States," said the Rev. Michael Pflieger, a prominent activist and Catholic priest on the city's South Side.

Jackie Robinson West officials, who Little League International either suspended or insisted not be allowed to remain in positions of authority, were expected to speak at a news conference at a downtown law firm scheduled for Thursday afternoon.

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"You had a career before the third comic book movie, before people began to forget who was inside the bird costume. You're doing a play based on a book that was written 60 years ago, for a thousand rich old white people whose only real concern is gonna be where

they go to have their cake and coffee when it's over. And let's face it, Dad, it's not for the sake of art. It's because you want to feel relevant again. Well, there's a whole world out there where people fight to be relevant every day. And you act like it doesn't even exist!"

TRACK AND FIELD

Irish head to Ohio for Spire D1 Invitational



Irish senior Jade Barber competes in the 60-meter dash at the Blue & Gold Invitational on Dec. 5 at Loftus Sports Center. Barber took first place in the finals with a time of 7.59 seconds.

By **ANDREW ROBINSON**
Sports Writer

A week removed from hosting the Meyo Invitational, one of the largest and most competitive meets of the indoor season, many Irish runners will return to the track this weekend for the Spire D1 Invitational in Geneva, Ohio.

With only two events before the ACC Indoor Championships begin Feb. 26, many of the Notre Dame athletes will be vying to hit the qualifying benchmarks and secure spots in the conference meet.

Among the men's 4x400-meter relay team, for example, which finished second at the Razorback Invitational with a time of 3:09.90, only senior All-American

Chris Giesting has qualified individually. Irish coach Alan Turner said he thinks the younger members of the team — sophomores Harvey Smith and John Rutkowski and freshman Eric Ways — could all potentially translate their relay performances into individual qualifying times. He noted a similar situation on the women's side as well.

"We're going to be watching for freshman Parker English in the 400-meters," Turner said. "She ran a very good split last week at Meyo ... but she needs to duplicate that effort in the open 400. She's definitely someone who could score well for us at the ACC [Championship]."

Senior All-American Jade Barber is also fighting to earn her spot in the 60-meter hurdles. Barber last year won the ACC Championship with a time of 8.19 seconds and cut a further nine hundredths off to finish seventh in the NCAA Championships. However, her best time this season is 8.32 seconds.

Turner, who said he remains confident in Barber, said simply, "I'm looking for her to come up big time this weekend."

While many Irish athletes will be at the Spire Invitational, juniors Molly Seidel and Michael Clevenger will head to Ames, Iowa, to compete in the mile run at the Iowa State Classic, a perennially fast meet for longer-distance races. Last year, 22 percent of the eventual NCAA Championship field for middle- and long-distance events participated in the meet.

In the Spire D1 Invitational, however, the Irish will carry primarily sprinters and jumpers. Most of the distance runners — with the exception of Seidel and Clevenger — will be resting to prepare for the Alex Wilson Invitational, the last meet before the ACC Championships.

Just as the past several weekends have pushed Notre Dame to keep up with high levels of competition, Turner said he expects this meet to test the team's mettle once again.

"It's going to be a tough meet," he said. "It's not going to be as [many competitors] as Meyo, but the quality is still there."

At this point in the season, Turner said he feels confident in his team's ability.

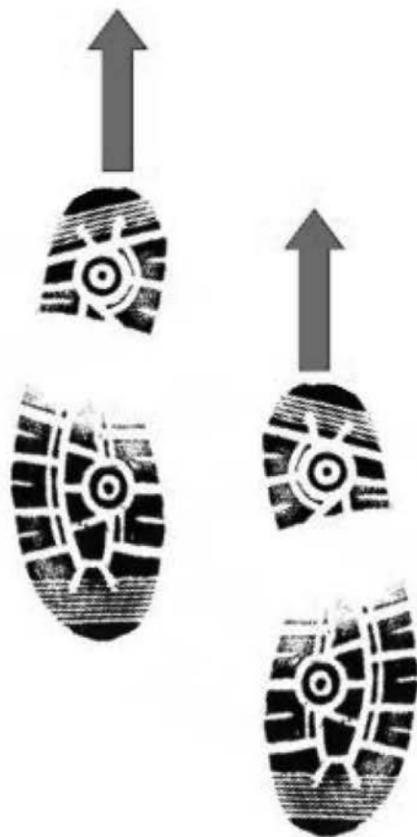
"We're definitely progressing as I would like, especially on the women's side," he said. "The men's side we're just a little thin in a lot of areas. We don't have the depth that we've had in the past...[so] it could always be better, but they're progressing nicely."

Irish athletes will travel to Geneva, Ohio, to kick off the Spire D1 Invitational on Friday at 2 p.m., and the meet will continue through Saturday afternoon.

Contact Andrew Robinson at arobins6@nd.edu

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W Lacrosse

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

Halfpenny indicated that Notre Dame might be able to change things up in formation this year, with a 3-5-3 formation potentially in its arsenal.

"[Junior midfielder Stephanie Toy] is back, and we're so deep in the midfield that we're looking at the potential of being able to play a 3-5-3," Halfpenny said. "[The formation] gives us an enormous amount of speed; it gives us the ability to keep players on the field while they rest behind the restraining lines."

Despite everything, the biggest returner for the Irish in 2015 might be one that made a minimal impact on the field last year, as senior captain and defender Barbara Sullivan returns after an injury-plagued 2014.

Sullivan, who was a first-team All-American selection in 2013, was named to the preseason all-ACC team, and Halfpenny said the Irish have a difference-maker back in the fold.

"Now we have an X-factor player back to the lineup, which it's very obvious that she's been missing," Halfpenny said. "Barbara's back, ready to go, and hopefully we see that sophomore Barbara, that first-team All-American player who raises the level of every set we run."

Despite only playing in six games last year, Halfpenny thinks her defensive standout has improved her game since that sophomore season.

"Her pressure is outstanding, and even though it was really hard to go an entire season without her at full-go, we're seeing that she too grew in that year off," Halfpenny said. "Her communication has amped up, and her hunger has amped up."

Anchored by Sullivan, the Irish have become known for their high-pressure defense, and Halfpenny said the team will continue that moving into 2015.

"We're very excited to continue our aggressive defense," Halfpenny said.

Though Allie Murray, who



ZACH LLORENS | The Observer

Irish junior attack Rachel Sexton works her way to the front of the net in Notre Dame's 19-7 exhibition win over Michigan on Feb. 8, 2014.

started in goal for the Irish in 14 games last season, is no longer on the roster, Halfpenny said she is confident in her two sophomore options at the position, Liz O'Sullivan and Jennifer Blum. O'Sullivan saw time in 14 contests last season and started five of them.

"Our sophomore goalkeepers have just had a tremendous offseason," Halfpenny said. "... We're thrilled with what they're bringing to the table — their communication, their maturity just through having the freshman years under their belt."

Despite winning last year's contest 25-1, the Irish are looking at today's game against the Bearcats as a good chance for a challenge.

"We're really excited to see what the team puts out there Friday against Cincinnati, who will be an incredible opponent," Halfpenny

said "[They're] super physical; they've been getting better every single year under the leadership of [coach] Regina Oliver."

Halfpenny said with another season of ACC play on the horizon, Notre Dame needed to find a good mixture of teams in its non-conference schedule.

"Playing in the toughest conference in the country, we have to find the right balance with our non-conference schedule as well," Halfpenny said. "We want to play teams that are going to test us, that are going to look different from one to the next because that's what the ACC is like."

The Irish take on Cincinnati today at 3 p.m. on the road before returning home Sunday for a noon matchup with Detroit at Loftus Sports Center.

Contact Alex Carson at acarson1@nd.edu



ZACH LLORENS | The Observer

Irish junior attack Kiera McMullen skirts a Michigan defender during Notre Dame's 19-7 exhibition win over Michigan on Feb. 8, 2014, at Loftus Sports Center. McMullen scored 26 goals for the Irish last season.

ND SOFTBALL

Irish prepare for busy weekend

By **MIKE GINOCCHIO**
Sports Writer

Coming off a 4-1 weekend that included an upset of No. 12 UCLA, No. 20 Notre Dame gets back to work this weekend.

The Irish (4-1) travel to take their cuts at the annual Tiger Invitational in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, facing off against Central Arkansas, No. 16 LSU and Hofstra.

For Irish senior third baseman Katey Haus, the winning weekend was all about finding and settling into a groove.

"What worked best for us is when we play our game," Haus said. "Regardless of the competition, we need to focus on what we do best in order to play to our full potential, and so far when we have done that, we have been successful. As we continue to play more games, the small details that come with more game experience will sort themselves out."

Haus had those small details ironed out last weekend, catching fire at the plate by finishing the weekend with a .625 batting average, eight RBIs and three home runs. Haus connected for two of them during Sunday's victory over No. 25 Cal State Fullerton.

Having a hitter on a hot streak like that, as well as a team that is batting well in general, does wonders for a pitcher's confidence, sophomore right-hander Rachel Nasland said.

"As a pitcher, to have such a strong hitting team behind me is a relief on the mound," Nasland said. "It makes the game more fun for me because it allows me to pitch to batters more aggressively and gives me more liberty with my pitches."

Nasland appeared in three games over the weekend, starting two, and finished with a record of 1-0 with a 4.20 ERA and a tie for the team lead in strikeouts with 13.

As with many spring sports stuck in the Indiana cold, Notre Dame has to travel to warmer climates to play early in the season. While this allows the team to escape from the cold, it also means Notre Dame has to fit in a large and varied amount of teams to play in such a short time. The Irish play four games against three teams in two days this weekend: Central Arkansas (4-2) and LSU (5-0) on Saturday as well as Hofstra (0-0) and a rematch against the host team slated for Sunday.

However, both Haus and Nasland said they view the busy schedule as just part of the life of playing college softball.

"The best way to deal with our jam-packed weekends is to take it one game at a time," Haus said. "Our goal is to bring our best game every game, regardless of our opponent."

There is also one more adjustment the Irish have to deal with in their travels, Nasland said.

"I think that right now we are just trying to get adjusted to playing on a dirt field," Nasland said. "We have been practicing inside for couple months now. ... Thank you, South Bend."

The strong start for the Irish has given them high morale heading into the weekend, and the enthusiasm carried over into Haus' attitude.

"I think the team's chances [this weekend] are great," Haus said. "We are rolling off a great opening weekend and some good practices this week."

The Irish return to action Saturday against Central Arkansas. The first pitch is scheduled to be thrown at 11 a.m. They later take on LSU at 4 p.m. Saturday, Hofstra at 10 a.m. Sunday and LSU again at 12:30 p.m. Sunday.

Contact Mike Ginocchio at mginocch@nd.edu

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M Lacrosse

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

think they're a fast-paced, physical team, particularly early in possessions."

Warne posted a 10-19 record with Hoyas in his first two seasons. After a Big East tournament berth in 2013, the team struggled last year, dropping 10 games, including four by two goals or fewer. Despite this, Corrigan said Georgetown has an ability to start strong. Last year, the Hoyas won 65.2 percent of their faceoffs.

"They really get after you and play very hard and fast at both ends of the field," Corrigan said. "So that's something we're going to have to really get a feel for during the game."

For Notre Dame, a strong start will largely depend on how quickly its newest players can integrate into the regular rotation, Corrigan said.

"Getting contributions from all the players we can get contributions from if we play the right way is going to be one thing," Corrigan said on what the Irish can do better. "We know we got some guys who can make plays, but I think if we really wanted to utilize all of our players and all of our talent, then we really got to play in a very unselfish manner. And it's not that our guys are selfish; it just takes time to develop that team dynamic. ... We're in that process."

While developing that dynamic, the Irish will be led by senior midfielders Jack Near,



MICHAEL YU | The Observer

Irish graduate student midfielder Jim Marlatt passes during Notre Dame's exhibition match against Bellarmine on Jan. 25.

graduate student midfielder Jim Marlatt and senior attack Conor Doyle, who were named team captains for the year Feb. 6. Both Near and Marlatt have earned All-American accolades in their careers, and Doyle was second on the team in points last season.

"Good leadership involves a lot of people," Corrigan said. "I think our captains appreciate the quality of leadership, not just from other guys in their class, but from within each class. So I think they've made it a point of emphasis to be very inclusive in their leadership. ... Everyone has a voice in what we're doing in our locker room."

Goalie Conor Kelly is another senior who will see the field Saturday, earning the start over sophomore Shane Doss and freshman Owen Molloy

after a heated preseason battle. However, Corrigan stopped short of saying Kelly had won the position permanently.

"It's been an extremely close competition, and all three of our goalies are — we have confidence in all three of them," Corrigan said. "But Conor Kelly is going to start this weekend."

The matchup was originally scheduled to be played outdoors at Arlotta Stadium, but with the forecast calling for temperatures below freezing and snow showers, the game has been moved inside to Loftus Sports Center.

Notre Dame and Georgetown square off to start the season this Saturday at noon in Loftus Sports Center.

Contact Greg Hadley at ghadley@nd.edu



MICHAEL YU | The Observer

Irish sophomore second baseman Cavan Biggio pulls a pitch foul May 9 in Notre Dame's 2-1 win over Clemson at Frank Eck Stadium.

Baseball

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

have, in our minds at least, won those jobs, and so we're going to give them a little opportunity to see what they can do.

"Unfortunately, unlike the big leagues, where they've got 30 games of spring training, we have to tee it up and be ready to go."

Last season, Notre Dame played even its home games on the road until the last few matchups of the season because snow delayed the completion of FieldTurf installation. The Irish posted a 22-31 overall record and a 9-21 mark in the ACC but closed out the season with six games at home, winning five of them against Clemson and Pittsburgh.

"Our outlook going into those [last few] games changed so much because we were finally playing at home, and it breathed some excitement into an otherwise challenging year," Aoki said. "And I think the lesson that we tried to take from it was that perspective plays a really big deal in this.

The way in which you choose to look at things makes a really big deal."

Notre Dame has not forgotten that lesson, Aoki said.

"Those last six games of the year, we really looked at it from a positive state of mind, and our kids ... just kind of played with clear minds and a positive outlook, and I think that piece really has carried over to this year's team," he said.

The Irish return the majority of their regulars this season and add eight freshman to the roster.

"These guys are at a really good place in terms of where they are from their confidence level, from the culture of our team, and I think at this point, our preparation has been really, really good, and they're just ready," Aoki said.

The Irish head to Norman, Oklahoma, to match up against SIU Edwardsville at 2 p.m. Friday and against Oklahoma at 6 p.m. Friday, 6 p.m. Saturday and 1 p.m. Sunday. All games are scheduled at L. Dale Mitchell Park.

Contact Samantha Zuba at szuba@nd.edu



MICHAEL YU | The Observer

Irish sophomore infielder Kyle Fiala squares to bunt May 9 during Notre Dame's 2-1 win over Clemson at Frack Eck Stadium.

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Hockey

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

a nationally-ranked team.

"Obviously, we want to finish in the top four, but the most important thing for me is making sure we're playing our best hockey heading into the playoffs," Jackson said.

Notre Dame's next six games are against three nationally-ranked opponents: No. 11 Providence, No. 3 Boston University and No. 10 Boston College.

Four of those six games will be at Compton Family Ice Arena, and while Jackson said this is a clear advantage, he noted the Irish have struggled at times on their home ice.

"It's a little easier to play at home than on the road obviously, but we have not come out as well as we should've on Friday nights this season, "

Jackson said.

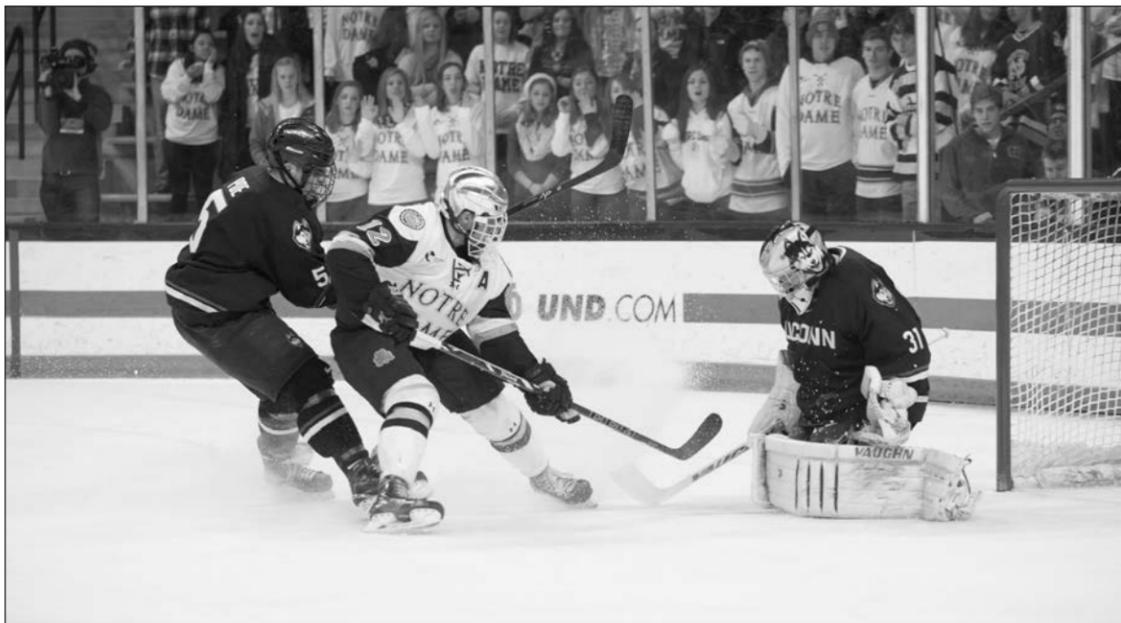
Jackson said there are two areas in which the Irish must excel to have success during this tough stretch: goaltending and possessing the puck at the blue lines.

He added the goaltending percentage for the team must be at the 90-percent mark for the Irish to be successful during this period.

"There's no question that goaltending is going to be the most important thing for us in the next six games," Jackson said. "We have to get nine out of 10 saves on every given night if we're going to do anything during this stretch run."

During this week of practice, Jackson said he gave the team an extra day off for some rest and more time for schoolwork.

"It was a difficult academic week with a lot of exams going on, so we took Tuesday off," he



CAITLYN JORDAN | The Observer

Irish junior left wing Sam Herr crashes the net during Notre Dame's 3-3 tie with UConn on Jan. 16 at Compton Family Ice Arena. Herr has tallied eight goals and six assists on the season for the Irish.



MICHAEL YU | The Observer

Irish senior defenseman Robbie Russo weaves through the UConn offensive zone during the two teams' 3-3 tie Jan. 16 at Compton Family Ice Arena. Russo leads all Irish defensemen with 25 points this season.

said. "I hope that helps them being able to get their academic work taken care off before we get out there Friday."

Talking about the Irish opponent this weekend, Jackson said Providence is an exceptional defensive team with a tough goaltender, along with high quality forwards and defenseman.

"They clamp down pretty tight, and they're good on transition," Jackson said. "They have good defensive numbers, but they're not just a defensive team. If you turn pucks over against them, they're going to capitalize."

Providence allows a little more than two goals per game (2.04), and Friars junior goaltender Jon Gillies boasts an impressive .933 save percentage.

Junior left wing Mario Lucia, Notre Dame's leading goal scorer, said it's a must that the Irish put a lot of shots on goal against Gillies, and he added that the Irish special teams units will play a large factor this weekend.

"We just have to focus on getting pucks to the net, and special teams are going to be huge this weekend," Lucia said. "If we win the special teams battle, I think we'll have a good chance of winning the game."

Lucia also said playing at home will be a big advantage for the Irish in this last month and that the team must "utilize our fans" during this stretch run.

"Having that element of the crowd cheering you on and getting into the game, that helps a lot, and when you have a full crowd in here, it's intimidating to the other team and helps our guys," Lucia said.

Notre Dame will square off against Providence on Friday and Saturday, with the puck dropping at 7:35 p.m. Friday and 8:05 p.m. Saturday.

Contact Benjamin Horvath at bhorvat1@nd.edu

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HOCKEY

Irish to play host to Friars

By **BENJAMIN HORVATH**
Sports Writer

Notre Dame will play No. 11 Providence this weekend at Compton Family Ice Arena in a pair of matchups that could be crucial in determining the team's postseason fate.

Notre Dame (12-14-4, 7-5-4 Hockey East) enters this weekend's series coming off a successful trip to Maine last weekend. With a tie Friday and a victory Saturday, the Irish earned three points in conference standings.

With just six regular-season games remaining, the Irish find themselves in fifth place in the conference, trailing fourth-place Providence (17-9-2, 9-6-1) by just one point. The top four teams earn a first-round bye in the Hockey East tournament once the regular season wraps up.

Irish coach Jeff Jackson said his team cannot get too caught up in the standings, and instead he said he views this weekend as an opportunity to play well against

see HOCKEY **PAGE 14**



CAITLYN JORDAN | The Observer

Irish junior left wing Mario Lucia scans the ice Nov. 21 during Notre Dame's 2-2 tie with UMass-Lowell at Compton Family Ice Arena.

BASEBALL

Bats ready for Oklahoma's heat

By **SAMANTHA ZUBA**
Assistant Managing Editor

Notre Dame is more than ready for this upcoming season.

When the Irish head to Norman, Oklahoma, this weekend, they can put last season's weather-related challenges behind them.

"They're ready to get out of here," Irish coach Mik Aoki said. "The position guys are ready to face some pitchers that aren't our own, and our pitchers are sick of facing our own hitters, and it's just time for us to get up there and play."

Notre Dame plays SIU Edwardsville and Oklahoma in a Friday doubleheader and then takes on Oklahoma again on Saturday and Sunday to complete a three-game series.

SIU Edwardsville ended last season with a 21-33 record overall and a 16-14 mark in Ohio Valley.

Oklahoma finished 29-29 and

8-16 in the Big 12 in 2014.

"They've got talented arms," Aoki said of Oklahoma. "They've got kids with big arms. They throw hard and all of that. ... Saturday guy, [sophomore right-hander Alec] Hansen, he's a guy who gets up to throwing almost 100 [miles per hour], so they've got good arms. We've just got to go in there, do our thing and not be overly concerned about who it is that we're facing, just be concerned about the things that we can control."

This weekend gives the Irish starters their first opportunities to perform in their roles. The starters have security in their chance to get their seasons rolling, Aoki said.

"I think that there's some curiosity in terms of what some of the guys that we aren't starting might be capable of doing, for certain," Aoki said. "But I think that the guys who are starting

see BASEBALL **PAGE 13**

ND WOMEN'S LACROSSE

Notre Dame opens with two

By **ALEX CARSON**
Sports Writer

No. 9 Notre Dame starts off its season with a pair of contests this weekend, looking to build off a 10-win 2014 campaign.

The Irish (0-0) travel to Cincinnati today for a 3 p.m. meeting with the Bearcats (0-0) before taking on Detroit (0-1) in their home opener Sunday at noon at Loftus Sports Center.

Notre Dame returns a majority of its goals from last season — all eight players that reached double digits on the scoresheet last year are back — and Irish coach Christine Halfpenny said she feels like her team has gotten even stronger in the offseason.

"We're really excited about the amount of returning starters and returning contributors that we have this season," Halfpenny said. "We've seen an enormous amount of growth physically, mentally and even emotionally on the field of play."

Sophomore attack/midfielder Cortney Fortunato led the Irish with 46 goals in her freshman year and will be joined at the front by junior attacks Rachel Sexton and Kiera McMullan, who each broke the 25-goal mark

last term.

"We're excited to welcome some mainstays back — Kiera and Rachel and Cortney — that are really locking down that low offensive area," Halfpenny said.

The returning leaders up front are not the only ones in the program though, and Halfpenny said a trio of freshmen attacks have acclimated well to the college game.

"They've had a very quick learning curve," Halfpenny said. "[Freshmen attacks] Abi Cullinan, Sydney Cardozo and Olivia Mikkelsen ... have really shown us some really exciting looks at what the future holds."

While the Irish return plenty of firepower on attack, the midfielders are no slouches for the Irish, Halfpenny said.

"[The midfield] is probably the deepest part of our team," Halfpenny said. "We've really worked hard on amping up and bringing in players in the midfield to really learn from the upperclassmen, and now we finally have upperclassmen outweighing underclassmen in the midfield."

With the midfield depth,

see W LACROSSE **PAGE 12**

MEN'S LACROSSE

After title game run, ND begins season with Hoyas



EMMET FARNAN | The Observer

Irish senior attack Conor Doyle slips away from an Air Force defender during the two teams' exhibition Jan. 31.

By **GREG HADLEY**
Associate Sports Editor

On the eve of a new season, Kevin Corrigan is taking things one day at a time, so much so that the Irish coach has not even had time to focus on who No. 2 Notre Dame is playing Saturday at noon.

"The biggest challenge [this weekend] is that we don't know anything about them," Corrigan said of his team's season-opening opponent. "It's a typical first game in that our emphasis is on ourselves and the way we play ..."

For the record, the Irish are playing Georgetown.

The matchup between will mark the fifth time in the last six seasons that the former Big East foes have faced off. But the combination of a year-long gap last season and a third-year coach for Georgetown in Kevin Warne means Corrigan and the Irish are relatively unfamiliar with the Hoyas, he said.

"They got a new coach a couple years ago, so we really don't know much at all about them," Corrigan said. "We've watched film of them from last year, and I

see M LACROSSE **PAGE 13**