

SMC annual conference promotes diversity

Keynote speaker discusses womens' rights in Pakistan

By REBECCA O'NEIL
News Writer

Saint Mary's students, faculty and staff gathered in Carroll Auditorium on Monday to hear Pakistani entrepreneur and social organizer Shiza Shahid share her life's trajectory towards her position as the co-founder and Global Ambassador of the Malala Fund. Shahid was the closing keynote speaker

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TENTH ANNUAL DIVERSE STUDENTS' LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE
Monday, March 23rd, 2015

9:00-10:00 OPENING KEYNOTE SPEAKER Yvette Nyombayire Rugasaguhunga (Vander Venet, Student Center)	11:30-12:30 SESSION II My Israeli Story (Conference Room D, Student Center)	1:45-2:45 SESSION III Gender and Women's Studies and Diversity at Saint Mary's College: Past, Present, and Future (Conference Room D, Student Center)	7:00-8:15 CLOSING KEYNOTE SPEAKER Shiza Shahid (Carroll Auditorium, Madeleva Hall)
10:15-11:15 SESSION I Understanding What Hiring Managers Look For in the Global Market (Conference Room D, Student Center)	11:30-12:30 DIVERSITY DIALOGUE (Conference Room D, Student Center)	SMC: DIVERSITY TO THE POWER OF 10 (Conference Room F, Student Center)	8:30-10:30 DSLCL 10 TH ANNIVERSARY DINNER (Rice Commons, Student Center)
VISION2020 AND RWANDAN WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP (Conference Room F, Student Center)			

KERI O'MARA | The Observer

Professors reflect on history of GWS program at SMC

By HALEIGH EHMLSEN
Saint Mary's Editor

The Saint Mary's Student Diversity Board (SDB) celebrated its 10th annual Diverse Student Leadership Conference (DSLCL) Monday with workshops, keynote speakers and panel discussions.

SDB secretary, junior Angela Bukur said the speakers and workshop presenters offer powerful and insightful advice

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Men's lacrosse team wins 'Game Changers' award

By MATTHEW McKENNA
News Writer

The Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC), in partnership with the United Way, honored the men's lacrosse team with the inaugural 'Game Changers' award for their service in the community at the Dickinson Fine Arts Academy and other locations.

Irish head coach Kevin

Corrigan said the award is a new honor the ACC has created to recognize the various teams in the conference who are particularly involved in service work in their respective communities.

"We're proud to be recognized for what we're doing, but it's not a thing where we were trying to come in first," Corrigan said. "Everybody is doing good work."

"We do a lot of different

things," he said. "The particular work we are being recognized for is an ongoing mentorship program that we've had for almost a decade now at a local middle school. It's been a constant strand over the years for our guys."

Corrigan said the team has recently made an effort to get involved in long-term projects where the team can have

see LACROSSE PAGE 4

GRC celebrates 10th anniversary with alumni panel



ROSIE LOVOLI | The Observer

A panel of alumni discuss issues they faced as members of the GRC during their time at Notre Dame in Geddes Hall on Monday.

By MEGAN VALLEY
News Writer

Last night, the Gender Relations Center (GRC), along with Shades of Ebony, hosted an alumni panel to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the GRC. The five panelists were crucial to the founding of the GRC and included Kaitlyn Redfield Ortiz '06, Zach Ortiz '06, John Corker '07, Lizzi Shappell '07 and Heather Rakoczy Russell '93. Christine Gebhardt, director of the GRC, served as the moderator.

The panel began with a discussion of what prompted the panelists to realize an organization such as the GRC was necessary. Redfield Ortiz said the behavior of a male classmate made her realize what a problem gender relations were at Notre Dame.

"I was sitting in my freshmen writing class, and this guy had a shirt on like one of those old Snickers commercials, except it said 'Hungry? Grab a SMCer,'" she said. "I was

see GRC PAGE 4

Professor asks the question 'can liberty be conserved?'

By JP GSCHWIND
News Writer

Claremont McKenna professor and former federal government administrator Mark Blitz explored the question, "Can liberty be conserved?" on Monday afternoon in Geddes Hall.

To begin his talk, Blitz said it is crucial to understand precisely what liberty is before we can start to find a way of preserving it.

"Liberty is the authority to direct oneself and to not be constrained in directing oneself," Blitz said.

In order to fully comprehend this definition, it is important to note that liberty is both natural and equal, Blitz said. The equality of liberty means everyone has an equal authority to direct themselves. He said that by nature, liberty is not a manifestation of arbitrary cultural preferences formed by humans but

instead a fundamental, natural fact of life independent of other factors.

"It's not a throwaway term; it's not a meaningless term. It's really a fundamental term," Blitz said, in reference to natural rights.

Blitz said that the independence essence of natural rights is crucial to the concept of liberty.

"We don't make them,

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THE OBSERVER

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

Questions regarding Observer policies should be directed to Editor-in-Chief Greg Hadley.

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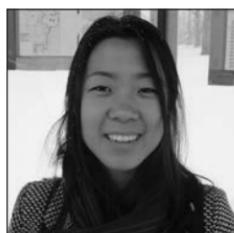
QUESTION OF THE DAY:

What quality do you most admire in your female role model?

Have a question you want answered?
Email photo@ndsmcobserver.com



Mary Hermann
sophomore
Walsh Hall
"Compassion."



Jen Lee
senior
McGlinn Hall
"Ambition."



Mike Vitek
senior
off campus
"Independence."



Jenn Cha
sophomore
Welsh Family Hall
"Awesome sense of humor."



Charles Shinaver
sophomore
Dillon Hall
"Perseverance."



Chizo Ekechukwu
senior
Walsh Hall
"Determination."



AMY ACKERMANN | The Observer

Ducks are seen floating on St. Joseph's Lake in a sight rare for late March. Monday, students experienced an unexpected snowfall that contrasted sharply with the 50- to 70-degree days they had experienced the week before.

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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

Tuesday

Vespers

Geddes Hall
5:15 p.m. - 5:45 p.m.
Reflection service
open to the public.

Memorial Mass for Lisa Yang

Basilica of the Sacred Heart
9 p.m. - 10 p.m.
Fr. John Jenkins to preside.

Wednesday

"Is Immigration Reform Dead?"

LaFortune Ballroom
7 p.m. - 8 p.m.
Participate in dialogue.

"Two Priests and a Nun Walk into a Bar"

Legends of Notre Dame
7 p.m. - 8 p.m.
Panel discussion.

Thursday

Art Battle

LaFortune Student Center
All day
Student competition.

"The Bible, Narrative and Modernity"

McKenna Hall
All day
Interdisciplinary conference.

Friday

LGBT Retreat

Off campus
All day
PRISM ND student-organized retreat.

Men's Baseball

Eck Baseball Stadium
6:05 p.m. - 8:05 p.m.
The Irish take on Virginia.

Saturday

Holy Half Marathon

Campus-wide
9 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Benefits the South Bend community.

Film: Inherent Vice (2014)

DeBartolo Performing Arts Center
6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
Open to the public.

SMC alum shares music teaching experiences

By **NICOLE CARATAS**
News Writer

Saint Mary's welcomed alumna Anne Pugliese Kasprzak and her Neuqua Valley High School Chamber Singers on Monday.

Zae Munn from the Department of Music introduced Kasprzak, who graduated with a music education degree and high honors in 1994. Kasprzak also received department awards in both music and education during her time at Saint Mary's.

Kasprzak is currently the director of the Chamber Singers at Neuqua Valley High School in Naperville, Illinois, and serves as the piano accompanist at the Holy Spirit Catholic Community, also in Naperville, Munn said in her introduction. Kasprzak has been a member of the Young Naperville Singers' Artistic Staff for 11 years as their director, Munn said.

Kasprzak said her all-women choir is preparing for a multicultural concert and previewed their selections for the Saint Mary's community. Kasprzak said she has

worked at a number of schools, including elementary, middle and high schools, with different levels of choral performances.

"My first teaching job was at an all-girls high school outside of Chicago," Kasprzak said. "I walked into a program that had five different teachers in six years. There was no curriculum, there was no piano... That year was a big growing year for me. I had to explore and find my own skills."

Kasprzak said she arrived at Neuqua Valley High School when she realized she needed to be around colleagues from whom she could learn more and who could help her grow as a teacher.

"Learning only begins the day you graduate from Saint Mary's," she said. "There is so much out there that you will learn in your field as you do it. I thought being in this school where I am the only music teacher, I'm not going to grow as a professional."

Kasprzak said the degree she earned at the College has enabled her to have various jobs, all of which she was passionate about.

"One of the things I never realized



CAITLYN JORDAN | The Observer

Anne Pugliese Kasprzak, a member of the Saint Mary's class of 1994, directs the Chamber Singers from Neuqua Valley High School in Naperville, Illinois at a concert in O'Laughlin Auditorium on Monday.

21 years ago was how many opportunities are available to someone with a degree in music education," Kasprzak said. "I've been able to find work during all phases of my life. From days when I was single and my whole life revolved around my job to now, when I have two young children and a newborn at home, I feel so lucky to have been able to adapt my career to my different life situations and

circumstances.

"Not every field works that way," she said. "It truly is a rewarding career with many opportunities. You just have to look for them."

Teaching is a challenging but hugely rewarding career, Kasprzak said.

"Teaching is an art form that continually develops through the years," Kasprzak said. "The more you do it, the better you get at it. You

will make mistakes. Own them, and learn from them.

"Grow from the challenges you will face inside and outside the classroom. Teaching is a career that requires a lot of energy, passion and commitment. Find joy in your students and remember that learning never ends."

Contact Nicole Caratas at ncaratas01@saintmarys.edu

Expert emphasizes interfaith dialogue

By **CLARE KOSSLER**
News Writer

Miroslav Volf, the Henry B. Wright Professor of Systematic Theology at Yale University, delivered a keynote address for the Catholic Social Tradition Conference on Monday in McKenna Hall Auditorium. In the address, he emphasized the importance of interfaith dialogue in achieving peace and happiness in an increasingly global world.

"World religions have an important contribution to make as repositories of significant visions of human flourishing, significant visions of the good life," he said.

"If we don't find ways to live, plural that we are, in peace within the common political space under a common political roof, our lives

— all of our lives — are going to be worse for it."

During the talk, which is part of a three-day conference celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Vatican II document "Gaudium et spes," Volf said that religious exclusivism — which he explained as a religion's belief in its exclusive access to the ultimate truth — initially seems to present an obstacle to the peaceful coexistence of different religions. The problem, particularly, is that all world religions are fundamentally exclusive to varying degrees.

"There is no non-exclusivist position," he said. "I don't think there are non-exclusivists in this room."

However, Volf said religious exclusivism does not necessarily lead to political exclusivism or the restriction of freedom of beliefs

and expression in a certain society. Indeed, he said, history provides examples of religious exclusivists who also supported toleration of other belief systems.

"It's not just that religious exclusivists can be political pluralists, but as a matter of fact, historically, they have invented political pluralism out of their own interests."

Furthermore, in some cases, exclusivism even encourages toleration, he said.

"You can be a religious exclusivist, and just because of your exclusivist religious convictions, you can embrace pluralism as a political project," Volf said.

Unfortunately, exclusivism does not always engender pluralism, but requires certain conditions, Volf said. One such condition, he said, is an "interest

in commonalities rather than differences."

"We need the kinds of relations between religions in which they would be able to adjust their own expectations from each other in the context of living in the common space while staying true to their own identity and true to their own vocation," he said.

While these relations might initially seem difficult to develop, Volf said they are actually very natural to humans. He gave the example of family life, in which family members must take into account the needs and desires of each other in order to live together in harmony.

"You don't make decisions without thinking how your teenage son's going to react," he said.

Volf said this approach to

encouraging coexistence through a meaningful dialogue is particularly important in combating nihilism, which asserts that values and value systems have no foundation.

In contrast to nihilism, he said, many world religions actually support many commonly held democratic values.

"Each world religion will have and can have resources within itself to embrace, say, freedom of religion, to embrace equality of others," he said.

Lectures and panels will continue throughout the day today as part of the Catholic Social Tradition Conference hosted by the Center for Social Concerns.

Contact Clare Kossler at ckossler@nd.edu

AROUND CAMPUS

Purple Week

This week, Notre Dame's Relay for Life will host "Purple Week," a series of events to raise awareness and funds for the annual American Cancer Society fundraiser.

"Purple Week gives the campus community an opportunity to join in the fight against cancer," Relay for Life student co-chair Amanda Romeros said.

The week includes \$5 boot camp classes at Rolfs, a "Why Do You Relay?" event on South Quad on Wednesday and a blood drive Friday. On Thursday, the dining halls will serve purple desserts, and students can register for the Relay for Life, which takes place in the Compton Family Ice Arena on April 17.

For more information, visit relay.nd.edu

Cavanaugh Coin Wars

Cavanaugh Hall's new signature event, Cavanaugh Coin Wars, will take place this week. The fundraiser will benefit St. Margaret's House, a South Bend day center for women and children.

Through Friday, each dorm will have a jar in the dining halls and LaFortune Student Center. Coins put in the jar count for positive points, whereas dollar bills are negative. The dorm with the most positive points at the end receives a doughnut party.

"All you have to do is go to the dining hall or go to [LaFortune Student Center], and most people are already there, so it's a great way to make an impact without really having to do anything," Cavanaugh signature event

commissioner Gracie Linus said.

Black Cultural Arts Council Fashion Show

The Black Cultural Arts Council at Notre Dame will host its annual fashion show Saturday at 8 p.m. at the Century Center in South Bend. The show, "Risque," will feature 30 students modeling in name-brand clothes as well as clothes from a variety of South Bend boutiques.

"It is far from what people would deem a 'normal' fashion show," fashion show coordinator Olivia Mitchell said. "Included in our show are choreographed scenes where our models portray characters, perform routines and generally just have a lot of fun while on stage."

Tickets are available for \$10 at

the LaFortune Box Office, and buses to the Century Center will be provided.

WWI and Graphic Novels

The Nanovic Institute of European Studies will sponsor a performance and live-drawing of several texts related to World War I on Wednesday.

The event, titled "WWI in the Graphic Novels: A Drawing Cabaret," will feature graphic novel artists Chloe Cruchaudet Ivan Petrus and Kris & Maël. Nanovic fellow and event moderator Olivier Morel said artists play an important role in understanding the Great War.

"As creators, their art involves a lot of writing and storytelling, a strong relationship to the artistic and literary traditions, but also to photography, sociology and, of

course, cinema," Morel said.

Morel said each of the artists chose a WWI-related text that inspired their work, which Film, Television and Theatre students Dylan Parent, Austin Hagwood, Anthony Murphy and Guillermo Alonso will act out. During their performances, the artists will draw the scene, and cameras will project the drawings for the audience to see. There will then be a discussion between the artists and the audience.

"Everyone should be aware that this first world war of the 20th century has profoundly changed our world in so many ways: its geography, its society and of course, its culture, its art history," Morel said.

The event is free but ticketed. Tickets are available by contacting nanovic@nd.edu

Lacrosse

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

a longer lasting impact than they have at one-time events.

“Every once in a while, there’s something great you can accomplish at one of those events, but there were too many of those events where I felt we weren’t getting the best return for our time,” Corrigan said.

Corrigan said he believes recurring service creates a lasting impact on not just students but the community around them as well.

“Short of the time it takes us to get to the school, every minute that they’re there, they’re helping someone because they’re forming a relationship with those kids,” Corrigan said.

Corrigan said the mentoring program at Dickinson provided just what he was looking for in a service opportunity for his team.

“Because we’ve maintained this program for a while now,

I think it becomes impactful not just on the kid you’re talking to, but to the community of the school,” he said. “Now the kids know that if you don’t do the things you’re supposed to do, you can’t be a part of the program. I think we’ve found a program that provides service to more people than just the ones we’re able to spend time with.”

The mentoring the team does at Dickinson is varied, Corrigan said.

“Our guys do some tutoring and academic work, but sometimes, it’s just hanging out and shooting baskets, and sometimes it’s playing Jenga and Battleship,” Corrigan said. “What [the program] is trying to do is form an impactful relationship with someone, many of whom may not have strong male role models.”

Corrigan said he believes the program has been very beneficial for the students at Dickinson, but even more so for his players.

“One of the important things to us is that the culture of our team is one of gratitude



AMY ACKERMANN | The Observer

Notre Dame men’s lacrosse team is this year’s recipient of the ‘Game Changers’ award for their service at the Dickinson Fine Arts Academy. The honoree is chosen by the ACC, in partnership with United Way.

and humility,” Corrigan said. “Through service, you help guys 18-22 years old recognize how lucky they are, how fortunate their situation is, and how easy it is to impact someone’s life. That’s all part of the development process that we want our guys to go through,

and its part of what the mission of any college athletic program should be about.”

Service work is integral to the Notre Dame student-athlete experience, Corrigan said.

“The guys knew that service was going to be part of the deal when they were recruited

here, they know that’s part of the program,” he said. “If the guys go through the program here and leave and all they did was play games, then we definitely missed something.”

Contact Matthew McKenna at mmcken12@nd.edu

Liberty

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

create them, or invent them, but that, in some sense, they are permanently there to be seen and discovered,” Blitz said.

However, Blitz said, natural rights are often ignored and trampled by man-made prejudices.

“As with many self-evident things, you can’t see them if you are somehow blinded or wearing masks or looking through gauze,” Blitz said. “You can see them clearly only if the blinders of class preference or ethnic preference or group preference or traditional ways or mysticism or unquestionably obedient religious views are taken away.”

According to Blitz, the Enlightenment was responsible for removing many of these blinders and espousing

the cause of natural rights. Despite the fact that the original backing of natural rights transcended partisan lines, it has become far more of a one-sided issue than it should be today, Blitz said.

Individual liberty has become more strongly associated with modern conservatism than liberalism, at least in the United States, but natural rights should draw its support from common ground, Blitz said.

“Conservatism should conserve liberalism, properly understood,” Blitz said.

After defining natural rights, Blitz examined the ways in which a society can protect and promote liberty.

Citing Aristotle, Blitz said that good character and a proper set of virtues are the foundations of successful liberty.

“You can’t use your liberty effectively and therefore not

well, if you don’t have good character,” he said.

In particular, Blitz said, responsibility is one of the greatest virtues and character traits in this regard because it balances the potential misuses of liberty.

“Responsibility is taking charge and seeing things through to a successful conclusion,” he said.

While a free society requires responsibility, it paradoxically produces it, as well, because liberty encourages citizens to remain true to their commitments and duties.

Blitz concluded his lecture by saying that liberal democracies are not morally lost, as some claim, but help develop the human soul. Following the lecture, he opened the floor up to questions.

Contact JP Gschwind at jgschwin@nd.edu

GRC

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

shocked that this was acceptable, so it seemed kind of natural that this is what we would work for.”

The panelists then talked about the issues they faced when building up the GRC. Rakoczy Russell said it was

she said.

Ortiz, one of the founders of Men Against Violence (MAV), said another goal was to get men more involved in issues that males did not associate as “men’s issues.”

“We were still at a time where sexual assault was still considered to be a women’s issue,” he said. “It was very interesting to see how different

“I was sitting in my freshmen writing class, and this guy had a shirt on like one of those old Snickers commercials, except it said ‘Hungry? Grab a SMCer.’ I was shocked that this was acceptable, so it seemed kind of natural that this is what we would work for.”

Kaitlyn Redfield Ortiz
class of ‘06

hard to collaborate with other groups because they had preconceived notions about what they were standing for.

“The Gender Relation Center, and probably me specifically, were regarded with suspicion by pretty much everyone,” she said. “Gender was a really loaded term at the time and it was really hard to get anyone to sign on as a panel.”

They also talked about their early goals for the GRC and the primary issues they were trying to combat. Shappell said they tried to emphasize reaching as broad an audience as possible.

“One thing that I found was really important was trying to bring the Gender Relations Center, for all of its impressions and and people’s stereotypes about whether we were left or we were right, or what we were doing, was to make the GRC more mainstream,”

groups within campus would try to work together with these different ideologies.”

Corker, another founder of MAV, said there was a problem with men simply ignoring issues pertaining to gender.

“There was a tacit, cop-out view of ‘that sort of stuff doesn’t happen at Notre Dame’ and ‘I don’t do that kind of stuff so I don’t need to take a stand against it,’” he said.

To close, Corker encouraged students to be proactive about finding and creating dialogue about gender issues. He said students need to challenge their own ideas.

“Don’t just be open to, but seek out conversations with other people for the express purpose of challenging the beliefs that you may have, that you may feel are right or are valuable,” he said.

Contact Megan Valley at mvalley@nd.edu



JODI LO | The Observer

Mark Blitz, Claremont McKenna professor and former federal government administrator, speaks about the effects modern institutions have on personal liberties during a lecture in Geddes Hall on Monday.

GWS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

to women in leadership.

"We are so fortunate to have them on campus to share their stories with us and open up conversations about topics that need to be changed within the world," Bukur said.

Bukur said the aim of the conference is to inspire students.

"I hope the students take away a new outlook on diversity and confidence to go out into the world," she said.

As part of the conference, three Gender and Women's Studies (GWS) professors presented a panel discussion titled "Gender and Women's Studies and Diversity at Saint Mary's College: Past, Present and Future."

It is important to address the contrasts between social justice and multiculturalism and ideas of race, class differences and sexual orientation, assistant professor of history and GWS Jamie Wagman said.

Her Introduction to Gender and Women's Studies course discusses the positive side of feminism, Wagman said, but the class also discusses criticism of feminism as a "segregated sisterhood."

Wagman said it is important to talk about how sometimes early feminists movements were flawed. She said white feminists and black feminists both protested the Miss America pageant in 1968.

"They were working for the same cause, but they weren't working together; they weren't talking to each other," Wagman said.

In an introductory course to GWS, understanding the achievements of feminism is just as important as understanding the downfalls of early feminist methods, Wagman said.

"Gender and Women's Studies is a large and very much growing discipline," she said. "We talk about the way the movement wasn't unified in working for the rights of all women."

Building empathy for the experiences of marginalized

groups is a large part of the Intro to GWS course, Wagman said. The course includes an experiential learning component, which requires students to complete 15 hours of service at a local nonprofit, she said. Nonprofits at which students have worked include Hannah's House and St. Margaret's House, she said.

Stacy Davis, associate professor of religious studies and chair of the GWS department, said the first women's studies class was taught in 1972 and titled Psychology of Women. The class promoted understanding of women and diversity, she said.

"There is a connection between GWS long before diversity was a code word on campus," she said.

The department began on a soccer field, Davis said, when female professors at the College began a faculty team and began to talk with one another about women's issues.

"In addition to being excellent soccer players, they got to know each other and eventually worked with Sr. Eva Hooker to get a grant for course development," she said.

A 14-credit minor in GWS was approved in March 1985 by the College, Davis said. This year marks the 30-year anniversary of GWS, she said.

In 1994, Davis said the Introduction to GWS course was taught for the first time by volunteer faculty. Davis said she believes this fact indicates the dedication of the interdisciplinary GWS faculty to what the GWS department represents.

In 2013, the joint GWS faculty submitted a major prospectus and it was approved in 2014. Currently, there are five students majoring in GWS and the program expects to expand, she said.

Davis said the GWS faculty is the most diverse staff on campus, other than modern languages faculty.

"Long before the Sophia program, [GWS staff] was teaching diversity classes that have stuck around and are still taught today," Davis said.

Sonalini Sapra, assistant

professor of political science and GWS, said she works hard in her classes to debunk stereotypes of women as victims of their circumstances.

"The way women's rights play out in Morocco and Egypt, Tunisia and Jordan, it varies," she said. "The Middle East is not some monolith."

Her class also studies the way in which women's rights are used as a justification for military intervention, especially in media images, she said.

"The way that Muslim women are depicted in advertisements, the images do a disservice to women and don't afford them any agency," Sapra said.

"Advertisements [and other media images] create false dichotomies ... Our women are so empowered here in the U.S. and [the images] create this 'us and them' mentality, instead of a solidarity mentality," she said.

Sapra said her students explore the social movements led by women who are often seen as marginalized by other societies. For example, Muslim women in some parts of the world have converted the headscarf into an empowering icon, instead of a symbol of oppression.

Interest and work in feminist activity on campus ebbs and flows, based on the student population, but the GWS faculty searches to find ways to keep feminist activity a sustained dialogue among students, Sapra said.

Davis urged students to look at the GWS department as a model for change.

"Change does take time. It took 12 years to get a major, eight years to get a minor," she said. "If you want to get something done, particularly something that's hard, it takes time, and some of the faculty aren't here to see it finish."

"Inherent in any GWS program is activism. For the most part, we are feminists and part of being a feminist is that you work for justice for other people."

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Pakistan

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

for the College's 10th annual Diverse Student Leadership Conference (DSLCL).

Despite Shahid's strong family structure, she "knew all around [her] that things were broken."

Shahid said she sought answers as terrorism and radicalization grew during her post-9/11 childhood, lived under military dictatorship in Pakistan.

"Things like suicide attacks, terrorist attacks were becoming commonplace," Shahid said. "I needed to understand what was happening to my society, so I decided to understand it through the lens of women and girls who lived the issues that I only saw from afar."

Shahid said she began to take up roles that would allow her to help the very women she sought to learn from.

"I learned that I could multiply the influence that I had as a grassroots volunteer if I could mobilize people, tell stories effectively and get people to act."

Shiza Shahid
co-founder
Malala Fund

"When I was 13, I began volunteering in a women's prison," Shahid said. "In the prison, there were not any real female doctors, so I offered to set up medical counsel along with a local NGO [non-governmental organization]. I would spend time with women who were in deeply vulnerable positions."

Shahid said observing these women, and their incarcerations' effects on their families, was tragic, particularly for their children.

"Children at the site were born while their mothers were in captivity," Shahid said. "I understood what it meant then to be discarded before you were born for those who were born behind bars and then raised behind bars along side their mothers."

Her role as a grassroots organizer would be something she would practice repeatedly throughout her lifetime.

Shahid said when she was 16, her best friend died in an earthquake because the building he was in was built with faulty materials. Shahid said she was the only regular female volunteer at the local relief center, which meant all the women and girls with medical problems came to her.

"I remember taking a [Pakistani woman to a doctor because her] breast milk froze inside her from the cold," Shahid said. "I would spend the day talking to young girl in hot tents knowing we couldn't go outside because their mothers and fathers did not want them to be seen."

She said the gender dynamics of the relief center informed her of a reality she had not witness before.

"I understood then what it meant to be a woman facing harsh circumstances in the world," Shahid said. "To have your very body, your very existence, as a source of shame."

The activist said the learning experience was as inspiring as it was saddening.

"I also learned the power of being an advocate," she said. "I learned that I could multiply the influence that I had as a grassroots volunteer if I could mobilize people, tell stories effectively and get people to act."

Shahid said her volunteering experiences allowed her to understand her own role in the world around her.

"All of us have the power to create change," she said.

Empowered, Shahid said she applied to some of the top schools in the United States with a personal statement that read: "My society is like a moth, drawn to the flame of its own destruction ... I want to get a scholarship so that I can help my society, so that I can help other girls."

Shahid said her full-ride to Stanford helped her understand her country's problems in a much more academic way. Her deeper intellectual comprehension, paired with Stanford's entrepreneurial brightest, primed her to think about constructive solutions for contentious issues.

As terrorism in Pakistan grew, Shahid said she "felt the social fabric of [her] society growing." With its fray, Shahid felt beckoned to her homeland to apply what she had learned to those in need — girls who were forbidden to attend school, she said.

Shahid said she heard how the Taliban threatened young girls who wanted to attend school just three hours north of Pakistan's capital and felt compelled to do something.

At 20 years old, Shahid was inspired by a little girl named Malala to help create an environment for girls where their education would not be destroyed.

"Discover beyond the life you were born into," Shahid said. "Understanding who you are is not only an incredible responsibility but an immense joy."

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CAITLYN JORDAN | The Observer

Professors from the Saint Mary's Gender and Women Studies department discuss past and present feminist activity on campus during a panel session in the Student Center on Monday.

INSIDE COLUMN

Make it happen

Manuel De Jesus
Sports Writer

Until you make an effort to see the rest of the world, you can't fully understand the beauty of what life has to offer. Everyone I have ever talked to has agreed with me when I tell them traveling is a remarkable experience. I don't mean traveling from South Bend to Chicago or even Boston to Los Angeles. I'm talking about traveling the world and really involving yourself in the different cultures and environments.

It's easy to say you understand the way other countries differ from ours, but do you really understand the difference if you've never traveled outside the United States? I don't think you can. I've been on several trips to countries like Puerto Rico and Honduras since I was eight years old, but I never really understood how special it is to travel until I was given the opportunity to go to Italy when I was 17.

I didn't think much of the trip before actually getting on the plane, but once I landed in Rome, I realized how special that particular trip was going to be.

I knew I wasn't in my comfort zone because of how unfamiliar I was with where I traveled, but that's the whole point. The adventure of walking in the unknown is what really opened my eyes. Being in the presence of historical locations really put into perspective how amazing traveling really is for me. Walking inside of the crumbling Colosseum, staring up at the Leaning Tower of Pisa and standing in the middle of Vatican City were some of the most surreal moments of my life. I went from reading about these places to sharing the same space with them.

In addition to viewing historical sites, talking to native Italians was one of my favorite parts about being abroad. Listening to some of their incredible stories about what they struggled with in terms of the country's political and economic struggles and what they are enjoying about living in Italy was another surreal experience. These were people living on the other side of the world willing to share personal stories with me, a stranger from the U.S. I also had the chance to learn a bit of Italian, and although I didn't actually learn how to speak it fluently, it was fun being able to learn some of the basic aspects of the language while sounding like a child whenever I spoke it on the streets.

I don't have a lot of space to go into the specific details of my trip, but I was hoping to give those of you who haven't traveled to other parts of the world a small glimpse of why it's such an amazing and sometimes life-changing experience. Make the effort to get out of your comfort zone and go somewhere you'd never expect to visit, or even somewhere you never knew even existed. Don't let life go by without going on your dream trip. Make it happen.

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

Lead, kindly light

Dan Sehlhorst
We've Lost Our Quorum

Early in the morning of Feb. 27, I found myself unable to sleep. As I tossed and turned, I made the typically uneventful decision to check my email, during which I discovered one of the most heart-wrenching moments in my lifetime. On a small screen, I read through fuzzy, half asleep eyes the saddest message ever to come to my inbox.

I learned that University President Emeritus Fr. Theodore Hesburgh had been called home late on the night of Feb. 26.

Fr. Hesburgh was undoubtedly the most incredible man that I have ever met. He is one of the few individuals I would dare call a hero. After the initial shock, the first decision I made on Friday morning was to visit the Grotto and pay my respects to my hero.

As the sun rose behind the clouds over a frozen, snow-covered St. Mary's Lake, I was greeted by an arrangement of candles spelling "Ted." I was touched by the thoughtfulness of the anonymous individual that left a sign of the enormous love this community felt for Fr. Ted in a sacred space that so fittingly represented his dedication to his faith and Our Lady's University.

I noticed some of the candles in the "Ted" display had been extinguished after running out of wax. I felt called to replace them, knowing that any memorial to Fr. Hesburgh, even a temporary one, deserved to be complete. As I lit the first candle, I noticed that the flame stayed very small, only lighting the tip of the wick. It flickered weakly in the sub-zero degree wind. I hoped that it would not be smothered by the cold, harsh darkness.

Slowly, ever so slowly, the minuscule flame worked its way down the wick, flickering near the point of disappearing several times. When it reached the body of the wax, the flame grew. At first slowly, then faster, the flame erupted into a bright, beautiful glow.

I felt, in that moment, under the gaze of Our Lady, that I had received a blessing. I saw in this small flame the story of faith and the story of leadership. Alone, our light shines dimly, flickering near the point of passing away. When we connect to our faith, the source of our life and our spirit, and engage in building community that lives faith in its relationships, we receive strength, hope and love that empower each individual to shine with their full potential.

Fr. Hesburgh was a courageous leader in faith, calling for civil and human rights, international peace and gender equality, making enormous progress in eradicating injustice and building community. Fr. Ted was truly a titan of a man, but also a man of startling humility and devoted faith who asked simply to be known as a priest.

As a man of God, there is no doubt in my mind that Fr. Hesburgh was exemplary. In the days following his death, I have heard many stories about his deeply personal prayer. It has been described as something so profound that it left those who witnessed his words feeling as something of a spectator to an intimate, extraordinarily significant conversation.

It is clear to me that Fr. Ted led this University from a place of faith, knowing that our faith called us to pursue truth, fight injustice and attain excellence. It is also clear to me that our path to stronger community and justice is a continued expression of the faith that leads us toward truth.

One of my favorite songs is "Lead, Kindly Light," as sung by the Notre Dame Folk Choir. Every time I hear its beautiful words, I feel a sharp tug deep in my soul. Just as the Lord once said, "Come, follow me," the lyrics are calling me to take a step beyond that request and actively follow the Light, my faith.

Fr. Ted has often been called visionary. I found this term to be insufficient to describe the depth of a once-in-a-generation mind paired with a heart that everyone knew to be so full of love and devotion. When I read the back of my ticket to the memorial tribute, I was struck by the relevance of the quote from Fr. Hesburgh, "Vision alone gives us only a visionary, in the pejorative sense of the word. But join vision and faith, and mountains begin."

With being an inspiration comes a massive and irremovable responsibility to show the ultimate example of maturity and moral leadership. I cannot express my gratitude to Fr. Hesburgh for exercising this leadership for our community and building the place that has instilled in me a love of truth, a love of community and a love of justice.

Dan Sehlhorst is a junior studying economics and political science. Hailing from Troy, Ohio, and a resident of Zahm House, he looks forward to conversation about his columns and can be contacted at dsehlhor@nd.edu

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

EDITORIAL CARTOON



Why difficult conversations are impossible

JC Sullivan

Prologue to Farce

Last week, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell announced his intention to delay a vote on Loretta Lynch's confirmation as United States Attorney General until the Senate considers a bill aimed at fighting human trafficking. This bill has met Democratic opposition because of certain anti-abortion provisions. The entire mess demonstrates Washington's propensity to value political bickering and point scoring over functional governance and policy making. Such a storyline is simply the latest plot twist in Washington's political theater.

However, some Democrats have asserted that the confirmation hold up derives from a more insidious motive than "politics as usual." Representative Corrine Brown commented, "there is hidden racism rampant in the House and the Senate." Potential presidential candidate Hilary Clinton tweeted that the hold-up was one third of a "Congressional trifecta against women." Senator Dick Durbin declared, "Loretta Lynch, the first African-American woman nominated to be attorney general, is asked to sit in the back of the bus when it comes to the Senate calendar."

I have no interest in defending Congressional Republicans' decision to stall the confirmation of Ms. Lynch. However, the claim that these actions come from a place of racism or sexism is idiotic. As President Obama iterated, "this is purely about politics." Perhaps the most dumbfounding aspect of such claims is that Eric Holder, the man Loretta Lynch will eventually replace, is an African-American who was confirmed with bipartisan support. Or maybe more dumbfounding is that Senator Durbin filibustered Janice Rogers Brown's

nomination to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. circuit, considering Ms. Rogers Brown was the first African-American woman nominated to serve the position.

Even though these accusations are clearly unsupported, these types of comments have become commonplace in political rhetoric. Further, I think they represent a dangerous trend that has emerged among national discourse on topics of race and sex.

One's identity and adherence to an ever-growing standard of political correctness supersede reason and evidence as the standard by which arguments are evaluated and ultimately accepted or rejected. Usually on the basis of toleration, debate on topics of race or sex is intensely regulated by those who feel any opposing viewpoint is inherently biased, bigoted, hateful, offensive or any of the growing list of "isms." This standard maintains that your identity fundamentally incorporates a bias or inability, ranging from subconscious ignorance to ingrained hatred, when discussing such topics. The logical basis or evidential support of one's contribution is at least qualified and often dismissed based on such a standard.

This new standard is evident in the claims of racism and sexism in the Lynch confirmation. While it is blatantly obvious that the confirmation hold up is a political maneuverer, the mere fact that Loretta Lynch is a black female allows outrageous claims of sexism and racism against Senate Republicans to not only be entertained but embraced.

The irony of such a standard of political discourse is that it is inherently intolerant and exacerbates racism and sexism. It is, without qualification, intolerant that one's viewpoint is discredited or written off from a discussion because of his or her identity or the identity of his or her opponent. To assume that any disagreement with an individual

is motivated by racism or sexism utterly destroys meaningful conversation, especially regarding race or sex. It also manipulates our understanding of racism or sexism in the United States because such claims are recognized without any due consideration of evidence or reasoning.

Consider the post on Salon titled 10 ways white people are more racist than they realize. The article claims to elevate a national conversation about racial tolerance. Yet, it does so by describing ways in which an entire race is inherently biased and therefore unqualified to discuss this topic. Recall that the definition of racism is the belief that all members of each race possess characteristics or abilities specific to that race.

Identity and a logically inconsistent notion of "tolerance" is the standard in our contemporary discourse, not reason or evidence. This incorrect ordering creates a misguided understanding of an individual's contribution as singularly motivated by his or her own identity or the identity of his or her opponent. This is perhaps the worst way to carry out a national dialogue on these fragile yet vital topics.

If we want to have a real conversation about race or sex, which is what you hear in the ironically constant conversations about these topics, I would start by examining what contributions we value in this conversation and why. We already are having a conversation about race and sex in the United States, but when claims of sexism or racism are even entertained in circumstances like the confirmation of Loretta Lynch, I understand why many are disappointed with the results.

JC Sullivan is a junior living in Keenan Hall. He can be contacted at jsulli18@nd.edu

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

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The violence in our time

Every morning I wake up and read an email from The Week detailing a short paragraph on each of the top 10 news stories of the day. I love reading this daily email. But all too often I cringe when I read it because so many of the news items report of violence. Here are some headlines just from the past week: "Suicide bombers kill more than 130 people at Yemen mosques," "Attackers kill 19 people at Tunisian museum," "ISIS used chemical weapons."

To read these news stories day after day, it is not difficult to become cynical about the state of our world and the awful things that are happening in it. And even in our country, the item that most pops up on these daily email alerts is the execution of criminals on death row in the United States. Is the state of violence in our country as bad as in the Middle East? Clearly not. But it is not ideal, and the presence of the death penalty in our country is not a part of the peaceful world we want to live in.

The reason to oppose the death penalty is not because we think that the heinous crimes that one commits (such as a husband murdering his wife and one-and-a-half-year-old baby) aren't heinous. They are. The reason to oppose the death penalty is not to give mercy to those who have committed these crimes. The reason to oppose the death penalty is not because it's cheaper to hold a prisoner for life than to have him executed on death row (even though it is). The reason to oppose the death penalty is not because some innocent members of society will be executed (even though they already

have been). The reason to oppose the death penalty is not because the USA is currently the only western country that still practices the death penalty. The reason to oppose the death penalty is not because the Catholic Church and Pope Francis have repeatedly called for its worldwide abolition, calling it "inadmissible."

These are all good reasons. But the primary and the best reason to oppose the death penalty is that every time a criminal is executed by the state, that criminal is executed by the government, and the government as an agent of the people. That person is executed in our name and in the name of every citizen in this country. We are sanctioning this killing — it is happening in our name. All citizens need to be cognizant of this and that this is happening. We need to be aware that members of our society are being killed for us. Is this what we want?

Last month, captured Jordanian pilot Mudah al-Kasabeh was burnt alive by ISIS. The next day before dawn, Jordan executed two prisoners by hanging in retaliation for the murder of their pilot. Both were guilty of horrifying acts. But it should not have happened. It is a shame that it had to happen. Violence begets violence. Murder gives way for more murder. In the case of capital execution, this is clearly true. Is this what we want?

In Steven Pinker's landmark book *The Better Angels of Our Nature*, Pinker writes that, contrary to what reading the news might tempt us to believe, world violence is actually at the lowest point it ever

has been in human history. The world is getting better. Pinker writes that this shift did not happen by accident: "We enjoy the peace we find today because people in past generations were appalled by the violence in their time and worked to reduce it, and so we should work to reduce the violence that remains in our time."

Capital execution is still legal in 32 states in the United States (including Indiana). This is the violence that remains in our time that can be abolished and will be abolished in our lifetimes. We want a world of peace. We want a world where every person can go to school without fear of being kidnapped, where every human can worship as they please without fear of being crucified. We want to be able to enjoy our lives peacefully.

The death penalty is wrong. It is so clearly, unequivocally, obviously wrong. Abolishing the death penalty in the state of Indiana will not eradicate violence from our world. It will not stop ISIS or Boko Haram from doing what they do. But it is progress toward the world that we most want to live in.

If you are interested in learning more about this issue, please consider attending Sr. Helen Prejean's talk "Abolition of Capital Punishment" on Tuesday, March 31 at 7:00 p.m. at Our Lady of the Road (744 S. Main Street, South Bend, Indiana).

Pat Boduch
senior
Stanford Hall
March 22

COMMUNITY RETURNS

By **JIMMY KEMPER**
Scene Writer

The dream of six seasons and a movie lives on. In a move that would have shocked Abed and have him racking his brain for any predecessors in the history of television, “Community” has risen from cancellation (and several prior near-cancellations) to find a new home on Yahoo’s streaming service for its sixth season.

Of course, with this new home come a number of new developments. With the move to Yahoo, one of the biggest changes for “Community” is the cast shuffling. Donald Glover, who was a recurring cast member in season five, is still gone after his character Troy Barnes departed from the show at the end of last season. Chevy Chase seems unlikely to reappear as Pierce Hawthorne after his guest role in season 5 (although his hologram is referenced). The newest and probably biggest change for this season, however, is the departure of Yvette Nicole Brown (Shirley Bennett in the show), who has moved on to NBC’s “The Odd Couple” and taking care of her elderly father as the demands of a single-camera comedy show became too big of a commitment.

With so many departures finalized, fans had plenty to worry about with the rebirth of “Community.” There is nothing to fear though — the new season of

“Community” is everything it should be: quirky, innovative and radically hilarious.

In one of the first scenes of the first episode, “Community” addresses the cast changes in the straightforward manner sprinkled with all the meta humor we’ve all come to know and love. The remaining members of the study group sit around their study table and discuss how empty it is. Abed wonders about Shirley spinning off into her own show, while Ben Chang (Ken Jeong) becomes paranoid about the growing whiteness in the group.

With perfect comedic time, Dean Pelton (Jim Rash) breaks the discussion to introduce Frankie (Paget Brewster), a consultant who will help fix up Greendale after the roof collapses due to a Frisbee overload, and who, to Ben’s dismay, is white.

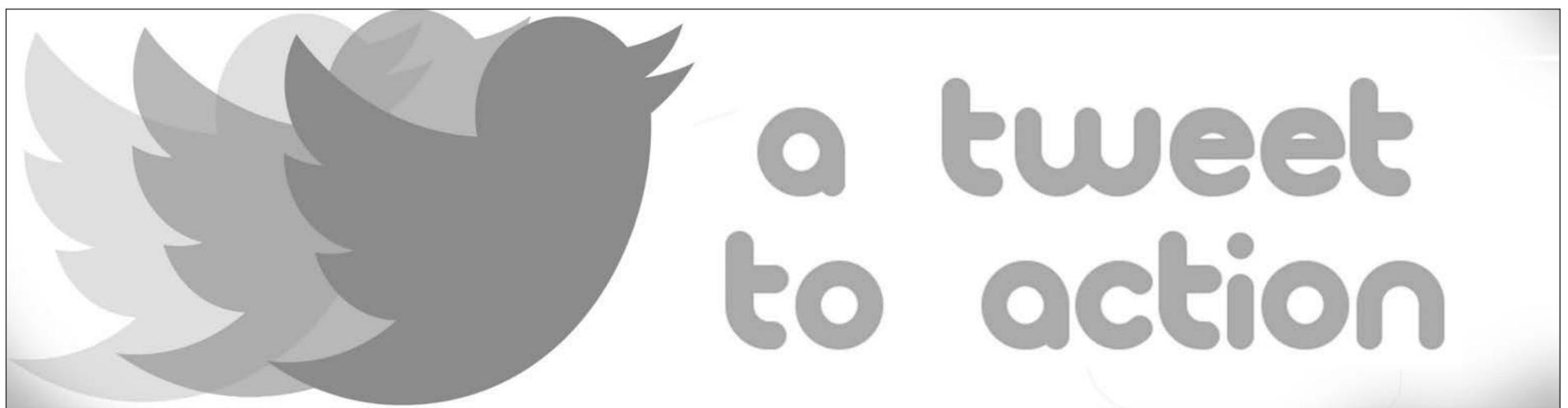
Throughout the first episode, Frankie plays the role of villain to the group. The study group fears that Frankie’s ideas for Greendale Community College will kill the heart of it, much like the fans feared Yahoo would kill the heart of “Community.” Abed, to the dismay of the rest of the study group, quickly becomes friends with Frankie because she represents everything that he isn’t: grounded in reality, no-nonsense and boring. Her character quickly develops though, and the dynamics between Frankie and the rest of “Community” progress as well.

As before, the cast of “Community” continues to be the cornerstone of the show, and in Season 6 they continue to be absolutely brilliant. Jeff Winger (Joel McHale) is still an alcoholic jerk whose blunt attitude sharply cuts through Dean Pelton’s strange behavior, while Britta Perry (Gillian Jacobs) is still unhinged and melodramatic, coming into conflict with anyone and anything that stands in her way.

In the second episode of this season, Britta is forced to deal with the reality that her parents, whom she ran away from years ago, have actually been keeping close tabs on her through her friends and tries running away again, albeit on a children’s bicycle this time.

All of these characters are still absolutely ridiculous, but the situations they place themselves in, filled with bizarre pop culture references, ups the comedy even more. Strange incidents involving speakeasies in Greendale’s basement, the lamest virtual reality ever and the Portuguese knockoff of “Gremlins” show that the creative team behind Community hasn’t lost its touch. Six seasons and a movie seems like an incredibly attainable goal right now, but hopefully we, like Jeff Winger, are never allowed to leave Greendale.

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Miko Malabute
Scene Writer

When your team plays for something as big as the conference championship, blood starts to boil over. Temperatures start to flare and pride starts to take over as fans become part of their team, part of the game. Nowadays especially, we take to the Twitter-sphere to live-tweet our support to our team as well as occasionally dropping a bit of trash-talk to the opposition, all in the nature of good fun. This was exactly what Ashley Judd — actress, political activist and proud member of the University of Kentucky’s Big Blue Nation — was doing when Kentucky faced the University of Arkansas in the SEC conference championship.

“@ArkRazorbacks dirty play can kiss my team’s free throw making a-- @KySportsRadio @marchmadness @espn Bloodied 3 players so far,” Judd tweeted from her Twitter account during the game.

This is what it means in today’s culture when one is an active consumer in the entertainment business, be it sports, theater, music or anything else: they live-tweet it. Instant reaction: raw emotion, unfiltered reactions. Communicating an experience to hundreds of thousands of followers that is as unique to you as

your 140 characters will allow. Judd was tweeting her experience, how she saw the game and what she believed was happening out there on the court.

What happened in response to Judd’s sharing of her game experience is one that is horrible, yet unfortunately very predictable in today’s online-culture. Vulgar, vile tweets from anonymous Twitter accounts masking countless people’s cowardice were sent to her, ranging from a variety of hateful insults to her as a person, disgusting comments to her as a woman and even threats to her, her livelihood and her family. This paragraph alone doesn’t do justice to how horrible these comments were. Yet, should any of these Twitter users be hypothetically asked, it would be far too easy to imagine that they would say it was a “joke,” that it was all “trash-talk” in response to Judd’s own comments about the game.

As a response to all of the hate, Judd took to Mic — a website designated to reach the millennials generation — to write an open letter to all of these people. She discusses how far-reaching the effects of the horrible tweets have been, and how those responsible justified such hateful, hurtful speech.

“The themes are predictable,” she muses about the hate-tweets she has since received. “I brought it on myself. I deserved it. I’m whiny. I’m no fun. I can’t take a joke. There are more serious issues in the world.

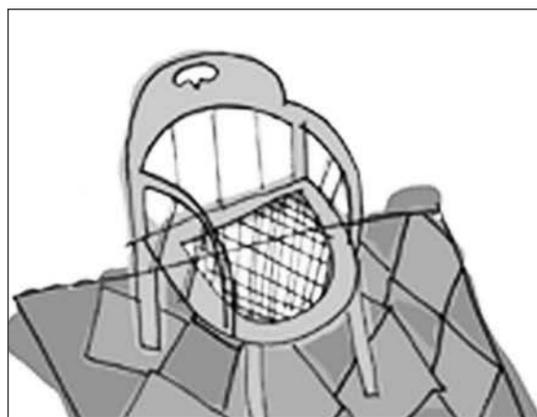
“Grow thicker skin, sweetheart. I’m famous. It’s part of my job description.”

If this is truly the stance that Twitter users are taking to justify the hateful comments spewed in Judd’s direction, then it is truly unfortunate and a pity. Twitter, and social media as a whole, is constantly lauded as a means for the public to stay close and connect with their favorite celebrities and public figures. Instead, instances like the one seen above is a constant example of how these platforms can be misused.

The good thing, however, is that this is not an accurate reflection of people in our generation, the millennials with the power of mass communication literally in the palm of our hands. Rather, this is just an unfortunate misguided cross-section of our fellow men and women. Perhaps it’s because they don’t realize the weight behind their words, or perhaps it’s due to the seemingly inconsequential manner of their one-sided interactions. But these things do carry weight, and there are consequences, even if they’re not immediate.

Judd was a woman voicing her opinion, a fan showing her support for and doing a bit of trash-talking on behalf of her team. She shouldn’t get attacked for that. No one should.

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Sit and Listen to Courtney Barnett

By **ERIN McAULIFFE**
Scene Editor

Melbourne artist Courtney Barnett's debut album, "Sometimes I Sit and Think, and Sometimes I Just Think," has been much anticipated by fans and music critics alike after her success with "The Double EP: A Sea of Split Peas," her U.S. tour and appearances at festivals like Bonnaroo and Glastonbury. The album, which has been streaming on iTunes's "First Play" and was released today, has been put on a pedestal — and it won't disappoint you.

Barnett's lyrics hone in on eccentric yet relatable experiences. Barnett focuses on incidents that are not necessarily overlooked but rather reflected on during one moment or another before being filed away into the back of one's mind.

Her keen annunciation is marked by her Australian accent, which remains noticeable in all her songs and colors her spoken, conversational delivery.

During a session at Australian radio station Triple J, Barnett covered Kanye West's "Black Skinhead." She discussed how she is frequently asked to rap, as her lyrics are "wordy." At first, this may seem like an inane way to describe lyrics — yes they're wordy, they are words — however, in context of her lucid but rambling storytelling, "wordy" sums up Barnett's style.

Her droning and circuitous lyrics and instrumentals on her longest tracks, "Small Poppies" and "Kim's Caravan," emulate the mundane routines of life. "I drank 'til I was sinking / Sank 'til I was thinking" croons Barnett on "Kim's Caravan," crafting a rhythmic lyrical pattern reminiscent of falling into the sort of whirlpool she describes.

She combines quirky happenings with angst and the mundane to create relatable, humorous scenes through her lyrics. Her songs have a storytelling aspect, yet they don't attempt to impose meaning on the listener.

This idea aligns her with the anti-folk genre: raw but unassuming.

Although many, such as Rolling Stone, reflect on Barnett's "chill," I would argue that although her music has an under-processed charm. Her 10-song album was recorded in 11 days; she is about as chill as an anxious insomniac hoarder.

Barnett never stops being a songwriter: collecting moments, jotting them down, coming back to them and formulating lyrics from what she has recorded. It is this mindset that allows her to produce such seemingly bizarre yet inherently realistic situations in her songs.

"When I see something that interests me or hear someone say something interesting, I try to make a copy of it on whatever piece of paper is close by," she told the New York Times. "A simple line about that moment can jog my memory of the other things around it pretty well."

She shoots with a Polaroid camera to accomplish the same effect: "You can carry it around with you for the rest of your life and remember that one moment," she said.

Thankfully for us, we can also experience that laughable ("give me all your money and I'll make some origami, honey — "Pedestrian at Best"), dark ("I dreamt I stabbed you with a coat hanger wire" — "Small Poppies") or putrescent ("a possum Jackson Pollock is painted on the tar" — "Dead Fox") moment through her songs.

This lyrical style, built on taut and vivid description, is on show during "Elevator Operator," a track that unfolds like a short story. A man with "a thick head of hair who worries he's going bald" decides to skip work, gifting his tie to a homeless man as he heads to a tall building and tripping in a pothole on the way. In the elevator he reaches for the rooftop button at the same time as an overly Botox-ed woman. The lyrics transition into dialogue: the woman urges him not to commit suicide and he says that he just likes to look at people from the roof to "imagine he's playing Sim City." This humorous, nostalgic response is contrasted with another: the idea

that the woman is projecting her feelings onto him. The man goes on to admit that while not suicidal, he is "idling insignificantly."

"Idling" and "insignificance" are recurring themes throughout the album. Barnett addresses her own insignificance, settling on her zodiac sign as a good indicator of who she is — "I'm a fake, I'm a phoney, I'm awake, I'm alone, I'm homely, I'm a Scorpio" — on gritty lead single "Pedestrian at Best." She describes the time she spends idling "awake at four, staring at the wall, counting all the cracks backwards in my best French" in all too relatable "An Illustration of Loneliness."

She also addresses society's insignificance due to idling on "Kim's Caravan." Upon noticing a dead seal on the beach, she goes into society's, and her own, failed efforts to support the Great Barrier Reef: "I would wanna die too, with people pouring oil into my air, but to be fair I've done my share, guess everybody's got their different point of view."

Barnett's reflections on waiting room books and organic vegetables may sound mundane, but when paired with her garage-esque guitar interludes, distinct captivating croon and vivid lyricism, you will be yearning to just sit and listen to them.

Contact Erin McAuliffe at emcaul@nd.edu

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SPORTS AUTHORITY

Looking at March in a new way

By MAREK MAZUREK

Sports Writer

March Madness is here, but it isn't the NCAA variety. This is the March Madness of NFL free agency.

The past two weeks NFL teams around the league have been trying to improve their rosters, whether it be the search for a franchise quarterback, a top notch skill position player or a few defensive role players to put them over the edge.

With all of that in mind, here is a look at some of the winners and losers after a week of free agency starting with the winners.

New York Jets

The biggest winners from the first week of free agency are undoubtedly the Jets. First year general manager Michael Maccagnan has proven he is serious about taking the Jets back to an AFC championship game by signing cornerbacks Darrelle Revis and Antonio Cromartie, quarterback Ryan Fitzpatrick and trading for wide receiver Brandon Marshall. First, Revis is the best cornerback in the game (sorry Richard Sherman), and he and Cromartie both played for the Jets defense that led the team to its second-consecutive AFC championship game in 2010. Though Fitzpatrick is not a top-tier quarterback by any means, he is an improvement over Geno Smith, and with a sparse quarterback free-agent pool, he is the best the Jets could have realistically hoped for. Technically Marshall wasn't a free agent, but his coming to New York is still a major boon for the organization, especially considering they only had to give up a fifth-round pick for him. Things just may be looking up for New York.

Indianapolis Colts

The Colts also had a sublime week on the free-agent market. Their acquisition of running back Frank Gore and wide receiver Andre Johnson now has Indianapolis as the odds on favorite to win Super Bowl 50. A consistent running back has been the missing piece for the Colts for two years now. The team tried to address this need last season by giving up a first-round pick for Trent Richardson, a move which didn't pan out, but with Gore, they've found the right man for the job. Gore has been the model of consistency over the past few years with San Francisco, and his downhill rushing style and pass protection abilities are exactly what the Colts need. While it's true

he's 31, with Andrew Luck and the passing game being the focal point of the Colts' offense, Gore won't be expected to carry too heavy a load.

Speaking of the passing game, Johnson adds another top notch receiver to work the middle of the field while T.Y. Hilton runs deep routes. Johnson is experienced and can become a valuable leader for the Colts as they look to make it to their first Super Bowl since Peyton Manning left the team.

While there have been definite winners so far this offseason, there has also been a clear loser.

Philadelphia Eagles

The Eagles came out of the blocks surprising people this offseason by trading their star running back LeSean McCoy to Buffalo for linebacker Kiko Alonso, who is coming off of an ACL injury. McCoy has been the motor of Chip Kelly's offense the last two years and trading him for a recently injured — albeit very promising — inside linebacker is not something I agree with. Fans of the Eagles can rest a little more easily since they replaced McCoy with the rushing champion from last season, DeMarco Murray. Murray should be able to give Kelly the same production McCoy did, but the kicker of the whole situation is Alonso. If Alonso remains healthy he can be a huge asset and improve an already strong defense. However, the more likely outcome is Alonso comes back as an average linebacker, and while that's all well and good, an average linebacker is not worth McCoy. In addition, the Eagles failed to keep their best receiver when Jeremy Maclin went to the Chiefs. This means Philadelphia will most likely have to shell out more money to keep the wide receiver position viable.

Yet another shock to Eagles fans came when the team traded starting quarterback, Nick Foles, for St. Louis' starter, Sam Bradford. Bradford has a history of injuries, and it is unlikely he will be able to stay on the field for an entire season. Even when he is on the field, Bradford's performance is nothing to write home about. Bradford has only one season in which he has higher than a 60 percent completion rate. With that in mind, it seems unnecessary to trade Bradford for Foles.

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

NCAA WOMEN'S BASKETBALL | MARYLAND 85, PRINCETON 70

Undefeated Princeton falls to Maryland

Associated Press

COLLEGE PARK, Md. — Laurin Mincy scored 27 points, and top-seeded Maryland used a second-half blitz to knock off previously unbeaten Princeton 85-70 Monday night and advance to the Sweet 16 of the women's NCAA Tournament.

After leading by only 42-38 at the break, the Terrapins used a 17-2 run immediately after halftime to turn a surprisingly tight game into a rout.

The Terrapins (32-2) will bring a 26-game winning streak into a matchup with Duke on Saturday in Spokane, Washington. Maryland and Duke were longtime rivals in the Atlantic Coast Conference before the Terps moved to the Big Ten this season.

Lexie Brown scored 23 for the Terrapins, who will be making their fourth consecutive trip to the Sweet 16. Maryland reached the Final Four last year.

Eighth-seeded Princeton (31-1) was coming off the program's first-ever win in

the NCAA Tournament, on Saturday against Wisconsin-Green Bay. The Ivy League champions hoped to make a statement against one of the nation's elite teams, and for a half, the Tigers hung right in there with the Big Ten titlists.

Blake Dietrick led Princeton with 26 points and Vanessa Smith added 15.

Princeton made 10 of its first 13 field-goal tries and led 28-24 on the Terrapins' own floor before an enthusiastic crowd that clearly favored the home team.

Outscoring Maryland 28-6 in the paint while holding center Brionna Jones without a point in the first half, Princeton had several leads before falling behind at the break. Jones had 22 points and 12 rebounds in the tournament opener against New Mexico State, but she was not a factor in this one until the second half.

With Jones struggling against the suffocating coverage of Alex Wheatley, the Terps opted to fire from the outside before halftime. Despite connecting on five 3s, Maryland

was outrebounded 15-12 and allowed the Tigers to shoot at a 59 percent clip.

In the second half, however, Maryland proved to be too fast, too big and, most importantly, too talented.

After the teams exchanged baskets, Mincy scored in the lane and Jones sank two free throws. Jones and Shatori Walker-Kimbrough then made successive baskets before Mincy drilled a 3-pointer. Field goals by Brown and Malina Howard completed the run, making it 59-40 with just under 14 minutes to play.

Jones finished with 10 points and 10 rebounds. Mincy, in her final home game, went 9 for 11 from field, including 6 for 7 from beyond the arc.

Despite coming up short in this one, the Tigers proved they have big-time drawing power. President Barack Obama attended the opener (his niece is a backup forward) and this game attracted Supreme Court justices Elena Kagan and Sonia Sotomayor, both of whom graduated from Princeton.

NBA | CELTICS 101, NETS 91

Turner drops triple-double, Celtics beat Nets

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Evan Turner had 19 points, 12 assists and 10 rebounds, and the Boston Celtics beat the Brooklyn Nets 110-91 on Monday night to snap a three-game losing streak that had dropped them out of playoff position.

Avery Bradley scored 20 points to lead the Celtics, who entered a half-game behind Charlotte for the No. 8 seed in the Eastern Conference. They had a chance to be right back in the final East spot if the Hornets lost in Chicago.

Tyler Zeller and Kelly Olynyk each had 18 points for Boston, which bounced back from a 105-97 overtime loss to Detroit at home on Sunday. Coach Brad Stevens said he felt his players tightened up in that game, but

they had a mostly stress-free second half Monday after quickly pulling away in the third quarter.

Brook Lopez scored 31 points for the Nets, who had won two in a row to give themselves renewed playoff hopes. But they endured bad nights all over the roster, from Joe Johnson (3 for 11) to Jarrett Jack (1 for 9) to Alan Anderson (2 for 9).

Boston claimed the tiebreaker by winning the season series, 3-1 and moves on to another important game Wednesday at home against Miami. The Nets head to Charlotte and probably welcome another key game on the road after falling to 12-20 in their home arena.

Boston scored nine straight to open a 71-57 cushion midway through

the third quarter, and when the Nets trimmed it to five, the Celtics responded by pushing it back to double digits in the final minute of the period before taking an 83-74 lead into the fourth.

Zeller made all five shots for 10 points in 10 minutes of the third quarter, then Olynyk scored seven straight early in the fourth to give the Celtics their largest lead at 96-80 with 8:19 to play.

Marcus Smart was back for Boston after being suspended one game for punching San Antonio's Matt Bonner in the groin, which Stevens called an "unacceptable play." Smart started but was replaced by Jae Crowder to open the third quarter.

Deron Williams had 10 points, 10 assists and nine rebounds for the Nets.

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ND WOMEN'S TENNIS | ND 4, FSU 3; ND 3, GEORGIA TECH 4

Irish beat FSU, fall to Ga. Tech

Observer Staff Report

No. 32 Notre Dame hit the road this weekend, swinging through the deep South for a pair of ACC matches, defeating Florida State and falling to Georgia Tech by a pair of 4-3 final scores.

After spending time in Florida over spring break preparing for the outdoor portion of their schedule, the Irish (10-6, 4-3 ACC) returned to the Sunshine State to take on the Seminoles (10-6, 3-4 ACC).

They were victorious in Tallahassee, Florida, on Friday afternoon by the closest of margins, securing of 4-3 victory.

The Irish staked an early lead by claiming the doubles point before beginning the singles portion of the afternoon. The No. 21 combination of junior Quinn Gleason and sophomore Monica Robinson shut out their first-position doubles counterparts from Florida State, seniors Daneika Borthwick and Kerrie Cartwright, 8-0. At third-position doubles, sophomores Mary Closs and Jane Fennelly clinched their match over Seminoles senior Mia Vriens and junior Yukako Noi, 8-3, good enough to give the Irish their early lead. Freshman Allison Miller and junior Julie Vrabel dropped their match, 8-3.

The doubles point turned out to be the deciding factor after the Irish split singles with the Seminoles. Florida State won the first three singles matches to take a 3-1 lead, but Miller, Robinson and Closs followed to complete the comeback for Notre Dame.

After earning their victory against Florida State on Friday, the Irish traveled north to Atlanta to meet up with yet another ACC opponent in Georgia Tech on Sunday.

The Yellow Jackets (6-6, 3-3 ACC) squeaked by the Irish by just a single point, winning by the score of 4-3.

Like they did against Florida State, the Irish came out on top during the doubles portion of the match. While Gleason and Robinson were defeated in a tight 8-6 matchup at No. 1 doubles, both No. 2 and No. 3 doubles were able to secure victories.

At No. 2 doubles, Miller and Vrabel cruised to an 8-4 win over freshman Alexis Prokopiuk and junior Natasha Prokhnevskaya, and at No. 3 doubles Closs and Fennelly pulled out an 8-7(4) tie-breaker over freshman Johnnise Renaud and sophomore Rasheeda McAdoo.

In the singles portion of the afternoon, Notre Dame did not fair as well against the Yellow Jackets as it did against the Seminoles on Friday.

Robinson came away with a point at No. 2 singles by defeating No. 64 freshman Paige Hourigan, 6-3, 4-6, 6-1. Likewise, Vrabel defeated Pokhnevskaya at No. 3 singles, 6-3, 6-2. Other than those two bright spots, the Irish found no luck against Georgia Tech, with Closs, Miller and Fennelly all falling in the third set.

After splitting their weekend slate against ACC opponents Florida State and Georgia Tech, the Irish will have the week to rest, recover and prepare for another action-filled weekend back at Notre Dame.

The Irish return to action on Friday at 3:00 p.m. when they welcome North Carolina State to campus, and they will also take on non-conference foe Marquette on Sunday at noon. Both matches will take place inside Eck Tennis Pavilion or outside at Courtney Tennis Center.

SMC TENNIS | SMC 6, ALMA 3

Belles swing past Scots in conference match

By MICHAEL IVEY
Sports Writer

Saint Mary's defeated Alma by a score of 6-3 in an MIAA conference match Saturday at Angela Athletic Center. The victory improved the Belles to 6-6 on the season and 1-1 in conference play.

In singles competition, the play was fierce and decisive. Not a single match went to a third set, instead they were decided in straight sets. Belles junior Andrea Feters ended up on the wrong side of her match, losing 6-4, 6-2, at the top of the singles lineup. In the next match, senior Kayle Sexton was victorious in straight sets, beating her opponent 6-0, 6-4. Senior Jackie Kjolhede dominated, winning her match in straight sets 6-0, 6-0. Senior Shannon Elliot was narrowly edged out in straight sets, 7-5, 6-1, at the fourth spot, but junior Margaret Faller controlled her match from the onset, winning 6-1, 6-0, while freshman Bailey Oppman finished off the singles matches with a 6-1, 6-1, victory.

"I was happy with our singles play because we are playing with a bit more patience in some situations," Belles head

coach Dale Campbell said. "Jackie Kjolhede at No. 3 [singles] had an impressive 6-0, 6-0 victory. Most all of our singles players had good matches, however Shannon is battling through some injuries at No. 4 and our No. 1 Andrea Feters played a tough, experienced opponent."

The day's doubles action featured hard-fought performances from both sides. Saint Mary's top doubles team of Sexton and Faller ended up on the wrong side of a closely contested match, losing by a score of 8-6. The team of Elliott and Feters cruised to an 8-2 victory in their match. Sophomore Sam Setterblad and freshman Maddie Minaudo rounded out doubles play for the Belles with an 8-3 victory.

"We still need to come out with more energy for doubles, basically being more assertive," Campbell said. "There are opportunities to take the net, and opportunities to pick off

volleys that we are not taking. We can increase those chances by at least 30 percent, so that is a focal point. Getting two out of three doubles is important, and we actually have not done that enough. It was nice to win at least two (Saturday), but I thought we had the potential to sweep them."

Saint Mary's next match is against conference foe No. 14 Indiana Wesleyan at Angela Athletic Center on Wednesday at 4:00 p.m. The match was originally scheduled to be played today but was postponed due to Monday's inclement weather.

"[Indiana Wesleyan is] a strong non-conference opponent with a lot of talent and power," Campbell said. "We will have to adjust the best we can in a short amount of time, but we have played a few strong teams like them."

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Write Sports.
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MICHAEL YU | The Observer

Sophomore Mary Closs competes during the 6-1 loss to No. 3 Stanford on Feb. 6 at Eck Tennis Pavilion

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Fencing

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

Indeed, four of the six athletes to compete in the first day of the tournament were freshmen with no championship experience. Kvaratskhelia's team took the aftermath of the first day as an opportunity, though, and used it as motivation for a stellar conclusion to the bouts, he said.

"After the first day we knew that we would only get better, knowing that we had an experience accomplished team in the women ready to start the climb," Kvaratskhelia said.

The success of that climb had a lot to do with the team's senior leadership, Kvaratskhelia said. Graduate student and former national champion Ariel DeSmet paced the Irish men's squad with an impressive 16 wins in 23 bouts, earning him a share of the bronze medal in men's foil. Senior Madison Zeiss, competing in the same class as teammate and eventual champion, Irish junior Lee Kiefer, won 16 bouts of her own.

Kvaratskhelia sung the praises of Zeiss' senior leadership as well as her tandem record with Kiefer

over the past three years — an effort so dominant that it prompted a "huge thank you" from her coach following the tournament.

"The last three years they have been the most dominant duo on the national scene," he said. "Madison and Lee over the last three years as a duo together won more bouts than any other weapons in either gender together on average. What she has done, alongside Lee, has been unprecedented on the national scale."

Kiefer herself earned her third individual national championship in as many years for the Irish with a 15-13 victory over Columbia's Margaret Yu. According to Kvaratskhelia, she plans to take the coming academic year off to prepare for qualifying to represent the United States in the 2016 Olympics in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

"You know, when you have someone [like Lee] — we expect all of our star fencers to give us 15 wins. She averages 20," Kvaratskhelia said. "She has won 98 percent of her bouts for three years. There's no higher value than having that superstar who contributes every year to the maximum and gives us that confidence moving forward."

As bright as Lee's career with the Irish has been thus far, freshman Francesca Russo has only just begun to establish herself as an Irish fencing mainstay. This past weekend, the New Jersey native upset two higher-seeded opponents to win her first national championship in women's sabre. After the tournament, Russo described her first year as an Irish fencer.

"It's been a difficult year," Russo said. "Between trying to balance fencing for Notre Dame, the U.S. and my grades, nothing was easy and nothing was handed to me. However, fencing for Notre Dame has been a tremendous help and there's nothing like the support that comes out of this school, whether it being on the strip or in the classroom. It's an honor to fight for such an amazing group of people as well."

Russo admitted she did not anticipate being in the final round at all.

"To be honest, I didn't even think I'd make it to the top four today," she said. "I was just happy to be there. When I fenced [Penn State freshman] Karen Chang [in the final], who is an ex-student of [Irish sabre and assistant] coach Samir Ibrighimov, my mind was calm and clear and I knew exactly what I needed to do."

To even get to Chang, though, Russo had to face top-seeded women's sabre and defending champion Adrienne Jarocki of Harvard. Russo advanced to the championship with a 15-12 victory over the defending champion, where she defeated Chang 15-5.

"I felt confident facing Adrienne despite the fact that she was the No. 1 seed," she said. "I just felt like I had nothing to lose. I was just excited to be representing the Irish for the first time at NCAAs and tried to do my best to make up for our [team] loss that day."

In the aftermath of the tournament, the Irish are left disappointed but nonetheless determined; Kvaratskhelia said he knows that this is a young squad, and there is a great deal of work left to be done. For a program as prolific as Notre Dame's, the notion of an offseason does not exist, Kvaratskhelia said.

"A few of our athletes will be representing us at the world junior championships next week and will continue training as is," Coach Kvaratskhelia said of the team's plans in the coming days. "We'll move more towards conditioning practices towards the end of the semester."

Kvaratskhelia smiled as he reflected on the season, his first at the helm of an Irish fencing program that has grown a great deal over the course of the past few years and looks to be on an even loftier trajectory in future seasons.

"We are really proud of our athletes. We always have a standard of high performance — that standard is still there, and we will continue to push the envelope for years to come."

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MEN'S TENNIS | ND 6, GEORGIA TECH 1; ND 6, IPFW 1

Irish post back-to-back wins

by CHRISTINE MAYUGA
Sports Writer

No. 36 Notre Dame dominated with back-to-back 6-1 wins in a doubleheader against Georgia Tech and Purdue University Fort Wayne (IPFW) on Sunday at Eck Tennis Pavilion.

Coming off a 4-3 loss Tuesday to Texas Tech and a 6-1 loss on Friday to No. 9 Virginia, the Irish (10-7, 2-3 ACC) rebounded with many strong performances, Irish head coach Ryan Sachire said.

"We had a pretty busy week, playing Texas Tech on St. Patrick's Day and Virginia, who is perennially one of the top teams in the country, on Friday. The entire week was a huge process; we had some disappointments but did a lot of good things towards the end of it," Sachire said. "It was fun to see everything come together. We were certainly happy with yesterday's win."

In the match against the Yellow Jackets, the No. 8 duo nationally of junior Alex Lawson and senior Billy Pecor snagged an 8-6 win against Georgia Tech's pair of sophomore Carlos Benito and senior Eduardo Segura. The No. 14 pair of Irish sophomores Eddy Covalschi and Josh Hagar earned another victory over Yellow Jacket freshmen Michael Kay and Christopher Eubanks, 8-4. In the singles round, Hagar, Pecor and junior No. 22 Quentin Monaghan all scored wins for the Irish against Benito, sophomore Cole Fiegel and Eubanks, respectively. Covalschi also topped junior Nathan Rakitt, 6-4, 6-2.

The match against IPFW saw a change in the Irish lineup as other members of the team stepped on to the court.

Seniors Dougie Barnard and Michael Fredericka clinched a 7-5 win over

Mastondons' senior Andres Cobos and freshman Daniel Cardenas while the Irish duo consisting of freshman Drew Dawson and senior Wyatt McCoy topped seniors Connor Andrews and Derek Romer. Notre Dame took five of the six matches in the singles round with victories from Hagar, junior Nicolas Montoya, Fredericka, and freshman Brendon Kempin. Monaghan completed a weekend sweep after defeating junior Gerard Guell, 6-1, 6-2.

"It was definitely the most complete match of the year [since] we played everyone on the roster," Sachire said. "We played at a great level at every spot in the lineup. A lot of the guys had been working hard individually but weren't seeing the result. Yesterday was a great day to see us come together as a team."

With only a month until the ACC Championships, the Irish hope to use the upcoming matches to come out as strong contenders, Sachire said.

"It's all about staying healthy, getting players 100 percent physically ready to go as well as preparing mentally," Sachire said. "The ACC is a competitive conference, but we are excited to be in it and hopeful to have a great experience."

The Irish will travel to Florida for an action-packed weekend with conference matches against Miami on Friday at 2 p.m. and Florida State on Sunday at noon.

"Every weekend is difficult, but we are looking forward to this one in particular," Sachire said. "The weather is a lot different, a lot hotter, but hopefully our physical conditioning will help us prepare."

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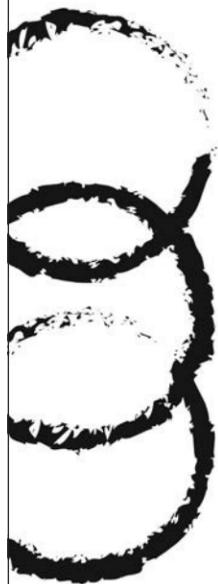


EMMET FARNAN | The Observer

Sophomore Eva Niklinska fights during the 5-0 win at DeCicco Duals on Feb. 9 at the Castellan Family Fencing Center.

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MICHAEL YU | The Observer

Junior Alex Lawson plays in the doubles competition during the 4-3 win against Oklahoma State on Jan. 24 at Eck Tennis Pavilion.



KEVIN SABITUS | The Observer

Senior point guard Jerian Grant drives during the 69-65 win over Northeastern on March 19 to advance to the third round.

Men's Bball

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

"I pulled [Auguste] aside [after regulation], and I said, 'Look, no matter what happens, I'm going to have the utmost faith that you're going to come back and do something important for this team,'" Connaughton said. "If you look at it, he had three massive rebounds in overtime that helped seal the deal."

Auguste wasn't the only Irish player seeking and later finding redemption in overtime Saturday. Connaughton, who had missed all five of his attempts from beyond the 3-point line on the day, sunk a 3-pointer with 3:08 left in overtime to break a 59-59 tie.

"We knew he was coming; he had struggled kind of all game," Notre Dame senior guard Jerian Grant said of Connaughton. "But eventually, he was going to make it happen, and he did."

Irish sophomore guard Steve Vasturia, who had turned the ball over with 45 seconds left in regulation, helped ice the game with a 3-pointer to make it 65-61 with 1:22 left, a play Connaughton said was

reminiscent of Vasturia's late 3-pointer to seal an Irish victory over Duke on Jan. 28 at Purcell Pavilion.

"I said to [Vasturia], 'Look, it's going to come back around. You've hit some daggers of shots, and it's going to come back around. Be ready to shoot,'" he said. "Steve's one of the toughest kids I know ... he's one of the most competitive kids I know and when you add those things together, there's only success that can come out of it when you put all that you've got on the line."

As the Irish prepare to face seventh-seeded Wichita State in the Sweet 16 at Quicken Loans Arena in Cleveland on Thursday, the prospect of another overtime might not be far-fetched. But the Irish feel they are prepared for whatever happens because of the team's calm nature, Grant said.

"We really don't have a roller coaster [of highs and lows]," he said. "We've been in games like [Saturday night's] all season. We really still stay even-keeled, and it shows."

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KEVIN SABITUS | The Observer

Junior forward Zach Auguste takes a shot during the 69-65 victory over Northeastern on March 19 at the Consol Energy Center.

Football

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

combined 51 games played between them in their careers at Notre Dame. Since Manti Te'o's final season in 2012, both have played at the center of Notre Dame's defense, the "Mike" linebacker position. Now that both are healthy, VanGorder said he is eager to use both interchangeably in his defensive scheme.

"Between Joe and Jarrett, we've got great leadership that can manage and run a defense with both of them," VanGorder said.

But beyond the most senior linebackers, Smith has also stepped up in practice after starting for his first two seasons, Elston said.

"Jaylon, a year ago, was really worried about himself — getting lined up, knowing the defense, knowing what coverage he was in," Elston said. "Now he's directing traffic, talking to the people in front of him, talking to the people behind him. Jaylon's doing a really good job with that."

Fighting for spots

The Irish also have three other linebackers who started games last season — sophomores Nyles Morgan and Greer Martini and junior James Onwualu — as well as early-enrollee freshman

Te'von Coney, creating a logjam of players fighting for three spots.

"We show up here to compete every day. The best players play, and we're going to get the best three linebackers on the field, however they line up," VanGorder said. "That's just the way we do it."

With so many players having starting experience, both VanGorder and Elston said they hoped to cross-train Smith, Morgan and Schmidt to play different linebacker positions later on in the spring season or beyond. Smith could potentially move to the strong side, or "Sam" position, Morgan could move away from "Mike" to get more playing time, and the hope is Schmidt can play whatever position necessary, VanGorder said.

Developing youngsters

When Schmidt went down with an injury in the latter half of last season, Morgan filled in at "stuck," thrust into a position he struggled to learn on the fly.

"I never imagined going into training camp that he'd be playing last year," VanGorder said. "He just wasn't ready. But he's tough. It's so important to him. He wanted to do right, but he had to suffer through that freshman year. There were some tough tough times for him, and he stayed right with it."

Fast forward to this spring, and Morgan is once again below other players on the depth chart. But thanks to last year's experience, VanGorder said he expects to use Morgan often this season.

"Going into his second year, we feel much better with him," VanGorder said. "... So I expect all three of them [Schmidt, Grace and Morgan] to play a lot. ... He looks a lot better here in the spring."

In addition to Morgan, the Irish also have another young linebacker developing quickly. The freshman Coney, who enrolled in the University a semester early, has impressed Elston in practice so far, he said.

"He's added some good depth," Elston said. "He's a very instinctual player, and he's doing a nice job. ... He's strong enough to compete, and he doesn't get physically overwhelmed. He seems to be handling it mentally pretty well, so we're excited to see where he's taking his game."

Smith said Coney's performance has impressed him early on as well.

"I found out the first day, he truly is a Notre Dame guy," Smith said. "He's all about team and getting better, and he's very coachable."

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ZACH LLORENS | The Observer

Senior Joe Schmidt tackles a player during the 27-31 loss against Florida State University on Oct. 18 at the Doak Campbell Stadium.

FOOTBALL

Linebackers healthy, ready to anchor ND defense

Returning Jarrett Grace joins host of players competing for playing time, limited spaces

By **GREG HADLEY**
Editor-in-Chief

After a 2014 campaign marred by injuries and inexperience, Notre Dame's defense entered the off-season in need of leadership and stability.

Just a few days into spring practice, the Irish defense still features a heavy mix of underclassmen, but it has also found a solid veteran linebacking core to build around.

One of the leaders of that core group is graduate student Jarrett Grace, who missed all of last season due to a broken leg suffered in 2013. However, he used his time off the field well, Irish defensive coordinator Brian VanGorder said.

"All he did was sit there and study, study, study," VanGorder said. "He knows our defense. He's way ahead of guys that have played because of that. He's an amazing, amazing guy. There was a point in time that I didn't know if he'd ever play football again. I had my doubts, so to see him out there says everything about who he is."

Grace's injury was severe enough to warrant multiple surgeries and cause him to limp for more than a year, but his return to the playing

field has largely been a smooth one, VanGorder said.

"The most amazing thing is, he's got no fear," VanGorder said. "Most guys coming off something like that would go out there and be a little bit apprehensive. Not him. Not him. He's been through the contact and hasn't slowed down a bit."

Irish linebackers coach Mike Elston agreed.

"Grace looks great. I see the Jarrett Grace of old, with how he's moving," Elston said. "A few instances here and there, you might catch a glimpse of something that resonates from the injury, but overall, very few issues with him."

With the middle of the Irish defense finally getting back to full strength, junior All-American linebacker Jaylon Smith said the unit has massive potential.

"Aw man, it's tremendous. We've got a great group of guys there," Smith said. "When everyone gets back healthy, the core is gonna be — it's gonna be tremendous, and I'm looking forward to it."

Leading the defense

Graduate student linebacker Joe Schmidt and Grace have a

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EMMET FARNAN | The Observer

Irish junior linebacker Jaylon Smith takes on a block during Notre Dame's 40-43 loss to Northwestern on Nov. 15 at Notre Dame Stadium.

FENCING

Irish finish 3rd at NCAA Champs

By **BRETT O'CONNELL**
Sports Writer

Though the Irish did not return to South Bend with the championship trophy they desired, they did bring home a number of individual accolades as well as a renewed confidence in their program's place alongside the blue bloods of collegiate fencing.

Notre Dame concluded its weekend at the NCAA Fencing Championships in Columbus, Ohio, a mere nine points behind first-place Columbia, which brought home its 14th national title in the program's long history. Though the Irish did not manage to claim the top team honor, they made waves with a number of impressive performances — some expected, some surprising — during their time at Ohio State this past weekend.

Irish head coach Gia Kvaratskhelia led the team to a third-place overall finish in his first year at the helm of the program. He spoke to the

tenacity of his combined squads after Sunday's events.

"Overall we're disappointed with the [team] result," Kvaratskhelia said, "But we are very proud and very happy with the quality of the fencing and the character and resilience that our team displayed."

That resilience proved particularly valuable this past weekend, when the Irish found themselves paced for an out-of-character eighth place finish halfway through the four-day-long competition. Two days of exceptional fencing, including above .500 records for five of the six Irish fencers competing in the latter half of the tournament, rocketed the Irish into third place.

"The first day was a surprise when we underperformed," Kvaratskhelia said. "On the other hand, when you analyze broadly where we were after the first day, that outcome could have been possible due to inexperience."

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MEN'S BASKETBALL

Extra time proves the right time for Notre Dame

By **BRIAN HARTNETT**
Senior Sports Writer

With all the close games Notre Dame has played this season, it's no surprise the Irish are well acquainted with overtime.

The Irish (31-5, 14-4 ACC) have finished the 40-minute regulation period tied four times this season. All four of those games have resulted in victories.

Notre Dame's latest meeting with overtime came Saturday at Consol Energy Center in Pittsburgh, where the Irish defeated Butler, 67-64, in NCAA tournament third-round action.

This time, the overtime came after a flurry of late-game activity, even though neither the third-seeded Irish nor the sixth-seeded Bulldogs (23-11, 12-6 Big East) scored for the last 2:58 of regulation. Notre Dame junior forward Zach Auguste snared a rebound with five seconds left, but double-dribbled to give the ball right back to Butler with two seconds remaining. The Bulldogs inbounded the ball to

junior guard Kellen Dunham, who launched a corner 3-pointer, but his attempt was swatted away by Irish senior guard Pat Connaughton as time expired.

Notre Dame sophomore guard Demetrius Jackson said the team gained some confidence as the game went into an extra five-minute period.

"[I was thinking], 'How can we win?'" he said. "I was a little nervous, but we've been in those situations before where we have to get a stop with our defense."

"Then when we get into overtime, I don't think we've lost an overtime game this year ... We really feel like that's our time."

It had been the time for the Irish before. Notre Dame topped a pair of teams now also in the Sweet 16 in overtime, defeating Michigan State, 79-78, on Dec. 3 and North Carolina State, 81-78, on Jan. 25. The Irish needed 10 extra minutes to beat Georgia Tech on Jan. 3, earning an 83-76 win over the Yellow Jackets in double overtime.

While four games might be

too small of a sample size to say that the Irish are a great overtime team, the team's success in the extra period mirrors its mentality of "survive and advance," according to Connaughton.

"I compare [overtime] to having a second chance at life; it's a little less drastic than that, however, when you get that second chance, you're going to do anything to survive and advance," he said. "When you get into overtime, a lot of times you feel like you didn't make the plays you needed to win in the first 40 minutes, so you get a second wind, like we have another chance to prove that we're not going to go home tonight."

Connaughton was firmly intent on making sure his college basketball career didn't come to a close, but he said he first needed to make sure Auguste, who had committed the potentially costly turnover in the game's waning seconds, was ready to play on for a few more minutes.

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