

# THE OBSERVER

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## Student government leaders pass the torch

### McCormick, Rocheleau take control of office

By MEL FLANAGAN  
News Writer

Incoming student body president Pat McCormick and vice president Brett Rocheleau wasted no time implementing their campaign promises, starting with a reinstatement of the much-missed quarter dogs on the first day of their yearlong tenure.

The minute their term began at midnight, McCormick and Rocheleau brought back the beloved quarter dogs to the Huddle in the LaFortune Student Center. Rocheleau said this imme-

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SUZANNA PRATT/The Observer

Incoming student body vice president Brett Rocheleau (left) and president Pat McCormick (right). Rocheleau and McCormick take office today and promise to improve the University's sustainability program.

### Soler, Bell reflect on term's achievements

By JOHN CAMERON  
News Writer

Today marks the end of a student government era as outgoing student body president Catherine Soler and vice president Andrew Bell turn over their office to incoming student body president Pat McCormick and vice president Brett Rocheleau.

Soler and Bell's term was characterized by an emphasis on building community relations and reforming aspects of student life like pep rallies, stu-

see SOLER/page 6

## STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

## Gans, Zupancic discuss plans for term at SGA helm

By CAITLIN HOUSLEY  
Saint Mary's Editor

Student body president Nicole Gans and vice president Jacquelyn Zupancic are first and foremost focused on accomplishing one thing dur-

ing their term: organization.

Saint Mary's student government changes hands today and Gans and Zupancic are hitting the ground running.

"We just picked the incoming board after reviewing applications and conducting interviews," Zupancic said.

"Now, we want to help get the board acclimated to their new positions."

Gans and Zupancic have already met with vice president of student affairs Karen Johnson and have spoken with their predecessors, outgoing student body president

Rachael Chesley and incoming vice president Laura Smith, Zupancic said.

Both Gans and Zupancic also attended the community summit along with Notre Dame's student government representatives March 25.

Gans and Zupancic acknowl-

edged the impact the last board made on student life at Saint Mary's, and said they want to continue some of the former board's endeavors.

"Rachael and Laura did a great job keeping the energy

see TURNOVER/page 5

## Ex-marine discusses 'Don't ask, don't tell'

By CAITLIN HOUSLEY  
Saint Mary's Editor

Gay rights activist and retired Staff Sgt. Eric Alva of the U.S. Marine Corps closed the Saint Mary's College Student Diversity Board's sixth annual Diverse Student Leadership Conference yesterday by urging his Little Theater audience to contribute to the fight for anti-discrimination.

Alva's speech, titled, "Ending 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell,'" highlighted the history of the legislation since its signing in 1993 and his experience of serving under the legislation during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

"Don't Ask, Don't Tell" was the

only law in this country that forced men and women to go to work and lie about who they are," Alva said.

At a time when gay military applicants were being turned away for being honest about their sexual orientation and identity on enrollment forms, the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" (DADT) policy required that questions about applicants' previous sexual relations with members of the same sex be stripped from military applications.

This change could have empowered gay citizens to apply for military service, but Alva said it was not the only stipulation of the agreement. While the mili-

see ALVA/page 5

## Students to give back to South Bend

By EMMA RUSS  
News Writer

Hundreds of Notre Dame students will participate in dozens of service projects throughout the South Bend community as part of the third annual CommUniversity Day Saturday, student coordinator Claire Sokas said.

Sokas said the event, sponsored by student government and the Center for Social Concerns (CSC), encourages students to "burst the Notre Dame bubble" by becoming active members of the community through service.

"The event's goal is not just to go out into the community and perform service, but also to recognize that we, as students, are a part of the community," student coordinator Jay Kenney said.



PAT COVENEY/The Observer

Notre Dame students interact with community children during last year's CommUniversity Day on Irish Green.

Around 700 students are expected to participate in the event, matching last year's participant total, Sokas said. She said the event has grown in the past two years in terms

of the amount of service projects available to students.

Kenney and Sokas said they are excited that an increasing

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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 Douglas Farmer.

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## CORRECTIONS

The March 30 article “Social Media Mash-Up” listed Rebecca Black as 18 years old. She is actually 13. The March 29 article “Albion sweeps doubles pairings to beat Saint Mary’s” was incorrect. The Belles won one doubles match. The Observer regrets these errors.

## QUESTION OF THE DAY: WHAT IS THE MOST-PLAYED SONG ON YOUR IPOD THIS WEEK?



Chris Touns

junior  
Duncan

“‘No Sleep’ –  
Wiz Khalifa.”



Matthew Enzweiler

sophomore  
Dillon

“‘This Country’  
– Brad Paisley.”



Kevin Doherty

sophomore  
Keough

“‘Semi-  
Charmed Life’ –  
Third Eye  
Blind.”



Erik VanEperen

sophomore  
Keough

“‘Where the  
Green Grass  
Grows’ – Tim  
McGraw.”



Greg Rustico

senior  
Keough

“‘Friday’ –  
Rebecca Black.”



Kelly O’Brien

senior  
Welsh Family

“‘Dog Days Are  
Over’ – Florence  
and the  
Machine.”

Have an idea for Question of the Day? Email [obsphoto@gmail.com](mailto:obsphoto@gmail.com)



THOMAS LA/The Observer

Freshman Laura Winter pitches during the softball game against Purdue Thursday evening. Notre Dame won 7-5, bringing its record to 18-7.

## OFFBEAT

### Man fakes credentials to get massage

NEWPORT BEACH, Calif. — A California man is charged with demanding a rubdown and \$200 while pretending to be a massage parlor inspector.

Orange County prosecutors charged Edward Justin LaPorte with felony burglary and misdemeanor counts of impersonating a peace officer and firearm violations. The 47-year-old faces arraignment Friday in Newport Beach.

Investigators say LaPorte is a former police officer from Illinois. They say he was wearing a badge when he entered the Golden Spa massage

parlor in Lake Forest on Jan. 31 and told the manager he was investigating a complaint.

Prosecutors say he then complained of back pain, and a masseuse gave him a back rub before LaPorte asked for a frontal massage, which was refused.

No phone listing could be found for LaPorte and court records don’t list an attorney for him.

### Jersey bakery spews flour on surroundings

ENGLEWOOD, N.J. — People might have thought they were part of a recipe when a northern New Jersey bakery blew its top and shot a cloud of flour over cars and build-

ings.

Acting Englewood Fire Chief Gerald Marion says a pipe became loose at the top of the La Esperanza Bakery silo as flour was being pumped into the building on Tuesday.

Some people thought there was an explosion as flour filled the air and coated several adjacent buildings.

A spokesman for the bakery told The Record newspaper it lost probably less than 10 bags of flour from the 20,000 pounds that were being delivered.

The pipe has been resealed.

Information compiled from the Associated Press.

## IN BRIEF

Dave Stangis, Vice President of CSR and Sustainability for the Campbell Soup Company will speak at 10:40 a.m. today in the Jordan Auditorium of the Mendoza College of Business. The event is the sixth installment in the Ten Years Hence Lecture Series. The event is free.

Habitat for Humanity ND presents Jail ‘N Bail today from 12 p.m. to 4 p.m. Students can sign up to have a friend “arrested” by NDSP officers anywhere on campus and brought to a makeshift jail on South Quad. The cost is \$10 at the time of bailout. Sign up at [habitat.nd.edu](http://habitat.nd.edu)

Women’s Lacrosse will take on Rutgers today at 7 p.m. in Arlotta Stadium. Tickets are free for students.

La Alianza will present “Latin Expressions: Origenes” today at 7 p.m. at the Century Center at 120 S. Saint Joseph St., South Bend. Shuttles will be provided from Library Circle before and after the show. “Latin Expressions: Origenes” is a showcase of Latin dance, music and poetry and will feature performances by the First Class Steppers, Project Fresh and TroopND. Tickets are \$10 at the LaFortune box office and \$12 at the door.

Saint Mary’s College students will host a walk to benefit South Bend’s hungry at 2 p.m. Sunday beginning at the Student Center at Saint Mary’s. Individual walkers should bring 3 cans of food for donation or \$3. Teams should bring 3 cans of food per walker or \$5. To register and for more information, visit <http://www3.saintmarys.edu/pr-yes-we-can-2011>.

To submit information to be included in this section of The Observer, email detailed information about an event to [obsnews.nd@gmail.com](mailto:obsnews.nd@gmail.com)

LOCAL WEATHER	TODAY		TONIGHT		SATURDAY		SUNDAY		MONDAY		TUESDAY	
	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low
	48	33		41		50		48		51		46
				33		32		40		36		32



# SMC joins with ND in celebrating community

By JILLIAN BARWICK  
News Writer

This year's third annual CommUniversity Day of service marks the first time Saint Mary's students will be involved in the event, community commissioner Katie Cuda said.

Cuda said Claire Sokas, a CommUniversity Day coordinator at Notre Dame, reached out to her to get Saint Mary's involved in the day's service projects. Cuda and Sokas have cooperated with their respective student bodies to increase student involvement in CommUniversity Day.

"By including Saint Mary's in CommUniversity Day, I feel that the two schools will be able to reach more and more of the South Bend community now and in the future," Cuda said. "Having students mingle with community members will continue to make the South Bend area a top priority for community service projects."

Cuda said the goal of CommUniversity Day is to unite students from both Saint Mary's and Notre Dame in assisting the surrounding South Bend community. Service projects like painting fire hydrants, collecting food donations and placing notices on storm drains provide students with a great opportunity for students to get involved and give back to the community, she said.

But, Cuda said, the most

important aspect of CommUniversity Day is strengthening the connection between Saint Mary's, Notre Dame and the surrounding South Bend community.

"It is too often that students here forget they are part of the greater South Bend community, a community that, — like most others — needs help at times," Cuda said. "CommUniversity Day is a great way to get a large group of students doing community service, and covering a larger area rather than only a few students at a time."

Many CommUniversity activities will take place on Notre Dame's campus. Cuda hopes to incorporate service projects at Saint Mary's in the future. From now on, the community commissioners at Saint Mary's and Notre Dame will collaborate to make a joint CommUniversity Day a reality, Cuda said.

Students participating in CommUniversity Day service projects should visit [communityday.nd.edu](http://communityday.nd.edu) for additional information about individual projects. Transportation will be provided between the Notre Dame campus and the project sites. The day's events will take place from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and will end with a picnic for participants and community members at the Robinson Community Learning Center.

Contact Jillian Barwick at [jbarwi01@saintmarys.edu](mailto:jbarwi01@saintmarys.edu)

# Foundation shares solar energy

By TORI ROECK  
News Writer

Notre Dame combined its social justice and sustainability missions into one initiative when it decided to team up with the Let's Share the Sun Foundation to install solar panels in Haiti.

To bring the cause closer to home and raise funds for the Foundation, the International Development branch of the Notre Dame Entrepreneurship Society will sponsor a dance Saturday.

The Foundation, launched by 1985 Notre Dame graduates Bill and Nancy Jordan, works with other organizations to provide solar energy solutions to poor countries around the world.

"We invite people to join together to share their diverse talents, resources and realities and help capture the sun's energy and rays that improve the lives of people in poor communities," Bill Jordan said. "It also enhances the lives of all those who choose to participate in the efforts."

After an earthquake ravaged the island nation in January 2010, the Foundation supplemented the University's efforts to rebuild the area by donating four solar panels, installed by a Haitian electrician, to the building that houses Notre Dame's Haiti Program in Leogane, Bill Jordan said.

Solar energy is a vital part

of the Haiti Program's master planning effort for the region, he said.

Jordan said his foundation is blessed to have good partnerships to work with, especially the Foundation's connection with the University.

"Notre Dame has been instrumental in facilitating the growth of the Foundation," Jordan said. "There has also been a generous spirit from the Notre Dame Haiti Program."

Sophomore Cristina Couri organized Saturday's fundraising event, and said she wanted to raise awareness for Let's Share the Sun because of its noble efforts in solar energy.

"Let's Share the Sun is a perfect example of an organization that wasn't afraid to do something great no matter how difficult it was, and wasn't afraid to say 'I can do something good with the skills I've been given,'" Couri said.

Couri said the Let's Share the Sun Foundation is an especially successful charity because it provides the members of poor communities with the ability to enact change themselves.

"It's making a difference in third world countries, not by throwing money at them, but by giving them the tools to help themselves," Couri said. "They're not a charity that puts money into something they don't understand, but they use their money and time and skills in the most effective

way."

Tony Pohlen, assistant director for administrative and academic affairs for the Ford Family Program in Human Development Studies and Solidarity, helped coordinate both the dance and the lecture. He said the Let's Share the Sun Foundation strikes the ideal balance of making a living and making a difference.

"[Bill Jordan] has a passion for trying to come up with solutions using the kinds of technology he knows from his for-profit work ... for the benefit of people living in places like Haiti," Pohlen said.

Mr. Jordan said he could not see running his business any other way.

"If [our for-profit work] was disconnected from the 1.7 billion people without access to electricity living in the poorest conditions in the world, I don't think our lives would be as fulfilled," Bill Jordan said.

Mr. and Mrs. Jordan will be the keynote speakers at the "Making a Living Making a Difference" lecture Tuesday, April 5 at 6:30 pm in Geddes Hall. The Let's Share the Sun Foundation is associated with Jordan Energy & Food Enterprises, LLC, Bill Jordan's for-profit solar energy company.

The benefit dance will be held Saturday in the LaFortune ballroom from 10 p.m. to 1 a.m. Tickets are \$5.

Contact Tori Roeck at [vroeck@nd.edu](mailto:vroeck@nd.edu)

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# Hellmann named leader in environmental science



Photo Courtesy of Jason Dzurisin

A research assistant examines a butterfly during a field study as part of Dr. Jessica Hellmann's work on climate change.

By KRISTEN DURBIN  
News Writer

Notre Dame added another achievement to its sustainability list when Jessica Hellmann, professor of biological sciences, was named a 2011 Leopold Leadership Fellow last month.

Based out of Stanford University's Woods Institute for the Environment, the Aldo Leopold Leadership Program recognizes twenty prominent environmental scientists as fellows each year with the support of the David and Lucile Packard Foundation.

Hellmann, who was instrumental in the creation of the University's new Environmental Change Initiative (ECI), was informed of her recognition as a fellow in December after applying for the program early last year. She said the Leopold fellowship will help the non-scientific community understand her research.

"In my PhD studies and time as a professor, I learned how to collect data, teach, write scientific papers and mentor students, but no one taught me how to talk to a member of Congress," she said. "This program is a neat opportunity to get specialized training that I wouldn't normally get as a scientist."

The fellows attend two week-long intensive training sessions that aim to improve their leadership and communication skills by participating in mock Congressional hearings, speaking with actual non-governmental organizations and policymakers and interacting with the media, Hellmann said.

"The program is much more than an award, it's a training program," Hellmann said. "Once you're identified as a leader who is working on leading research, you need help articulating and explaining your work to the public and to policymakers."

"There's a large gap between the public understanding of science and what science is figuring out," she said. "We need the public to appreciate science, but scientists also need to reach out to them to explain what we do because it can be useful in creating policy changes."

Hellmann said her recognition further establishes Notre Dame as both a prominent research university and a leader in environmental science and sustainability.

"One of our growing missions as an institution, especially in the College of Science, is to take science and make the work we do relevant to society," she said.

Hellmann and her colleague, biological sciences Professor David Lodge, are Notre Dame's Leopold fellows, and they both have active roles in the newly

minted ECI. One of the ECI's primary goals is to translate science to the public in order to affect change in sustainability policies, Hellmann said.

"We want to influence the public to make better, science-informed decisions and to manage natural resources more intelligently and efficiently," Hellmann said. "We'll be able to use the information from this leadership program to look at sustainability from an interdisciplinary perspective."

The new Sustainability minor, which will be offered to students beginning in fall 2011, arose from an ECI working group headed by Hellmann. She said her Leopold fellowship experience would affect her role in educating students about sustainability.

"Sustainability is all about finding the appropriate balance of resource use that defines the quality of life and allows us to preserve nature for future generations," she said. "Some policies sound great scientifically, but it's important to understand how those ideas could work socially as well."

Hellmann said she hopes the program will help publicize her research examining the impact of climate change on endangered and culturally and economically important species, especially butterflies, and how these species adapt to environmental changes.

"One of the cornerstones of my research is discovering adaptation strategies for species to deal with the negative effects of environmental changes," Hellmann said. "We have to figure out what the effects of these changes are, where they are the strongest, which species will adapt well to change and which ones will have a hard time."

Examining the effects of climate change and increased urbanization on specific ecosystems can allow scientists to develop methods for helping important species survive and slowing the movement of invasive species, Hellmann said. This field of research can have major implications for the future of the planet and the species that inhabit it.

"Environmental issues, including climate change, represent some of the biggest challenges the young adult generation will face because the world is changing in profound and rapid ways," Hellmann said.

Hellmann will expand on her current research when she spends the 2011-2012 academic year on sabbatical at the Notre Dame Institute for Advanced Study to work on a book about helping nature deal with climate change.

Contact Kristen Durbin at [kdurbin@nd.edu](mailto:kdurbin@nd.edu)

## Pat

continued from page 1

diate change demonstrates the tangible ways student government can assist students.

"They [the quarter dogs] will be staying for good now," Rocheleau said.

Although the return of quarter dogs marks a significant accomplishment, McCormick and Rocheleau hope to achieve much loftier goals for the remainder of the school year.

The pair has already met with University President Fr. John Jenkins and Director of Sustainability Heather Christophersen to expand on and improve the University's current sustainability strategy.

"We're hoping to have a plan by the start of next fall for the University and the community to reduce its carbon emissions, as well as a number of other aspects of greening ND," McCormick said.

Instead of keeping the proposal solely between student government and the administration, McCormick said he and Rocheleau have begun working with leaders of campus environmental clubs to integrate student voices into major decisions.

"Student government doesn't just want to speak for you, student government wants to amplify your voice," McCormick said. "We've been trying to work with these different groups to really fight for a student place at the table in these decisions."

McCormick and Rocheleau also plan to expand on the

University's present cooperation with the West Side Food Security Council, a coalition of 16 community leaders and six Notre Dame students.

So far, the council has worked to improve food availability on the west side of South Bend, one of the most underprivileged areas of the community. However, McCormick said the coalition, especially the community leaders, would like to expand it into a community-wide effort.

Projects like the coalition will build upon the community relationships established during the term of outgoing student body

president Catherine Soler and vice president Andrew Bell, McCormick said.

"We're incredibly grateful to them [Soler and Bell]," he said. "It's a great start to what we hope will be a continuing partnership with students and community members."

In addition,

McCormick and Rocheleau will hold another Playing for Peace game when the men's lacrosse team takes on Georgetown in Arlotta Stadium April 10. McCormick said they want to continue to draw attention to the renewed violence in Sudan, especially in the Abyei region of the country.

"We're trying to say that student government has really launched this unprecedented effort of trying to amplify student voices on a national level as well," he said. "We have met with people high up, we've taken student voices there before and we want to continue to say ND students are doing everything they can to spotlight Sudan."

The Playing for Peace initiative

*"We're hoping to have a plan by the start of next fall for the University and the community to reduce its carbon emissions, as well as a number of other aspects of greening ND."*

**Pat McCormick**  
student body president

also ties in with long-term goals for McCormick and Rocheleau's term. Rocheleau said he and McCormick are looking forward to planning a Playing for Peace benefit concert for a social justice cause yet to be determined.

McCormick hopes to cooperate with the Student Union Board (SUB) on this project as a means of unifying SUB and student government into one cohesive student union.

But the overall objective of his presidency, McCormick said, will be to redefine the general perception of student government at Notre Dame.

"The goal is to try to see whether we can convince students that it might be worth reimagining the limits of the generally cynical estimates of the difference students can make through student government," he said.

McCormick said he would like to see the University fulfill President Emeritus Fr. Theodore Hesburgh's vision of Notre Dame as both a crossroads and a lighthouse.

"It should be a crossroads, a place where all the ideas of the world can intersect and be debated and discussed, but also a lighthouse, a place that can stand apart and serve as the conscience for higher education in the U.S.," McCormick said.

Contact Mel Flanagan at [mflanagan3@nd.edu](mailto:mflanagan3@nd.edu)

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# Alva

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tary promised not to ask, gay soldiers had to promise they would not speak about their sexual orientation while serving in the military. If they did so, they could be discharged, Alva said.

But Alva said he could not come to terms with the contradiction that was occurring in his daily life.

As the first soldier to be injured and receive the Purple Heart in Operation Iraqi Freedom, Alva put his life on the line to fight for the freedoms of the American people.

“[I had] rights being stripped of me, even though I was fighting for rights,” Alva said. “As a country that promotes democracy ... we don’t give those freedoms to everyone ... I was a man who was fighting for my country. It was for every single individual, not just the select few.”

Those citizens outside of the “select few” were the ones being affected by DADT and the recent proposals to ban same sex marriage that were occurring at the same time, he said.

When the fight against DADT began to gain support, Alva’s partner at the time encouraged him to do something while he still was well-known enough to make a difference. Alva came out during a televised conference, declaring to the nation and the world that he was a gay man and an American veteran.

Alva watched with House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi in Congress as the House approved the proposal to repeal DADT in May, but he also witnessed the Senate’s rejection of the proposal in September.

“A lot of us thought that was the end,” Alva said.

After a stand-alone bill pro-



Courtesy of Caitlin Housley  
From left to right, juniors Lupita Quintana, Danae Jimenez, Kelly Reidenbach and senior Morgan Gay pose with Eric Alva (center).

posing the repeal of DADT won the majority in both the House and Senate, Alva was present while President Barack Obama signed the repeal into law December 22.

“I was very fortunate that I got to stand there as a part of history,” Alva said. “I got to represent the millions upon millions of people who have served in the military but who have had to do so quietly.”

Alva said DADT was not immediately repealed after the act was signed into law, but the repeal has brought gay rights issues to the forefront of the national conscience.

“The signing of the repeal of ‘Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell’ opened up a sort of Pandora’s box because it made people realize that everyone should be treated equally,” Alva said.

Alva did not focus his speech solely on his experience as a gay man fighting in the armed forces. He also focused on his experience as a disabled man in American society. Three hours into his first tour of duty in Iraq in 2003, Alva was permanently injured by a land mine. His right arm was broken, his right leg was amputat-

ed and he still suffers from nerve damage in his arm today.

He jokingly referred to himself as the jackpot for a diversity conference — Latino, gay and disabled — but his experiences and educational background in social work have taught him that life is too precious to live according to the opinions of other people.

“We get this one life ... tomorrow is just a word. It doesn’t exist, so live your life to the fullest,” he said. “No one owns my happiness, and no one owns your happiness. So, I’m going to keep speaking on this issue.”

Alva concluded his speech by urging students to challenge their school’s policy of nondiscrimination if those policies do not extend to instances of discrimination based on sexual orientation. Education is key in the awareness of gay and transsexual rights, he said.

“The country is changing on the request that all people be treated with equal rights ... [so] I encourage you to be the people that you want to be.”

Contact Caitlin Housley at [chousl01@saintmarys.edu](mailto:chousl01@saintmarys.edu)

# Turnover

continued from page 1

up within the board and the Saint Mary’s community,” Zupancic said.

“They put a face on student government,” Gans said. “They also made finances more transparent and set up a common groundwork between student government and the clubs on campus. We want clubs to know what student government can do for them.”

While the new board will continue with these initiatives, they said they also want to integrate more community engagement into their plans.

“We want to increase awareness about the issues going on in the community, and we want to get our voices out there,” Zupancic said.

But the board does not want to focus solely on permeating the immediate Saint Mary’s community. Zupancic said they also want to highlight the importance of involvement in the greater South Bend community.

“We want to have our home of Saint Mary’s go beyond the border of SMC and branch out into the greater community,”

she said.

Gans and Zupancic will also focus on the technology issues that have raised concern from the student body. The newly appointed technology commissioner, Maureen Parsons, will oversee a board of students to address technology-related topics.

“With this student technology board, more students can have a voice in how we interact with the technology department on campus,” Gans said.

The new technology focus will be financially demanding, so Gans said she hopes to work in conjunction with faculty members to achieve their technological goals.

Besides creating new legis-

lation, Gans and Zupancic said they have not forgotten basic student needs, such as funding for newspapers on campus, and will work to meet those needs.

Both Gans and Zupancic said they are overwhelmingly excited to start their new term, and they hope this summer will give new board members time to think of innovative and fun ideas for the Saint Mary’s community.

Contact Caitlin Housley at [chousl01@saintmarys.edu](mailto:chousl01@saintmarys.edu)

*“We want to increase awareness about the issues going on in the community, and we want to get our voices out there.”*

**Jacquelyn Zupanic**  
student body vice president

*“With this student technology board, more students can have a voice in how we interact with the technology departments on campus.”*

**Nicole Gans**  
student body president

# Day

continued from page 1

number of clubs and residence halls have stepped up and organized their own projects in conjunction with CommUniversity Day.

“This year we have been able to reach out to more community contacts than ever,” Sokas said.

“It was a big day of service that has blossomed into a huge day of service.”

Kenney said one of the most popular projects this year is mural painting at the Robinson Community Learning Center, where students will have the opportunity to work with children and young adults who reside in South Bend.

The CSC Canned Food Drive is also one of the most highly anticipated CommUniversity Day projects, Kenney said. Approximately 75 students will go door-to-door in several South Bend neighborhoods to collect canned goods for the Food Bank of Northern Indiana.

“This is a great project because it allows students to really see South Bend and directly interact with residents while helping out the Food Bank,” food drive coordinator Melissa Janisch said.

Overall, the South Bend community has responded positively toward CommUniversity Day, Kenney said.

“Community members look forward to this day every year,”

he said. “People love working with and interacting with the students.”

Service projects will also take place on the Notre Dame campus, including a kids’ festival open to all children in the South Bend community. The festival will

take place on Irish Green from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. and will offer games, food, music, a cakewalk and a bounce house, coordinator Leah Bernardi said.

Projects run from 10 a.m. until 6 p.m., and the day concludes with a community-wide picnic at the Robinson Community Learning Center.

Contact Emma Russ at [eruss@nd.edu](mailto:eruss@nd.edu)

*“This year we have been able to reach out to more community contacts than ever.”*

**Claire Sokas**  
student coordinator  
CommUniversity Day

Write news.  
Email [mdoyle11@nd.edu](mailto:mdoyle11@nd.edu).

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Observer File Photo  
**Outgoing student body president Catherine Soler, left, and Andrew Bell, right. The duo leaves office today after a successful term.**

# Soler

continued from page 1

dent costs and campus improvement.

Reflecting on their term, Soler and Bell said they are most proud of their work toward improving the Notre Dame experience for students not only in the present but also in years to come.

“We’re really proud of our efforts with the police, and we think through our recent agreement we’ll be able to have a lasting impact,” Soler said. “The input we’ve had on the [planned] DeBartolo Lounge renovations and the lights on McGlinn fields, the Rent-a-Text program and the Students for South Bend discount program — those things that took a lot of effort now but will be in place later.”

Soler said she hopes the University’s recent agreement to establish an administrator for off-campus issues will help extend her administration’s work into the future.

“We just passed a resolution in CLC [Campus Life Council] recommending that one administrator be a central point person for off-campus students, and we got a response from Fr. [Tom] Doyle [vice president of student affairs] that it will happen this summer,” Soler said. “I think that is absolutely a direct result of our conversations this year.”

Bell said results such as the finalized police agreement and commitment to creating the off-campus administrator were important because not all projects-in-progress can be passed along for completion by the time the next administration takes over.

“Now, especially with turnover, we realize that it’s hard to really pass along everything to the next people. That’s why we’re so proud of this police agreement, because it’s something structured we can pass on,” Bell said. “These relationships, which Catherine especially has been great about building with police, are important.”

Soler said the unpredictable and vast expectations of her office presented the greatest challenge.

“Andrew, Nick [Ruof, chief of staff] and I were thrown into a lot of situations this year where we didn’t expect to be called upon to show so much leadership and to take so much responsibility,” she said. “It was our greatest challenge to step up in those times, to be leaders.”

Soler said the most trying times were also the most fulfilling.

“Especially the spike in student arrests, Declan [Sullivan]’s passing, things like that, where our involvement in the issues

was unexpected,” she said. “We think that was our greatest reward, to be able to take leadership in those times.”

Neither Soler nor Bell said they would regret an end to the more monotonous chores associated with office.

“I’m not going to miss the everyday tasks, the mundane things that aren’t as exciting as the dynamic meetings where you can be creative and see results,” she said. “I’ll be happy to receive less emails.”

Bell said the weekly labors made it exceedingly difficult to accomplish the greater goals that drove them to run for office.

“It’s a struggle. There’s so much going on behind the scenes to plan meetings, it’s easy to get distracted from overall goals,” he said. “You know you have ‘X, Y, Z’ to do this week but you also have to focus beyond that.”

Soler and Bell attributed much of their success to the student leaders and staff who worked alongside them.

“We have a great environment in the office with everyone we work with, and I think that extends to the administration and community, so I’ll miss working with them on a day-to-day basis,” she said. “We’re really proud of the way everyone worked on issues that were relevant at the time but also took the time and energy to work on issues that will affect people after we leave.”

Now that student government will not be the primary consumer of time for the pair, Soler and Bell are looking forward to summer internships in New York and Chicago, respectively, and to making the most of their senior year.

“I’m going to be interning for a few weeks with [the] Student Activities [Office] working on Frosh-O and things like that ... then this summer I’ll be working for Deloitte in New York,” Soler said. “[Next year] I’d like to spend more time doing service. I’d like to volunteer at the Women’s Care Center [of South Bend].”

“I’m going to be doing finance in Chicago, so I’m excited I managed to get a job. Next year I’m going to be a Resident Assistant in Knott Hall, which is something I really hoped to get since coming to Notre Dame,” Bell said. “Beyond that, I don’t know what I’ll be doing, and it’s kind of exciting and scary.”

Despite the perks of having of increased free time and flexibility next year, Soler said leaving office will be bittersweet.

“I’ll miss putting in the time and energy for the greater good — that’s really rewarding and important,” she said. “It’s been an honor to do that for students, for my friends, for everyone.”

Contact John Cameron at [jcameron2@nd.edu](mailto:jcameron2@nd.edu)

# Bronx Zoo cobra found

Associated Press

NEW YORK — A highly venomous Egyptian cobra that went missing at the Bronx Zoo was found Thursday after nearly a week on the lam in the reptile house, zoo officials said.

The approximately 24-inch snake was found coiled in a dark corner of the reptile house, about 200 feet from where it had escaped from a holding cage outside the exhibit into a space described by officials as a labyrinth of pipes and equipment.

“As you can imagine, we are delighted to report that the snake has been found alive and well,” the zoo’s director, Jim Breheny, said during a news conference as he stood in front of a huge picture of the snake projected on a screen.

The reptile house, a foreboding building with vines crawling up its sides and stone heads of alligators and frogs jutting from the sides of its roof, had closed last Friday after the snake disappeared and zoo workers couldn’t find it.

The snake quickly became the stuff of urban legend. Someone even started pretending to be the cobra on Twitter and sent fake updates to legions of followers about its supposed escapades on the streets of New York City.

But zoo officials said the snake never left the reptile house and had been crawling around in an off-exhibit area.

Breheny said the snake was “resting comfortably and secure” and was being evaluated to make sure it was in good condition. He said it had been placed in the same area as the other venomous snakes. The zoo plans to exhibit the snake once it has been evaluated.

He said the zoo would probably hold a naming contest for the cobra, believed to be female, which it obtained in February.

The snake was captured at about 9 a.m. Thursday. Wood shavings that had been used as bedding for rats and mice were put out to lure the 3-ounce adolescent snake out of hiding, said Breheny, who explained that “snakes hunt by olfactory means.”

“It was merely the scent of the rodents that we hoped would bring her out,” he said.

Zoo workers also worked to reduce noise and dimmed the lights to make the environment more comforting, he said, adding that the key strategy was patience.

“We had to give her a chance to feel secure and comfortable so she would come out and explore her environment,” he said.

He did not explain exactly how the staff captured the snake but said workers who deal with venomous snakes typically use special tongs and a tool called a snake hook.

Breheny said the zoo is investigating how the snake escaped and evaluating its protocols to make sure it doesn’t happen again. Zoo officials hope to reopen the reptile house next week.

Meanwhile, BronxZooCobra on Twitter had stopped posting messages sometime Thursday.

“Oh, this isn’t over,” the person wrote in an e-mail to The Associated Press in response to a request for comment on the capture of the snake.

“They have only awakened the Bronx Zoo’s Cobra nation.”

Breheny said the “lighthearted” tone of the Twitter spoof was a sign that most people were confident in the Bronx zoo workers’ skills.

“We appreciated that element, but at the same time we needed to stay focused on recovering the animal, because it was a serious issue,” he said.

Outside the zoo, some Bronx residents said they were relieved the snake had been found.

Patricia Villa, 35, who walks by the zoo every day, said she and a friend prayed that they would not come across the snake as they passed the zoo one recent night while walking home from a nearby church.

Margaret Tanco, 51, said she worried about the safeguards the zoo has in place to keep animals inside.

“It’s very dangerous,” she said. “If a snake could come out, heaven knows what animal could.”

But Breheny said zoo officials were confident the snake would have likely fled rather than fight and pose a danger to people.

“Snakes in general are shy, secretive creatures. And venom is not primarily a defense mechanism, it is a way to procure food,” he said. “They don’t rely on aggressive biting or venom for anything other than food acquisition.”

He said officials were confident she would be found not far from where she had escaped.

## International Children's Festival

Saturday, April 2, 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.

University Village Community Center

Douglas Road near Route 933

ISSA and University Village Apartments invite children of all ages to make international arts and crafts, get their faces painted, play games, and more. Light refreshments will be provided.


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ISSA Questions? Email [issa@nd.edu](mailto:issa@nd.edu)

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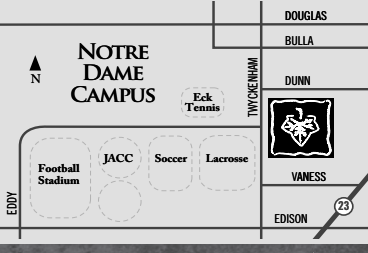
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# Highway death rate falls to lowest rate in 60 years

A few small planes had flipped over at the St. Petersburg-Clearwater Airport. Large traffic jams occurred on a bridge when a tractor-trailer truck flipped onto two cars, but no one needed medical treatment. Trees were uprooted and a large awning collapsed behind the offices of Daytona International Speedway.

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INSIDE COLUMN

# I hate Notre Dame

Notre Dame is a school steeped in tradition and praised by alumni, students and faculty alike. I hate it. Coming to Notre Dame was the worst decision of my life — Why didn't I just go to Georgetown? — and I have regretted it ever since that fateful day last spring.

Why do I hate Notre Dame? Well, aside from Notre Dame being a narrow minded, elitist, overpriced, penny-pinching, Stone Age, backward, homogenous, soul-less, repressive, tyrannical, unexciting, inferior institution, the food is disgusting.

I live near South Dining Hall and have to ingest the same unimaginative, underprepared food every day. It is a truly horrible situation, and I can only imagine how much worse it must be for those who have to endure North Dining Hall. There is of course a Burger King on campus, but while the logo may look like a beacon of hope amid the stormy seas of nauseating foodstuffs even Burger King is tainted by Notre Dame. It must be something in the air, or more likely the water — given the quality of what comes from the sink in my room, I often wonder if I'd be better off NOT washing my hands.

Speaking of my room, residential life on this campus is the stuff of dreams — and by dreams I mean nightmares! If I wanted to live inside of a cinder block, have my actions governed by strict rules and never interact with the opposite sex, I would go to prison. Instead I live in a place called Fisher Hall and feel my hope slowly dying.

While on the subject of hopelessness, let's not forget the student body. I'd like to know how I am supposed to be exposed to new life experiences by a bunch of rich kids from Chicagoland. The overwhelming banality of the students makes me feel like I am in a small room with the walls slowly closing in, only the walls are thousands of former high school athletes wearing American Eagle clothes and listening to iPods — presumably to drown out my screams of terror. Even if I accept the lack of diversity at Notre Dame, I have to deal with everyone's arrogance. I mean we're basically all the same person, so why are people so smug?

The worst part of this school, however, is something I signed myself up for. I made the unfortunate mistake of working for The Observer. In addition to being a completely irrelevant publication, they demand too much of me. I am required to write story upon story that no one will ever read. Once a week, I am forced to sit in an overheated office laying out pages no one will read for a salary below the cost of a postage stamp. Sometimes I fantasize about submitting a story written entirely in wing-dings and wonder if anyone would even notice.

Finally, I'd like to add that it is April Fool's Day. We have our problems, but Notre Dame is my home — I love ND. April Fools!

*The views expressed in the Inside Column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer. Contact Christian Myers at christian.m.myers.94@nd.edu*



Christian Myers

News Production Editor

# Humanity or hummus? Priorities of student government

The student government office on the second floor of LaFortune is not quite the Oval Office, but April 1 marks a presidential change nonetheless.

Today Pat McCormick and Brett Rocheleau assume their respective positions of student body president and vice president, while Catherine Soler and Andrew Bell will step down after their year in office.

Soler and Bell can be proud of what they accomplished. They represented the student body with poise despite a slew of arrests in the fall, heat from the local community and the general red tape that too often paralyzes student government. They encouraged the use of Transpo and improved communication between student government and the student body. They were good at their job — and that is key.

Enter McCormick and Rocheleau. The team's campaign succeeded on the strength of McCormick's public speaking, his polished campaign and his promises for a student government that is bigger and brighter. The incoming administration's plan — rewrite the presidential job description. McCormick promised a student government with no limits, a student government that is visible, a student government that makes students care about something more.

He wants to improve sustainability, reach out to the local community and hold a large-scale concert in the spring centered on the concept of social concern. The day-to-day tasks, the minute details that were the trials and the triumphs of the Soler-Bell administration, will be delegated to a "director of constituent services" while the president focuses on the world.

Today is McCormick's first day. Today he will begin to answer

the question that remains — can he do it? Can he successfully change student government into a larger voice? Or will he find himself paralyzed in a slew of red tape and failed ambitions?

McCormick has promise.

He speaks with clarity and conviction, and underneath the towering imagery of lighthouses and crossroads and world peace, he has an impressive track record. McCormick served as social concerns chair for student government with unbridled passion. He executed a successful campaign for awareness about the political crisis in Sudan this winter that culminated in the Playing for Peace rally and basketball tournament. He led the Social Concerns Committee through projects like eND Hunger, and he connected himself with people who can help him in the future. (He also resurrected quarter dogs from their 33-cent grave.)

Yet his experience remained inside the structure of the current student government. McCormick's largest challenge will be revamping this structure toward his ideal. Students will still turn to student government when wanting a better textbook rental system, lights on McGlinn Field and a change in the drinking games policy. Today McCormick must begin on the reality of his promises. He must decide if he can manage his large projects in tandem with the needs, sometimes trivial but always pressing, of the student body. He must decide if working on world issues can happen simultaneously with saving hummus in the dining hall.

Notre Dame is full of students who care about something more. We are addicted to the Center for Social Concerns, and we reach for the world's problems with our idealism and our talent.

Perhaps, just perhaps, this hunger for something more can be combined with McCormick's ideas to create something new.

## THE OBSERVER Editorial

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

# Project Salt

CommUniversity day is coming up this Saturday. For your sake, I hope you've signed up. The day is a fantastic opportunity to interact with the South Bend community, make visible improvements in the community and have a really great time with really great people.

Afterward, everybody should come to the wrap-up picnic at the Robinson Community Learning Center. There will be free food, more great people and a free concert hosted by ND Fighting NTDs, featuring some AcoustiCafe favorites.

We, ND Fighting NTDs, are putting on the concert to promote a really incredible project that has the potential to raise Haiti's national IQ by ten points. The project, Notre Dame Haiti Project Salt Initiative, seeks to provide fortified salt for the residents of Haiti. Fortified salt contains Iodine and DEC, a compound that prevents Lymphatic Filariasis.

All these scientific compounds have very concrete benefits. Iodine is necessary to prevent cretinism in young children. Cretinism stunts mental and physical growth, leaving young brains trapped in various stages of development. Lymphatic Filariasis causes grotesque swelling of the limbs and drastically impedes quality of life.

NDHPS already has a factory running in Haiti which produces salt for less than 50 cents per pound. Getting fortified salt to the people who need it allows children to grow up healthy, enjoying full mental capacity, the ability to learn and live. Celebrate your life and education, and learn more about the Salt Project this Saturday at the Robinson Community Learning Center — and catch some great music while you're at it!

Eileen Lynch  
sophomore  
Ryan Hall  
Mar. 31

# Crisis of education

If there is one person I swore to myself I would never become, it was the person who writes Viewpoint articles while abroad. And while I have been agonizing over the lack of spoons in the dining hall, the hook-up culture and the existence of Saint Mary's these past few months, it is for something altogether different that I feel compelled to write.

On April 13, four national education reformers will come to Notre Dame to present a panel: "The System: Opportunity, Crisis, and Obligation in K-12 Education." Last semester, I attended a campus showing of "The Lottery," a documentary following children hoping to attend one of New York City's elite charter schools. Instead of the perfunctory question-and-answer session typically following these sorts of events, I looked around and saw that my fellow attendees were riveted. I watched as tempers flared, voices raised and hand after hand rose to speak. And thank goodness, because we need to be talking.

When discussing education, it is all too easy to list the statistics, but I challenge all of you to attend the panel and forget about the numbers. They will always be there in some degree of imbalance, taunting us, reminding us that Finland produces more graduates, that males drop out at a faster rate than females ... the list goes on. What will not always be there are the students. They will grow up, maybe graduate, maybe not, and many of them will enroll their own children in the same troubled system.

There is a crisis in our nation, but it is not a crisis about percentages. It is a crisis about children. So we must start talking, start asking questions. Are charter schools the answer? Or do they lack accountability? How do we define accountability? How do we keep good teachers in schools and keep bad ones out? How do we determine what is a "good" versus a "bad" teacher? Each question prompts ten more, in an infinite spiral you should get a math major to explain to you. We cannot get discouraged. But we can talk.

Alex Karamol  
junior  
Badin Hall  
Mar. 31

## OBSERVER POLL

Who do you think is going to win the NCAA men's championships?

Kentucky  
Connecticut  
VCU  
Butler

Vote by Thursday at 5 p.m. at  
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## QUOTE OF THE DAY

*"America has rolled by like an army of steamrollers. It has been erased like a blackboard, rebuilt and erased again. But baseball has marked the time."*

James Earl Jones  
as Terence Mann in "Field of Dreams"



# Coming to terms with life and death

Nietzsche warns in his “Ecce Homo,” against a sentimental misreading of his Overman: “this word ‘Overman’ is understood almost everywhere with complete innocence to mean values that are the opposite from the ones appearing in the figure of Zarathustra, which is to say the ‘idealistic’ type of the higher sort of humanity, half ‘saint,’ half ‘genius.’” Nietzsche does not hesitate to offer an alternative model: “If I whisper to people that this type would look more like a Cesare Borgia than a Parsifal, they do not believe their ears.”



Daniel Sportiello  
*Bound Variables*

Whoever he would be, it is clear, the Overman would not conform to the artistic ideal that came to represent the counter-culture of the late twentieth century — a kind of saintly genius of which John Lennon is the paradigm. But is there any room between hippie and homicidal dictator? The Overman, it is clear, would be a man of violence — and yet he would somehow use this violence not to destroy but rather to create — to reevaluate values, not to abolish them.

When can violence be legitimately used? The Overman, according to Nietzsche, would use violence to teach us — to free us from our slavery to fear and transform us into what we were meant to be. In the first section of his Genealogy of Morals, Nietzsche argues that “the two opposed values ‘good and bad,’ ‘good and evil,’” — that is, the aristocratic morality and the slave morality — “have fought a terrible millennia-long battle on earth.” And though “the second value has had the

upper hand for a long time,” Nietzsche excoriates this slave morality and hopes for its overthrow — that is, for a reevaluation of values, a creative violence to be wrought by the Overman.

Who is this violent artist, this Overman? Someone very different, it is clear, from both Lennon and Hitler, from both Parsifal and Borgia — someone who would seem, at first, hardly human at all. Someone like Roy Batty.

Ridley Scott’s Blade Runner tells the story of a dystopian detective, Rick Deckard, who is tasked with hunting down five replicants — genetically engineered slaves, superficially indistinguishable from humans but faster, stronger and smarter — who have escaped and returned to Earth. Led by Roy — graced with superlative speed, strength and intelligence — these replicants hope to force their “father” to reengineer them beyond their four-year lifespans.

Roy and his replicant allies are natural aristocrats, but the natural slaves — that is, the humans, who are far weaker than the replicants — have banded together to enslave those who would otherwise be their masters. The humans — Deckard, for example — see the replicants as evil: they need to be hunted down. And the replicants, brainwashed into the slave morality, see the humans as evil, hunting down those — Hannibal Chew, J. F. Sebastian and Eldon Tyrell — who created and enslaved them. In doing so, the replicants act out of resentment — anger at the harm their enslavers did to them.

Both humans and replicants are afraid: they want most of all to prolong their own lives — and this frequently means killing those “evil” individuals that they see as threats. However, after his encounter with Tyrell, Roy realizes that life isn’t about — indeed, couldn’t be about — staying alive

as long as possible. The important thing is to accomplish great things with the time that one has — to take on great challenges and overcome them. “The flame that burns half as long burns twice as brightly,” says Tyrell, “and you have burned so very brightly, Roy.” Only in this way, by embracing danger, can one cease to live in fear. And only when one ceases to live in fear can one cease to hunt down one’s enemies. By the end, Roy no longer sees Deckard and the other humans as evil — for, indeed, any significant difference between humans and replicants has been shown to be illusory, now that the replicants have developed a truly human emotional depth.

This is the reason that Roy engages in his final, almost playful combat with Deckard. Roy is trying to teach him something. “Quite an experience to live in fear, isn’t it?” Roy asks Deckard. “That’s what it is to be a slave.” His point is that, so long as the humans and the replicants live in hate of one another, they are slaves to their fear of death — like Nietzsche’s Last Man, unable to live for anything but the safety of pleasure and the absence of pain.

And, in the case of the humans, this is especially perverse, for their meager pleasures are the products of a socioeconomic system built upon slave labor in hellish conditions on the edges of space. But things do not have to be this way. Roy saves the life of Deckard to show him that they do not have to see one another as evil, that they can live without fearing one another — that is, without fearing death.

Death is imminent — whether in four years, as for the replicants, or in 70, as for the humans. “It’s too bad she won’t live,” Gaff quips. “But then again, who does?” To live free is to come to terms with death — and to forge one’s own path, not to follow that of the aesthete directed by a dystopian capitalism and concerned only with pro-

longing his own comfort. Both humans and replicants have the capacity to reach beyond themselves, beyond their fear and to care for others — as does Roy when he saves Deckard, as does Rachel when she loves Deckard. He knows that he cannot return to the slave morality that defines the profession of the blade runner. He can no longer serve and preserve a society that keeps and kills slaves as though they were mere machines.

“You’ve done a man’s job, sir!” yells Gaff. In hindsight, his sarcasm is obvious. So long as Deckard continues to think in terms of man against machine, he is merely a pawn in a radically exploitative socioeconomic order — an order that is hunting down the woman he loves.

So the sometime blade runner decides to run. But not before finding one last clue — an origami unicorn, left by Gaff outside Deckard’s apartment. Does Gaff know of Deckard’s recurring unicorn daydream? Does Gaff know for certain what Deckard only suspects — that he too is a replicant, manipulated by Chief Bryant into “retiring” his own kind? “You are the blade, blade runner,” Gaff once joked. Was he trying, perhaps, to reveal something? Deckard is certain, at any rate, of only one thing — whatever lesson he has learned, Gaff learned it long ago — and is therefore willing to help Rachel and Deckard escape together. Into a future taught to them by creative violence — one unknown, but free.

*Daniel John Sportiello is in his third year in the philosophy Ph.D. program. Listen to his radio show on WVFI at 1 p.m. on Thursdays. He can be reached at dsporti@nd.edu*

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

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### You are not alone

Dear Members of the Notre Dame-Saint Mary’s Community,  
As the co-chairs of the University’s Committee on Sexual Assault Prevention, we want to deliver a simple but vitally important message to anyone in this community who has experienced sexual violence: you are not alone.  
Notre Dame is committed to addressing sexual violence in all of its forms. We actively seek to prevent sexual assault, address unacceptable or unlawful behavior when it occurs, provide resources and support for those who have been victimized, and ensure the safety and well-being of every student.  
If you or someone you love has experienced sexual violence, Notre Dame has many resources in place to assist you. Please visit our website, csap.nd.edu, to learn more. And know that you are not alone.  
Sincerely,

Dr. Susan Dunn  
co-chair  
Committee on Sexual Assault Prevention  
Mar. 31  
Dr. David Moss  
co-chair  
Committee on Sexual Assault Prevention  
Mar. 31

### Gluten-Free ND?

I am not overly concerned whether or not the dining halls serve meat on Fridays during Lent. I don’t eat it, but I won’t force my beliefs on you. What concerns me more is the lack of gluten-free foods on these days. As I was diagnosed as being a non-Celiac gluten intolerant over Christmas break, this is my first Lent dealing with this problem. I had never before given much thought to all of the meatless options: mac and cheese, cheese pizza, potato pancakes and various vegetable casseroles. Even the fish option last week was breaded.  
I’m not suggesting we take away these options because: (1) most people can eat them and (2) they taste good, but could we please have a gluten-free choice that isn’t Rice Chex cereal or PB&J on bread which must be defrosted in the microwave? I’d be happy seeing one of the GF stickers on some fish or some potatoes.  
P.S. Gluten-Free ND, your link on the SAO website goes to the Glass Club, just for your information.

Mike Petravick  
sophomore  
Duncan Hall  
Mar. 31

## The state of being

In support of the chain of messages from Ms. Mason and Mr. Nawrocki, I think it is necessary to point out a fatal flaw with the entire structure of the upcoming “God Debate.” Our modern culture is mistaken in believing that if we think hard and long enough, everything can be supported by human reason, even the nonexistence or existence of God. However, it is ironic that I have come to understand the contrary from one of the greatest contributors to modern philosophy.  
In his “Critique of Pure reason,” Immanuel Kant claims that “‘being’ is ... not a real predicate.” In other words, a predicate is an attribute belonging to a subject (God, in this case). These would be attributes such as “omnipotent,” “all-knowing” and “good.” We then associate these

attributes to God, the subject of our claim, to say things like “God is omnipotent,” and so on. However, according to Kant, the claim that “God is” or “God exists” does not add anything new to our understanding of God, even whether or not He exists. Asking if God exists would now be as if you had asked yourself whether this newspaper exists. Believe it or not, though you have a perception that this paper exists, the skeptic claims you have no reason to believe that. This is why it is futile to argue with a skeptic. He fails to use reason consistently by drawing into question conclusions and common sense premises you have taken for granted, without any real motivation for doing so, simply to deny your main conclusion.  
With this in mind, it seems futile to

reduce a demonstration of God’s existence to an academic debate. Because both sides are arguing with nearly incommensurable premises, each side will more than likely conclude that the other side is “unreasonable.” Although I am not against examining either an atheist’s or theist’s reasoning, the competitive structure of a debate suggests that we are looking for one side to come out on top, which in this case, is not possible for the reasons stated above.  
Although reason has its limitations, it is not utterly useless. I do not believe that St. Thomas Aquinas thought he had once and for all proved God’s existence in “The Five Ways.” Rather, he sought to demonstrate that God’s existence can be supported by reason in someone who accepts on faith those natural first principles that Ms.

Mason previously mentioned.  
Though it may be difficult to grasp what we cannot directly sense, God does not “hide” to avoid being found. Rather, God is a personal being, and He seeks us out in order to have a closer, more personal relationship than the distant, remote attitude we have towards any scientific theory found in an academic debate.  
In conclusion, if God could be conclusively “proved” at such a venue as the “God Debate,” I would have no more affection for Him than I have for Newton’s law of gravitation.  
Daniel J. Quinlan  
senior  
St. Edward’s Hall  
Mar. 31



# ARABIC CULTURE NIGHT: MORE THAN JUST DANCING



By MARY CLAIRE O'DONNELL  
Interim Scene Editor

The Arabic Culture Night returns to Notre Dame for its fourth year tonight, and it promises to be bigger and better than ever. More than 40 students from the department have worked tirelessly to prepare this very special event and are ready to share their hard work.

"Arabic Culture Night is a unique opportunity to engage and explore culture," says producer Ghada Bualuan, director of Undergraduate Studies, Arabic & Mediterranean Middle East Studies. "It is a way to enrich students' understanding of Arabic and Middle Eastern history and heritage through music, literature and theater. It symbolically unites us all, students and audience, with an interrupted centuries-old Arabic Culture."

Arabic culture will be on stage in almost every imaginable art form. From dancing to poetry reading, the night promises to have something for everyone. Although all the material used is originally from the Middle East, the program is easily relatable. Invigorating music, profound readings and energetic dancing will appeal not only to students but also to audiences of all ages. The English translations help, too.

Senior Jonathan Liedl, president of The Arabic Club and chair of the Arabic Culture Night Committee, calls this night "the capstone event of [his and his peers'] Arabic careers here at Notre Dame."

"It's great to reflect on just how far we've come," he says. "Additionally, this is the Arabic Club's inaugural year on campus. And also, it really is an opportunity for us to show our appreciation for all the Arabic faculty, especially Ghada Bualuan and her husband Ramzi."

The event is quite a capstone with a rich variety of acts and talents. Ben Gavel, a senior Arabic student, will read poetry from revolutionary Tunis, "The Will of Life" and "To the Tyrants of the World."

Other Arabic students, Molly Herber, Ian Montijo, Victoria Braga and Joe Dufour will recite, in two parts, "Children's Heaven," a short story from Naguib Mahfouz, a Nobel Laureate from Egypt.

Students have also prepared a comedy play, "The Dream Bistro." It tells the story of the hilarity that ensues when an arrogant playboy attempts

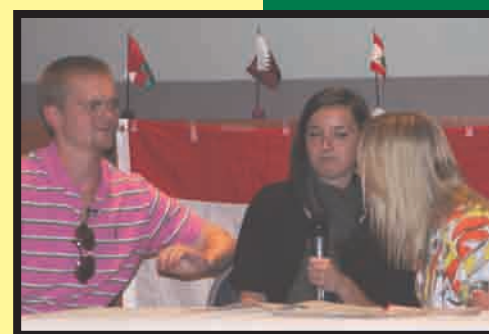
to go on a date with two different girls at the same restaurant. Liedl promises good, clean comedy, with the slapstick aspect taken quite literally.

In addition to these performances and a short film produced by faculty and students, Arabic Culture Night will also feature premiere student artists performing various music and dance acts. The night will include a song, "Oh! your Love, Laure," performed by Tyler Harmsen and Sarah Kiningham, as well as a violin performance by Mat Madonia.

Dance acts will range from Oriental dancing to Dabke, forms of folkloric Lebanese dances. Students have been preparing for their rhythmic debut, giving their time, talent and passion freely. The dances will also feature typical Arabic costume, adding to the beauty of the dance.

Bualuan and Liedl encourage students of all majors and backgrounds to come experience this unique cultural event. Liedl came to Notre Dame with a Spanish background, but found himself drawn to the exotic and exciting language and culture of the Middle East. Even if students are happily content in their major, he still encourages them to attend.

"[This night] helps us to realize that Arabic is more than just a language we learn from textbooks, it's the voice of an entire culture and people ... Everyone should come out to learn a little more about the people and culture of a misunderstood, but vital part of today's world."



Contact Mary Claire O'Donnell at  
modonne5@nd.edu

## On campus

**What:** Arabic Culture Night  
**Where:** Jordan Auditorium, Mendoza College of Business  
**When:** Friday, April 1, 7 p.m.  
**How much:** Free, open to all  
**Learn more:** Program of Arabic Language and Culture, 304 O'Shaughnessy Hall



# Latin Expressions Preview

## "Origenes: Regresando a Nuestras Raíces"

By MARIA FERNANDEZ  
Scene Writer

Ready to sing, dance and enjoy one of the largest cultural events on campus? The university's Latino student organization, La Alianza, will host their annual showcase Latin Expressions today. It will be an exciting night full of Latino history, culture and art.

The theme of this year's very much anticipated event is "Orígenes: Regresando a Nuestras Raíces" (Origins: Returning to Our Roots). The show's performances will highlight the different musical, literary and folkloric traditions present in Latin America.

There will be a variety of different University groups and clubs participating in this event, Latin Expressions coordinator Rachael Carreño said. The show will consist of various dance performances by Troop ND, Project Fresh break-dancers, First Class Steppers and Ballet Folklórico. There will also be several musical acts from groups, such as Coro Primavera and Mariachi ND, as well as a special performance by a classical guitarist.

In addition to music and dance, Latin Expressions will also address current Latin American political issues in some of their performances.

"MECHA, a club on campus, is performing a spoken-word piece addressing the ongoing drug wars affecting Juarez, Mexico and other border cities, and a group of students will perform songs and a poem

in quechua," Carreño said.

Latino culture is known for its energetic, colorful and lively feel and character. This event will not only accurately inform the audience and vividly exemplify a variety of Latino customs and traditions, but it will also captivate and entertain the audience. It will encompass the particular calor y sabor (warmth and flavor) of Latino culture that this student community brings to our campus.

The event will take place at The Century Center in downtown South Bend and shuttle buses from Library Circle will facilitate student transportation to the venue before and after the show. Tickets are available at the LaFortune Box Office for \$10 and will also be sold at the door for \$12. For more information, contact Rachael Carreño at rcarreno@nd.edu

Contact Maria Fernandez at mfernand5@nd.edu

### On campus

**What:** Latin Expressions "Origenes: Regresando a Nuestras Raíces"  
**Where:** The South Bend Century Center  
**When:** Friday, April 1, 7:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.  
**How much:** \$10 at Lafortune Box Office, \$12 at the door  
**Learn more:** Email ahavens1@nd.edu or rcarreno@nd.edu

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Scene on The Web

### 'Scene' Around the World



Going abroad? Chronicle your travels in a photo slideshow or video and send your clip to Scene. We'll post it on The Observer website and a preview will appear in the Scene section of the print edition.

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### Social Media

Follow Scene on Facebook and Twitter to hear about our latest coverage of campus entertainment and pop culture at large.





BRANDON KEELAN | Observer Graphic



NCAA BASKETBALL

Smart keeps Rams focused on game despite media circus

Associated Press

HOUSTON — They fought too hard to earn a spot at center stage to slink away now.

“Coach kind of warned us how crazy it would be,” Virginia Commonwealth guard Joey Rodriguez said Thursday, grinning from ear to ear. “I just kinda shot a music video. That was nuts, but it’s been fun.”

Never mind that Reliant Stadium, where VCU plays Butler in Saturday’s first semifinal, holds 10 times as many fans as the Rams’ Siegel Center back home in Richmond, Va. Or that the attention from the national media sometimes resembles speed-dating, with rapid-fire questions flying in every direction.

“I don’t think it affects us at all,” guard Brandon Rozzell said of the extra responsibilities this week. “If anything, it’s kind of team bonding.”

Fellow seniors Rodriguez, Ed Nixon and Jamie Skeen agree.

“We know what we’re getting ourselves into,” Nixon said. “This game is just like another game. Of course, it has a bigger stage, but we’ve got to play it like it’s just another game.”

There are, however, still two days before the 11th-seeded Rams (28-11) play No. 8 Butler (27-9).

“I think once we take that bus ride on game day it will, or practice here with the open practice it will be a little surprising, shocked about what we’re really into,” Rozzell said. “I think no one is shell-shocked yet about how important this us. It hasn’t sunk in yet.”

And if it does, the Rams will take care of it.

“If anyone’s uptight on the court or in the locker room, we notice it,” Rozzell said.

And easily fix it.

“We’ll pick on them until they start smiling and laughing,” he said. “If a guy is sitting there with his head down after making a bad play, we’re going to joke about. I think that’s one of the things that helps us out. We know each other, and we know what helps each other best.”

No one, it seems, is looser than Rodriguez. It helps that he clearly has fun on the floor and doesn’t mind telling the story over and over about how he almost transferred when Anthony Grant left to take the Alabama job and Smart was hired. He pretty much rolls with it all.

In some ways, the attention is just on a larger scale of how things have been in Richmond, Va.

About 5,000 fans were waiting at 1:30 a.m. in the Siegel Center when the team returned from San Antonio having finished off Kansas.

More than one thousand waited more than an hour on Wednesday for the team to emerge from the arena and board a bus for the airport, holding signs and screaming to show their appreciation.

The impact has come in little ways, too.

Skeen, a sociology major, said his sociology professor tailored a class to have it be about basketball and sociology, and that he participated more that day than he ever had before.

“I kept raising my hand and answering all the questions,” he said.

And Bradford Burgess, only of only two starters who will return next season, said he made a bad miscalculation on campus earlier in the week.

“I tried to walk through the bookstore when the Final Four shirts came out, which was a mistake because I was in there for like an hour, hour and a half just trying to sign autographs and shake hands,” Burgess said. “It’s definitely been crazy.”

Getting back onto the floor for a game, he added, might seem like a return to normal.

“We’re still a team playing, you know, with nothing to lose, and it’s definitely been a great experience, but we’re coming in to win a ball game and then to win another ball game,” he said.

AP

Virginia Commonwealth coach Shaka Smart answers questions from the press before his team’s practice in Houston Thursday.

MLB

Granderson helps Yankees top former team

Associated Press

NEW YORK — As soon as Justin Verlander was done for the day, the Detroit Tigers froze up.

Verlander held the New York Yankees in check for six innings, throwing 114 pitches in short sleeves on a frigid afternoon, but Phil Coke served up a tiebreaking homer to ex-Tiger Curtis Granderson in the seventh and Detroit dropped its season opener 6-3 on Thursday.

“I just felt absolutely not right. Nothing else to blame but myself,” said Coke, scheduled to move into the rotation April 9. “You’ve got to do your job. I didn’t do my job today. I’m irritated with myself because of it.”

Third baseman Brandon Inge, normally a reliable fielder, committed a costly throwing error, and a pair of wild pitches by young relievers Ryan Perry and Daniel Schlereth led to insurance runs for New York.

Victor Martinez singled in his first at-bat for Detroit, helping his new team build an early run, and Miguel Cabrera hit a sacrifice fly and scored twice. But by the time Mariano Rivera closed it out for a save, the final 10 Tigers hitters had been retired by New York’s imposing bullpen.

“Their bullpen and the long ball is what did us in today,” Detroit manager Jim Leyland said. “I thought it was actually a decent game for the conditions. It was pretty rough.”

Granderson, traded to the Yankees in a December 2009 deal that sent Coke and Austin Jackson to Detroit, also made two terrific plays in center and homered in his third consecutive opener.

Jackson, coming off a strong rookie season, struck out three times in the leadoff spot. He also singled and scored.

Coke (0-1) was brought in to face Granderson in a lefty-on-lefty matchup to start the bottom of the seventh. Coke fell behind 2-0 and Granderson drove the next pitch into the second deck in right.

“Couldn’t throw a strike until he hit it out of the yard,” Coke said.

Said Leyland: “He just got behind Granderson and left no doubt what was coming.”

With the flags above the lights in right field whipping toward the foul pole, Mark Teixeira connected off Verlander for a three-run shot in the third.

“It was a fastball in. He did a pretty good job of turning on it. Not too many hitters can do that,” Tigers catcher Alex Avila said.

Slimmed down by 25 pounds after having surgery on his right knee this winter, Yankees starter CC Sabathia gave up six hits and three runs — two earned — in six innings. Making his third opening day start in three seasons with New York, Sabathia struck out seven and walked two.

Joba Chamberlain (1-0), Rafael Soriano and Rivera each pitched a perfect inning.

“We’ve got to score early in the game,” Cabrera said. “They’re tough.”

Verlander was making his fourth straight opening day start, most for the Tigers since Jack Morris went 10 in a row (1980-90). He was hoping to get off to a quick start after going 1-2 with a 5.29 ERA last year in April before finishing 18-9, and he altered his offseason workout routine to help accomplish that.

“Obviously, coming out of the spring that I had, this is not the result that I wanted,” Verlander said. “I felt pretty calm considering opening day, Yankee Stadium — it’s hard to keep your adrenaline in check.”

The right-hander reached 97 mph on the radar gun in the first, but walked Teixeira and Alex Rodriguez before striking out Robinson Cano with his 31st pitch of the inning.

Verlander gave up just two other hits, including Rodriguez’s one-out double in the sixth that hit the fence in right-center just above the 385-foot marker. He walked Cano, but struck out Nick Swisher and Jorge Posada with two deceptive changeups.

“I’m trying to change things around in April. Last April I wore long sleeves,” Verlander said. “The only issue when I felt it was really cold on my body was coming out of the dugout. They have heaters in there.”

Jhonny Peralta drove in his first run of the month. After going without an RBI in 66 spring at-bats, he hit a sacrifice fly in his first plate appearance to give Detroit the lead in the second inning.

Cabrera lined a single and Martinez hit a hot shot to short-stop that Derek Jeter couldn’t corral. The ball squirted into center for a base hit. Sabathia walked the bases loaded before Peralta flied out.

“We did center some balls pretty good off CC, especially early,” Leyland said. “We didn’t have a lot of luck with it.”

Detroit closed to 3-2 on Inge’s two-out single in the fourth and tied it on Cabrera’s sacrifice fly in the fifth.

CLASSIFIEDS

The Observer accepts classifieds every business day from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Notre Dame office, 024 South Dining Hall. Deadline for next-day classifieds is 3 p.m. All classifieds must be prepaid. The charge is 5 cents per character per day, including all spaces. The Observer reserves the right to edit all classifieds for content without issuing refunds.

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“Ever wonder what people got Jesus for Christmas? It's like 'Oh great, socks. You know I'm dying for your sins right? Yeah, but thanks for the SOCKS. They'll go great with my sandals. What am I, German?”



# Clay

continued from page 20

turned with Johnson's four-run homer that put the Irish up 7-2, but it wasn't over until the final strikeout. Purdue had rallied again in the seventh inning to draw within two runs, and with two runners on base and only one out, things looked far from done.

"To be honest, we were very calm [during Purdue's rallies]," Maldonado said. "We were confident in our batters the whole game and knew that we would do

whatever it took to win."

Winters managed to ice the Boilermakers in the top of the seventh, ending the game with a score of 7-5. She logged a career-high 12 strikeouts in a crucial non-conference game. Irish batters struck out only twice.

"After the last out we were both relieved and excited," Maldonado said. "Purdue was a very good team, but we managed to hold them for the majority of the game."

This victory was a much-needed boost for the Irish after a tough loss to a talented Western Michigan team earlier in the week.

They face Providence in three Big East conference games this weekend.

"We're looking to continue getting better every day and play our game," Maldonado

said. "When we play Notre Dame softball, we play our best. We're going to give Providence our best games."

The Irish will meet Providence in a doublehead-


er Saturday at 12 and 2 p.m. as well as Sunday at 11 a.m. in Melissa Cook Stadium.

Contact Jack Yusko at [jyusko@nd.edu](mailto:jyusko@nd.edu)



Junior infielder Dani Miller hits off a pitch in the 7-5 Irish win against Purdue Thursday. This weekend the Irish face Providence in a string of three games at home.

TOM LA/The Observer



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## SMC SOFTBALL

# Belles begin conference season

By JOSEPH MONARDO  
Sports Writer

When the Belles travel to perennial powerhouse Alma for

their first conference game of the season this weekend, they hope to bring along their hot streak at the plate.

Saint Mary's (10-3) will enter the game coming off a doubleheader in which they took both games from Manchester, but Alma (17-2) has been even hotter recently. The team currently rides a ten-game win streak.

Alma's success at this point in the season is typical for a team that has not finished lower than third in the conference rankings in over 25 years, and has qualified for 14 of the last 16 NCAA tournaments.

"They are always tough competition. They are a smart ball club," Belles coach Erin Sullivan said. "They are definitely going to be a challenge for us."

The Scots are the Belles' first MIAA opponent of the year, but the St. Mary's players and coaches do not see any need to overemphasize the importance of their conference opener.

"We want to make sure that we are playing each game really well, from start to finish — that it is just a good day," Sullivan said. "That does not always result in wins and losses. I think it is just that we want to come out strong and at least play very well."

Senior captain and outfielder Hayley Bojorquez echoed her coach's sentiment, but said it would be a welcome accomplishment if the Belles could capture at least one of the decisions.

"It is kind of crazy that we are playing them so early, but I think as long as we compete and we play our game, if we end up losing by one, but we gave our all — that is all we can ask for," she said. "They are definitely going to be two really good games. So as long as we play our game, we should definitely come out with at least one win, I'm sure."

If the Belles can challenge Alma, it will be due to a successful day from behind the plate. In their two most recent outings, Saint Mary's scored a combined 22 runs as the team displayed its offensive firepower. Bojorquez said that her team's depth on the offensive side is a valuable tool.

"We just have to maintain our confidence and know our strengths, because we are such a great hitting team," Bojorquez said. "We know that one through nine in our lineup, we are all capable of putting the ball in play, so as long as we maintain our confidence, we will be okay."

Despite their impressive record thus far, in a number of games this season the Belles have fallen behind early, forcing them to play catch-up. Their tendency to start slowly represents an unwelcome trend the Belles hope to reverse.

"We want to start out a little bit stronger so that we do not have to come back from the bottom, but maintain the confidence in ourselves that we can come back from the bottom if we need to," Bojorquez said.

As they try to show improvement and play an entire game of good ball, Saint Mary's will also have to contend with the rigors of traveling to an away game. Sullivan said she hopes her team can display the mental toughness needed to put forth a strong performance.

"[We need to] have confidence when we go up there," she said. "It is a long ride so we want to make sure that we are prepared for a long trip and we are ready to go when we get off the bus."

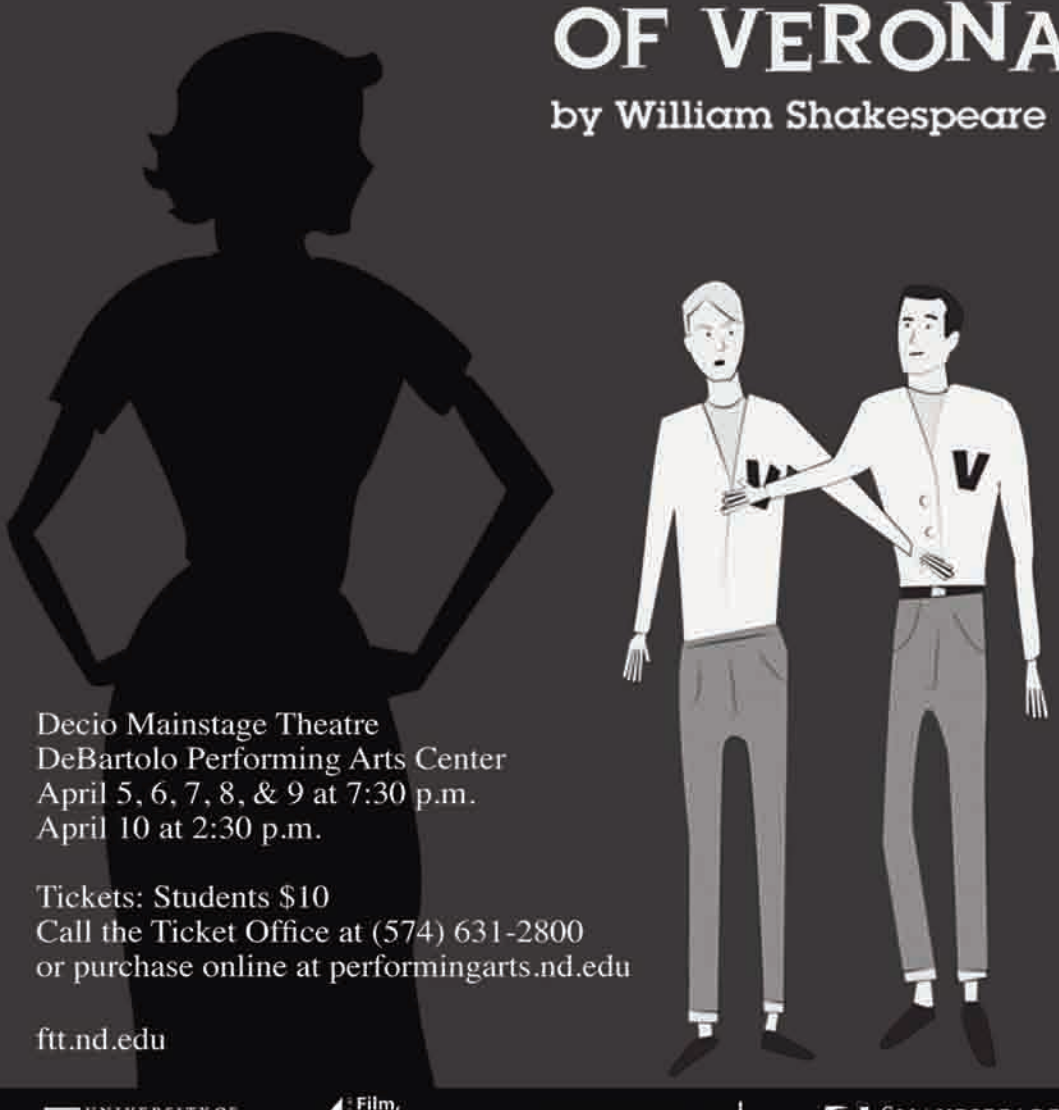
The Belles will get two shots at taking a game from Alma Saturday, with the first pitch slated for 2 p.m.

Contact Joseph Monardo at [jmonardo@nd.edu](mailto:jmonardo@nd.edu)

2011-2012 Theatre Season - The University of Notre Dame Department of Film, Television, and Theatre in partnership with the Notre Dame Shakespeare Festival presents

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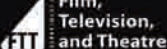

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## MEN'S TENNIS

## Irish face non-conference



Senior Sean Tan returns a serve in a 7-0 Irish win against Dayton March 27.

By ANDREW OWENS  
Associate Sports Editor

With the regular season slate winding down, each match takes on added importance for the Irish, who will play three solid opponents in a span of two days this weekend.

No. 23 Notre Dame (12-8) will take on three non-conference opponents this weekend — Ball State (8-7), SMU (13-5) and IUPUI (15-11).

“Ball State and IUPUI are two teams from less major conferences not in a position to get an at-large bid,” Irish associate head coach Ryan Sachire said. “But they are threats to win their conference and make it to the NCAA tournament.”

SMU, one of the more talented teams in the country, will enter Sunday's contest with some added rest after Tuesday's scheduled match against San Diego State was cancelled. Ball State dropped

its last decision against Portland, while IUPUI defeated South Dakota State in its last match.

“All three are quality teams,” Sachire said. “SMU is one of the top 50 or so teams in the country.”

Notre Dame, meanwhile, has been playing some of its best tennis lately, winning four of its last five, including a win over Illinois, a top-10 program.

“We're in high spirits after our wins,” Sachire said. “It would be great to go 3-0 this weekend.”

After this weekend, the Irish will have only two matches remaining during the regular season, despite the Big East championships being four weeks away. As Sachire noted, the extra time will give Notre Dame a chance to shift their focus.

“The way the schedule is built, we've played a lot of matches,” Sachire said. “After this, we will focus on player development. When you compete a lot, you lose some sharpness because you're focusing on competition and not on skill development. We'll have a chance to train and practice and improve our skills.”

The next Irish match will not take place until April 13, nearly two weeks away, when Notre Dame travels to Columbus, Ohio to play Ohio State.

The Irish will face Ball State in Muncie, Ind. at 2 p.m. Saturday and travel home to play SMU and IUPUI Sunday at 1 p.m. and 6 p.m., respectively at the Eck Tennis Pavilion.

Contact Andrew Owens at  
aowens2@nd.edu

## SMC TENNIS

## Belles hope to come out on top of close matches

By JACK HEFFERON  
Sports Writer

Saint Mary's is counting on their hard work paying off this weekend when they face Trine and North Central at home.

The Belles (5-5, 0-1) were bested Tuesday in the conference opener by visiting Albion, 7-2. Despite the margin, most of the matches were very close. This was especially true on the singles side, where Saint Mary's forced a third set or tiebreaker in four of five losses. That effort was not enough to beat the Britons (5-1), but Belles coach Dale Campbell said his players would stay confident and be aggressive going forward.

“We have to stay assertive, and remain especially offensive in doubles. We have discussed that we have to play every match to win. We can't win playing defensively. It serves us no purpose in any of our matches. The best teams play offensively,” Campbell said.

The Belles offensive will take on Trine Saturday, a conference matchup they have fared well in in the past. Saint Mary's has swept the Thunder (3-6) 9-0 in each of their past two meetings. Trine's main strength is the top of its doubles lineup. Their first two pairings are 8-4 on the year. While doubles play has been a point of emphasis for Campbell all year, he doesn't believe that the Belles will

need to change their methods.

“We don't typically need to adjust to our opponents. We need to play our game, do the plays we know how to execute and play the high percentage shots,” Campbell said.

While it is still early in the campaign and the MIAA tournament is still almost a month away, getting the first win in the conference is a big step in any season. Campbell knows that every conference game counts, and not just for the Belles' record.

“It is very important for conference tournament seeding, and simply the pride in beating a conference opponent,” Campbell said. “This is why we play — to be a part of the rivalries and to succeed.”

After playing Trine, Saint Mary's will have a short turnaround before they face North Central in a non-conference matchup. The Belles beat the Cardinals (10-3) last year as well, but in a slim 5-4 decision. Despite that victory, Campbell believes that his squad will need another strong showing to win again.

“They had a very balanced lineup, and gave us a battle last year. They have a lot of depth on their team and I expect a great match,” Campbell said.

The Belles weekend home stand will kick off against the Thunder at 1 p.m. Sunday's match against North Central will also start at 1 p.m.

Contact Jack Hefferon at  
wheffero@nd.edu

## ND WOMEN'S TENNIS

## Notre Dame excited to host double meets

By KATIE HEIT  
Sports Writer

The No. 19 Irish are eager to add two more wins to their record this weekend as they take on No. 44 Long Beach State and No. 32 Texas A&M at home.

The Irish (9-8) will enter these games after suffering a tough 5-2 loss to Georgia Tech March 24.

“We have really been focusing on our consistency from the baseline which will definitely help us in all of our future matches,” freshman Julie Sabacinski said.

Sabacinski has attempted to improve her own consistency in singles play and in doubles play with partner and fellow freshman Jennifer Kellner.

The Irish are eager to showcase their three ranked players, including No. 3 junior Kristy Frilling, No. 63 junior Shannon Matthews and No. 105 freshman Jennifer Kellner. Additionally the Irish are home to the No. 22 doubles team composed of Matthews and Frilling. Frilling enters this weekend with a 13-1 record.

None of the current members of the Notre Dame team

have faced Long Beach State in their college careers. The last matchup between the teams went to the Irish with a score of 5-2. Long Beach State is coming off a loss against Pepperdine, bringing their season record to 12-4.

The last time the Irish faced Texas A&M (9-4) was during the 2010 season, when Notre Dame won 4-3. The Aggies will come to South Bend after a comfortable win March 27 against Kansas. The Aggies and the Irish have met eight previous times. Notre Dame leads the series 7-1.

“We want to be as intense and competitive as possible this weekend,” Sabacinski said.

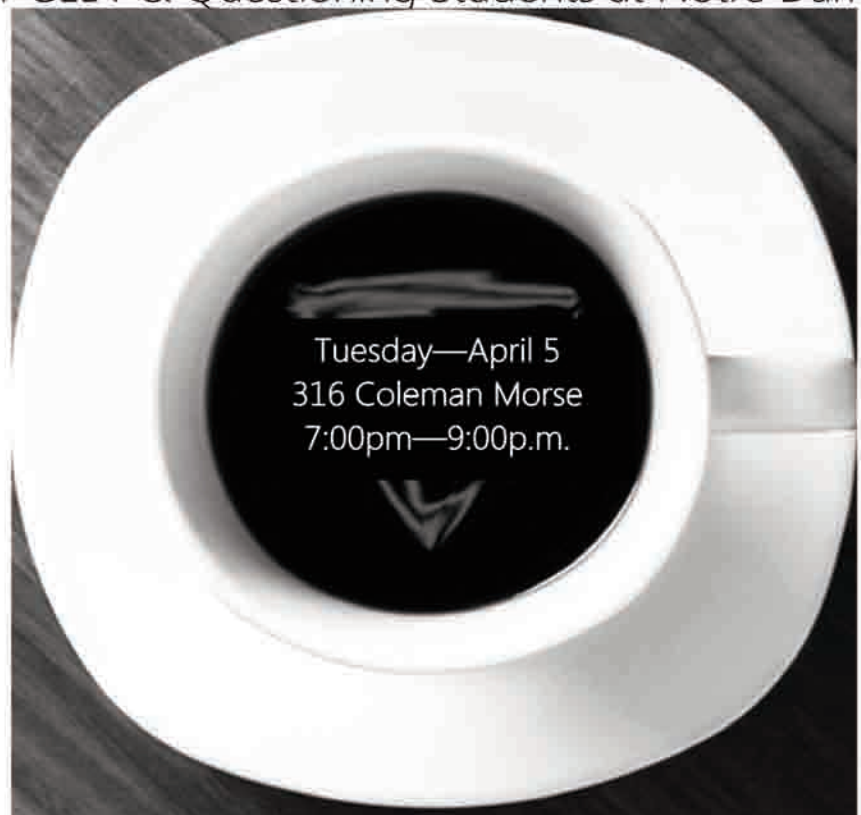
In these two matches, Notre Dame will face the Big West Player of the week Klaudia Malenovska from Long Beach State and No. 34 Nazari Urbina from Texas A&M.

Notre Dame will face off against Long Beach State today at 4 p.m. and Texas A&M Saturday at 1 p.m. Both games will be played at the Eck Tennis Pavilion and will be broadcasted live online.

Contact Katie Heit at  
kheit@nd.edu

## Coffee at the Como

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WOMEN’S GOLF

Irish hope momentum carries over to Athens

By LAURA COLETTI  
Sports Writer

The Irish hope to carry the momentum they gained winning the John Kirk Intercollegiate Invitational March 21 and 22 to the 39th Liz Murphey Collegiate Classic Friday in Athens, Ga.

The tournament, one of the most unique intercollegiate events in the country, is hosted by the University of Georgia and features five top-10 teams in the 23-team field.

“We’re all really excited about this tournament and being part of one of the best tournament fields of the year,” senior captain Katie Conway said. “It presents a great opportunity for us to pick up wins against many top-ranked schools.”

Among Notre Dame’s competition are defending champions and third-ranked Alabama, along with No. 4 Duke, No. 5 Purdue, No. 6 LSU and No. 7 Virginia. There are also seven other top-25 teams entered in the tournament.

Georgia’s course will also present a challenge for the confident Irish.

“Coming off a win, we are all feeling confident and more prepared as a result for this week,” Conway said. “The University of Georgia’s golf course is one that you need to stay focused on and choose your targets well, because with its large, undulating greens, it is that much more important to position yourself well.”

This year’s Classic is special and

different than years past because it features new playing and scoring methods. Traditionally, teams are scored by three golfers from different schools playing together. In this tournament, five players from each team will compete together. Coming off a stellar performance for the Irish this weekend will be junior Becca Huffer, who was named the Big East Women’s Golfer of the Week. Seniors So-Hyun Park and Conway will also be competing, and will be joined by freshmen Nicole Zhang and Kristina Nhim.

“This tournament is different than others because we are all playing together, which will be a first for all of us in our college golf careers,” Conway said. “Playing together presents the opportunity for us to feed off of each other and keep each other up and motivated throughout our rounds.”

The tournament’s scoring method is atypical as well. The 54-hole, 72-par course features one round of play each day. Typically, the four best scores at the end of each round are counted. In this competition, the four best scores from each hole will count towards the final score.

“The tournament is still being scored the same way for [ranking purposes], but there will be a separate competition taking place to determine who takes home the trophy,” Conway said.

The Irish tee off today in Athens.

Contact Laura Coletti at  
lcoletti@nd.edu



Senior Herman Petzold prepares to run during the Irish game against Central Michigan March 29 at home.

Pitching

continued from page 20

the Panthers (13-9, 1-2), who have a lineup that includes eight batters with batting averages over .300.

Pittsburgh senior catcher Kevan Smith leads the ballclub with a .459 average, 34 hits and 5 doubles.

While freshman hurler Anthony McIver is the only scholarship left-hander available off the bench, Aoki said he is not concerned with the absence of a lefty in the weekend rotation.

“All of them [Dupra, Johnson and Miller] have weapons to handle lefthanders,” Aoki said. “They all seem to be able to jump into the zone on a pretty consistent basis. I don’t think it’s going to be an enormous issue. When you look at the Big East, there’s not one team that’s just left-handed dominant.”

Confident that his pitchers are up to the challenge, Aoki said he was especially pleased with their performances earlier in the year against Gonzaga and Coastal Carolina, teams with potent lineups. The first-year skipper is more concerned with the productivity of his own offense, which showed

signs of turning the corner in a 3-2 win over Central Michigan on Tuesday.

“You just try to go up there offensively and have some quality at-bats,” Aoki said. “You get one pitch every at-bat that you’re going to be able to handle. Hopefully we can put a quality swing on it.”

Freshman right-hander Dan Slania has been a reliable option out of the bullpen for Aoki, as the rookie picked up his third save of the season in Tuesday’s win. Although Slania has emerged as a go-to arm out of the pen, Aoki said he will consider sophomore right-hander Adam Norton and junior righty Will Hudgins in late game situations as well.

“I think the way we’ve been doing that is that as the game goes along, you try to play matchups,” Aoki said. “Maybe Norton will give us a pretty good matchup, or Hudgins, or somebody else — it really depends on the type of hitter.”

The Irish take the field in Pittsburgh Friday at 3 p.m., Saturday at 1 p.m. and Sunday at noon.

Contact Chris Masoud at  
cmasoud@nd.edu

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Notre Dame Institute for Advanced Study  
“Dimensions of Goodness” Conference  
APRIL 4-6, 2011



Schedule for  
MONDAY, APRIL 4

*All conference sessions are held in the Notre Dame Conference Center in McKenna Hall.  
All conference meals will be served in the Donor’s Room of the Morris Inn.*

Monday, April 4 – First Session (8:30 a.m.)  
Introductions and Welcome

Jonathan Israel (Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton)  
What are the major changes in the history of our moral principles?

Coffee Break (McKenna Hall Atrium)

Jennifer Herdt (Yale University)  
What is Christianity’s contribution to ethics?

Coffee Break (McKenna Hall Atrium)

Franz von Kutschera (Universität Regensburg) - Moral Realism  
*Professor von Kutschera is unable to attend; his presentation will be read by Mark Roche (University of Notre Dame)*

Lunch (12:30 to 2:00 p.m.)

Monday, April 4 – Second Session (2:00 p.m.)  
Vittorio Hösle (University of Notre Dame)  
Is there any logic in the history of ethics?

Coffee Break (McKenna Hall Atrium)

Camillo Padoa-Schioppa (Washington University in St. Louis)  
What happens in our brain when we make a choice?



Coffee Break (McKenna Hall Atrium)

Clive Seligman (University of Western Ontario)  
Why and when are values important for moral decisions?

Dinner (6:00 to 8:00 p.m.)

NDIAS 574-631-1305

REVISED  
8:30 a.m.  
Schedule



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# Success

continued from page 20

guys did a great job cutting and finishing all the feeds I gave them. I did well, but obviously my teammates were a big part of my success.”

The Irish are coming off what coach Kevin Corrigan called their “most complete game of the season,” which was played against Rutgers Sunday. Rogers said the team has been working on putting together more efficient possessions in preparation for the Wildcats (7-2).

“We definitely want to control [the ball] and have smart and sustained possessions,” he said. “We don’t want to make it easy for their defense by taking shots away. The key for us is to get good looks and take advantage of all the good looks we get.”

Notre Dame hopes its defensive game will carry over from the Rutgers matchup. Irish sophomore goalie John Kemp said he notices a difference in the Irish defensemen when they play their best defense. Kemp said the Irish need to communicate even more while defending their own goal against the Wildcats.

“Communication has definitely gotten better, and also [it helps] just that we’re getting further into the season. Playing together, you get used to how everyone

talks, and being together almost all the time on the field really helps us prepare for other people. Familiarity with everyone is kind of what’s helping us,” Kemp said. “Communication on defense and helping each other out will help out the team against Villanova.”

Villanova (7-2) will travel to South Bend fresh off its second loss of the season, a 5-4 defeat Saturday from No. 1-ranked Syracuse. Wildcat senior defenseman Brian Karalunas was already been named Big East defensive player of the week earlier this season.

“Offensively, they have basically six attacks who can play at all times. They don’t run any particular sets — they’re more free flowing, hard to guard and dangerous,” Rogers said. “They have one of the best defensive players in our league in Brian Karalunas. He gets the ball multiple times in the game, and the rest of the defense is very aggressive.”

Kemp said he agreed the Wildcats have a lot of depth on their roster.

“Villanova is kind of a team that, I don’t want to say doesn’t have a lot of talent, but has good players who play well together,” he said. “We’ve started preparing for what they do and how they run their offense, and they don’t really have one guy who can do it all. They all work

together. They have a lot of guys who can put it in the net. They’re a good all-around team.”

Although the Irish remain undefeated and recently moved up in the rankings, the team remains humble and is not getting too comfortable with its record just yet.

“You want to have confidence, and you get it from beating other teams. That’s the mentality you want to have,” Kemp said. “You don’t want to be too confident, though. With a high ranking it’s easy to kind of forget the other talent that’s out there. You don’t want to overlook teams on your schedule, especially going into league play. We take everything week by week.”

Now that the Irish are halfway through their season, Corrigan continues to emphasize the goal the Irish made at the beginning of the season — to win a national championship, Kemp said.

“The latter part of our schedule is tougher, and getting into Big East play and [doing well] will jumpstart us going into the postseason,” Kemp said. “[Coach said], ‘Keep it up and play hard,’ and he knows that we’ll just keep doing it.”

The Irish will look for their seventh win when face off against Villanova Saturday at 1 p.m. at Arlotta Stadium.

Contact Megan Golden at [mgolde01@saintmarys.edu](mailto:mgolde01@saintmarys.edu)



Senior Tom Usher takes a shot at the Fighting Irish Gridiron Golf Tournament Sept. 27, 2010.

# Usher

continued from page 20

tournament just two weeks away and a championship in sight, the team is focused on the remaining rounds left to play.

“We’ve tried all year not to get caught up in rankings and results,” Kubinski said. “We

obviously have set the Big East as a goal, and we have goals beyond the conference tournament. But we have to concentrate on what we’re doing this week in Louisiana and keep on getting better.”

The Irish take to the links Saturday at the Collegiate Club in Baton Rouge.

Contact Conor Kelly at [ckelly17@nd.edu](mailto:ckelly17@nd.edu)

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# Blaney

continued from page 20

Senior midfielder Shaylyn Blaney leads Notre Dame with 18 draw controls, including five against Hofstra. Blaney, along with senior captain defender Jackie Doherty, will help give the Irish an advantage off the draw.

Controlling the draw will be even more important during Big East play. The conference currently has three top-20 teams, including undefeated Loyola (8-0).

“It’s a very competitive conference. Even the weaker teams from last year have improved,” Coyne said. “We want to be the team we know we can be.”

The Greyhounds pose a difficult challenge for the struggling Irish. Led by reigning Big East Attack Player of the Year senior attack Grace Gavin, Loyola has outscored their eight opponents this year by an average of six goals-per-game. Gavin, the current Big East Offensive Player of the Week, leads the squad in both goals (31) and assists (9).

“We’re not intimidated by their ranking — we’ve played a tough schedule so far,” Coyne said of a schedule that has featured No. 2 Northwestern and No. 11 Stanford. “Even though we’re struggling right now, we are a very competitive team.”


Junior attack Maggie Tamasitis is second in the Big East with 18 assists and will also carry a 26-game point streak into the weekend. Sophomore midfielder Jenny Granger has scored a team-high 14 goals.

The Irish open conference play against Rutgers Friday at 7 p.m. and finish the weekend against Loyola Sunday at 1 p.m. Both games are in Arlotta Stadium.

Contact Matthew DeFranks at [mdefrank@nd.edu](mailto:mdefrank@nd.edu)

## Cheerleading & Leprechaun Tryout Information Meeting

**5:30-6:30 p.m. April 6, 2011 – Gym 2 – Joyce Center (above Gate 10)**



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**Questions: (Kaitlyn) [kstrand@nd.edu](mailto:kstrand@nd.edu) or (Chris) [cdinkins@nd.edu](mailto:cdinkins@nd.edu)**



MEN’S & WOMEN’S TRACK & FIELD

Irish set for Mike Poehlein

By MEGAN FINNERAN  
Sports Writer

The Irish got over their opening season nerves last weekend and now will focus on inching toward the June nationals, starting with the Mike Poehlein Invitational in West Lafayette, Ind. this weekend.

“Now that some of us have gotten our first meet out of the way, we have a starting block to build from,” senior thrower Rudy Atang said, who took third place Saturday in Arizona when she threw 15.69 meters in the shot-put event.

Two Irish athletes received awards last weekend. Sophomore Jeremy Rae was named the Big East Men’s Outdoor Track Athlete of the Week and junior pole-vaulter Kevin Schipper was named the Big East Men’s Field Athlete of the Week.

“It’s not as cut and dry as indoors where there’s a set standard to qualify for nationals,” Rae said.

Rae finished second in the 1,500-meter race at the Stanford Invitational last weekend in 3:44.09, marking a personal best and the current best collegiate time in the country. He was 0.32 seconds ahead of UTEP’s Elkana Rotich.

Schipper finished first in the pole-vaulting event at the Arizona State Invitational with his 5.20-meter clearing, the best height in the conference and the fourth-best in the nation.

“We do keep in mind that some of us will be racing through June, so how we do in March doesn’t have too much impact on our season as a whole,” Rae said.

While these early meets may not have as much direct impact in terms of team records, they provide opportunities for athletes to obtain qualifying positions.

Sophomore middle-distance runner Rebecca Tracy joined Rae and Schipper as probable qualifiers as well, finishing in 4:22.78 to take

10th place in the first section at the Stanford Invitational.

“We hope to continue on from Stanford and improve on what we have already accomplished,” Tracy said. “We may move some people around and try them in different events than they ran indoors as well, based on last weekend’s performances.”

Other successful performers expected to carry over their streak from last weekend include senior Justin Schneider, who took second in the decathlon at the Alabama Relays with 6,909 points and junior Maddie Buttinger, who finished third in the pentathlon with 3,035 points.

“Last weekend, there was a lot to learn. I think it’s fair to say that we all individually found aspects in our performances, whether good or bad, that we can improve on,” Atang said.

The Mike Poehlein Invitational kicks off Friday, April 1 at 3 p.m. with the hammer throw, the only event of the day. The meet continues Saturday at 10 a.m. with the discus throw and javelin. The women’s 10,000-meter running event will begin at 11 a.m.

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



JULIE HERDER/The Observer  
Junior Kelly Lynch competes in the 3,000-meter at the Alex Wilson Invitational March 5.

*“Last weekend, there was a lot to learn. I think it’s fair to say that we all individually found aspects in our performance, whether good or bad, that we can improve on.”*

**Rudy Atang**  
senior Irish thrower

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IRST 30111:01 MW 3:00-4:15 Ian Kuijt Archaeology of Ireland	IRST 10101:02 MWF 10:40-11:30 Mary O'Callaghan Beginning Irish I	IRST 43504:01 TR 11:00-12:15 Mary Burgess Seminar: Modern Irish Fiction	IRST 40111:01 TR 3:30-4:45 Briona Nic Dhiarmada The Irish Hunger Strikes
IRST 30423:01 MW 3:00-4:15 Sean McGraw Irish Politics: 1916-2009	IRST 10102:02 MWF 10:40-11:30 Tara MacLeod Beginning Irish II	IRST 30309:01 TR 12:30-1:45 Sarah McKibben Great Irish Writers	IRST 30362:01 TR 9:30-10:45 Cathal Goan The Irish Language Lyric: Song Tradition
IRST 20314:01 MW 3:00-4:15 Shan-Yun Huang Bewildered Beginnings: Coming-of-Age Novels	IRST 30413:01 MWF 9:35-10:25 James Smyth British History: 1660-1800	IRST 20108:01 TR 2:00-3:15 Jeremiah Gillan Verbal Arts & Oral Traditions	IRST 43511:01 MW 3:00-4:15 Denis O'Hearn Irish Connections
IRST 20531:01 MW 4:30-5:45 Ailbhe Darcy Irish America	IRST 10102:01 MWF 9:35-10:25 Mary O'Callaghan Beginning Irish II	IRST 40513:01 TR 3:30-4:45 Mary Burgess Culture and Politics of Northern Ireland	IRST 30124:01 TR 2:00-3:15 James Hamrick Swift to Heaney: Irish Poetry Since 1700
IRST 10101:03 MWF 1:55-2:45 Mary O'Callaghan Beginning Irish I	IRST 20107:01 TR 11:00-12:15 Peter McQuillan The Hidden Ireland	IRST 20541:01 TR 3:30-4:45 Christopher Fox Anglo-Irish Identities	



CROSSWORD

WILL SHORTZ

- Across**

1 Spice mix used in Indian cuisine

7 "Far out!"

14 Pasqueflower, e.g.

16 Shade of green

17 Conditions

18 Proved to be quite a poser?

19 16th-century assembly

21 Winner of a famous 1938 rematch

22 Colonial captives

27 Becomes cracked

32 Brooklyn neighborhood

33 Construct

34 Kansas City university

35 Plot line
- 37 1988 animated action film set in 2019 Tokyo

38 "The Newlywed Game" contestants

39 Attractive

41 36-Down's locale

42 Site of Napoleon I's coronation

43 "Raging Bull" co-star

44 Detractors' comment concerning 19-Across?

53 Convert to pounds?

54 One who's withdrawn

55 Enormous statues

56 Say "Hallelujah!"
- Down**

1 Canvas holder

2 Lit. collection

3 Drought-stricken

4 In

5 1970s pinup name

6 "\_\_\_ Ashes"

7 High priest in "Aida"

8 Swears

9 Dummy

10 Champagne bucket

11 0 on the Beaufort scale

12 Vitamin C providers, maybe

13 City near Ben-Gurion Airport

15 Member of the U.N. since 1991 and the E.U. since 2004

20 As far from the heart as possible

22 Roguish sort

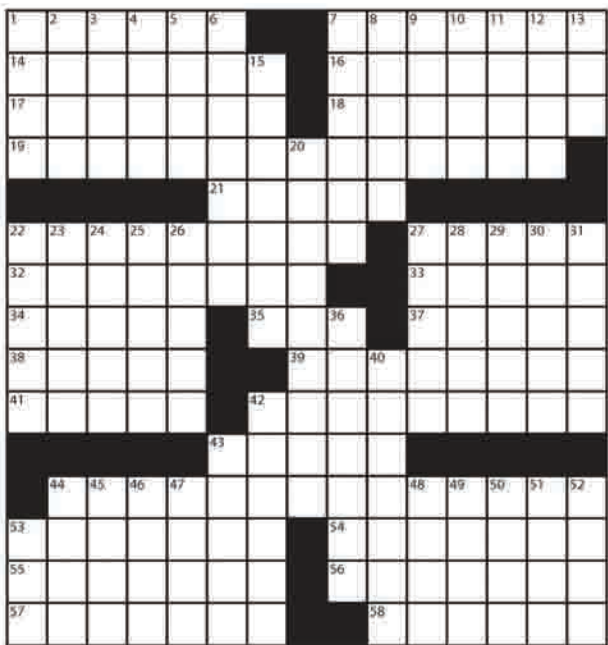
23 Montreal suburb

24 Novelist Brookner

25 Jeeves, for one

26 Indulge in character assassination?
- 57 Short-\_\_\_

58 Choice in bottled water



- Puzzle by Henry Hook
- 27 Washington Irving character

28 Followed a trail, maybe

29 Gut reaction?

30 Adar festival

31 Opportunity for privacy

36 Bench, for example
- 40 Mourned

42 Calypso, e.g.

43 Entourage

44 Architect \_\_\_ Ming Pei

45 Account

46 Liqueur flavor

47 Weapon for 21-Across
- 48 North American peninsula

49 Screen figure

50 Bankruptcy

51 Retro style

52 Discovered

53 Alternatives to Pepsis

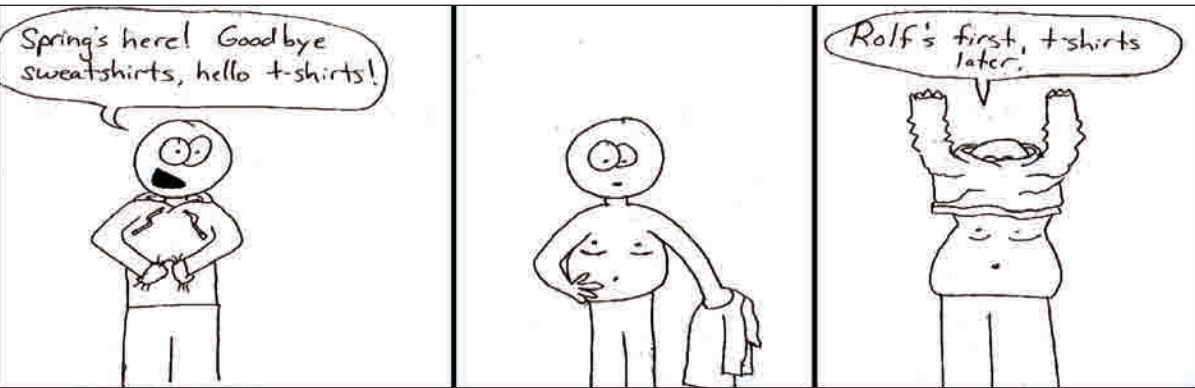
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ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE



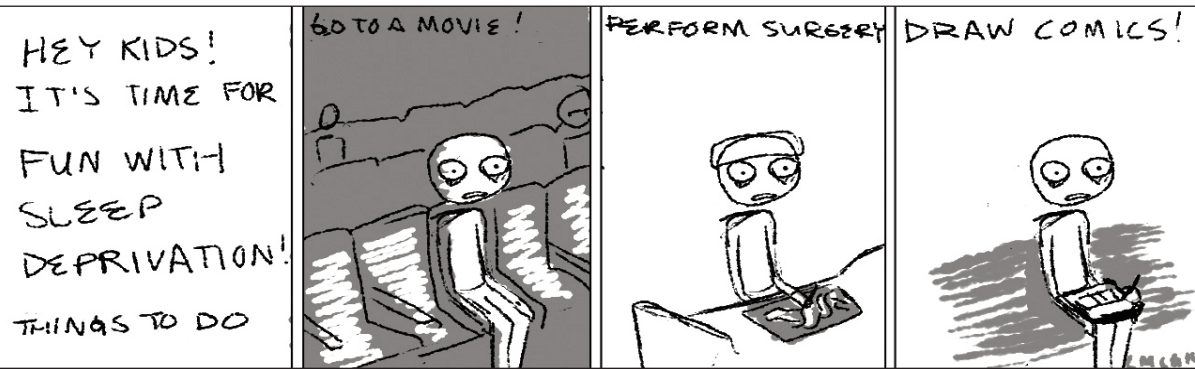
PLEASANDVILLE

JAMES SOLLITTO, CODY ECKERT and JOHN FLATLEY



TUESDAY VARIETY SHOW

LAURA MCGINN



HOROSCOPE

EUGENIA LAST

**CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:** Jessica Szohr, 26; Ewan McGregor, 40; Christopher Walken, 68; Shirley Jones, 77

**Happy Birthday:** Your intuition will be right on target this year. Second-guessing will be your downfall. Don't allow anyone to push you into something you don't feel right doing. Be true to yourself and your beliefs and you will advance. This is not the year to compromise. Your numbers are 2, 5, 14, 20, 23, 38, 41

**ARIES (March 21-April 19):** Your quick response to whatever comes your way will show others you are on top of your game and aren't easily fooled. With discipline and a responsible attitude, you can turn any disappointment into something that can work for you. ★★★

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20):** Put more time and effort into helping others and you will receive recognition. Your hands on approach in both your personal and professional dealings will lead to a position you cannot turn down. Take care of personal paperwork. ★★★★★

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20):** You have to separate your emotions from the equation when dealing with difficult individuals trying to get something for nothing. It's nice to receive compliments but don't make a promise to do something because of it. Use your time to your own advantage. ★★

**CANCER (June 21-July 22):** Don't let last-minute changes throw you off. Be ready to adapt to whatever develops, especially if it has to do with work. Love is on the rise and the chance to meet someone new or to enhance the relationship you are already in looks good. ★★★★★

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22):** Jump in with both feet. Change will stimulate you and help you turn one of your ideas into a workable endeavor. Getting involved in a group or attending a conference will lead to an important connection. A lifestyle change will open up opportunities. ★★★

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):** Your emotions will be difficult to control. Deal with pending problems in order to ease your stress so you can address any personal issues that arise. Someone you love is likely to disappoint you. Patience and understanding will be the keys to making things better. ★★★

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22):** Don't overreact. Use whatever comes your way to your advantage. Let your imagination flow and your creative talent move you in a positive direction. Opportunities are present but you have to take action. ★★★★★

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):** You can achieve a lot both personally and professionally if you mingle with people who can help you get ahead and people who love and support you. Mixing business with pleasure will pay high dividends. Love is in the stars. ★★★★★

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):** Look at each situation you face, separating the good from the bad. Only after you differentiate between who is willing to help you and who isn't, will you be in a position to move forward. ★★

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):** Don't show surprise if someone broadsides you with unexpected information or choices. Make whatever you are handed work for you. Don't bother arguing when taking action is so much more effective. ★★★

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):** An old idea will help you turn something you are working toward now into a positive endeavor. A love interest will not turn out the way you expect. Be careful not to disrupt a relationship that means a lot to you by making a stupid choice. ★★★

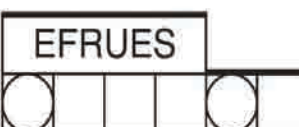
**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20):** Love is at an all-time high. Putting pressure on someone you want to be with will have its advantages, but keep in mind that if you ask for too much, your plan will backfire. Consider everyone involved in your circle before you proceed. ★★★★★

**Birthday Baby:** You are articulate, sensitive and impulsive. You are emotional, passionate and caring.

JUMBLE

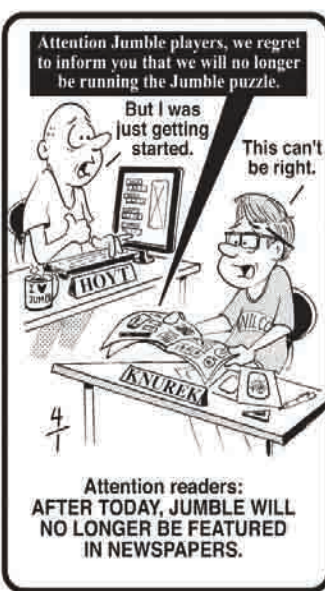
JEFF KNUREK  
MIKE ARGIRION

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



Ans: " [grid of circles] [grid of circles] " (Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: CLIFF PLUMB GALLON ACROSS  
Answer: The architect who designed the skyscraper had these — BIG PLANS



THE OBSERVER

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MEN'S LACROSSE

# Still perfect

*Rogers continues to lead team on offense, relies on teammates for assistance*

By MEGAN GOLDEN  
Sports Writer

As the No. 2 Irish enter the second half of the regular season, they are focusing on winning one game at a time, starting with a victory over No. 8 Villanova Saturday.

Big East offensive player of the week Sean Rogers will lead the Irish (6-0) in pursuit of this goal. The junior attack recorded four goals and three assists in his past two games against Ohio State (5-4) and Rutgers (5-3), and credited his teammates for his success.

"All my individual success comes from my teammates getting me in the right spots and getting me the ball. As far as my goals, all of the credit goes to [my teammates] — most of my goals are assisted," Rogers said. "In the last two games, we knew what to look for, and

see SUCCESS/page 17



Senior midfielder Zach Brenneman advances the ball in an 8-7 Irish win against Ohio State March 23. The Irish host Villanova Saturday at 1 p.m.

GRANT TOBIN/The Observer

MEN'S GOLF

# Irish travel to Louisiana for tourney

By CONOR KELLY  
Sports Writer

After finishing 12th of 15 in the country at last weekend's Schenkel Invitational, the Irish will try to rebound this weekend at the University Club Intercollegiate tournament in Baton Rouge, La.

The Intercollegiate will feature a variety of teams from the Big East, Big Ten and ACC, including VCU, Boston College and Iowa.

"With so many different teams from so many different conferences here it should be a lot of fun," Irish coach Jim Kubinski said. "This should be a bounce-back weekend for us after Schenkel. We have to get back to the level we were at in the fall."

Inconsistency has been a problem for the Irish, who are still getting used to playing outside after a winter indoors.

"Sure it's nice to have an indoor facility, but we really have to get used to being outside," Kubinski said. "We're much too inconsistent right now."

One constant in the Irish lineup has been junior Tom Usher, the recently crowned Big East golfer of the week. Usher finished 20th overall at the Schenkel Invitational with a two-over-par three-day score.

"Tom is our most consistent golfer. We can always count on him to be around or under par round in and round out," Kubinski said. "He's really a leader of this team."

Usher finished second individually at the Big East championships last year and also led the team to a runner-up finish. Now with the Big East

see USHER/page 17

ND SOFTBALL

# Johnson's grand slam secures win over Purdue

By JACK YUSKO  
Sports Writer

The bases were loaded, there were two outs and Purdue was mounting a sixth-inning comeback Thursday when Irish senior captain Heather Johnson hit a grand slam out of the park to secure a 7-5 Notre Dame victory

over Purdue.

"The turning point in the game was definitely Heather's grand slam," junior outfielder Alexa Maldonado said. "It gave Laura [Winter] and the rest of the team some breathing room. They were a good hitting team, so we knew we would need more runs to secure the win."

Notre Dame (18-7)

defeated Purdue (19-8) at home despite two major Boilermaker rallies coming during the fifth and seventh innings. The Irish defense started the game strong, allowing the offense to gain the lead and hold it instead of having to regain lost ground.

"[Freshman pitcher] Laura Winters started the game with a scoreless first

inning, giving us the chance to jump head. I led off the game with a single and was able to score on [senior catcher] Lex Clay's opposite field homerun," Maldonado. "Lex's home-run was the start to our win — everything just rolled on from there."

The game may have

see CLAY/page 13

BASEBALL

# Irish travel to face Pittsburgh



Sophomore Adam Norton throws a pitch against Central Michigan March 29. The Irish won 3-2 at home.

GEOFF MATTESON/The Observer

By CHRIS MASOUD  
Sports Writer

Along with several Major League teams taking the field for the first time at home, Pittsburgh welcomes Notre Dame in its conference home opener Friday. The Panthers will be looking for their first Big East win at Charles L. Cost Field, while the Irish hope to christen the facility with a loss on the strength of their pitchers.

"Pitching is always going to be a big deal," Irish coach Mik Aoki said. "The pitching staff has been solid all year long. [The players] pitch to their strengths. We're lucky to have three seniors who can step up to the challenge."

Aoki will hand the ball to his trio of senior right-handers Brian Dupra, Cole Johnson and Todd Miller. The three starters have logged 16 quality starts and have propelled Notre Dame (10-12-1, 2-1 Big East) to second in the conference with a team ERA of 2.68.

But the staff should face its toughest test of the season against

see PITCHING/page 16

WOMEN'S LACROSSE

# Coyne hopeful for second half of season

By MATTHEW DeFRANKS  
Sports Writer

The Irish will open the second half of their season and the beginning of Big East conference play this weekend with a game against Rutgers tonight and a match against No. 4 Loyola Sunday.

"This is a chance for a fresh start to the second half of the season," Irish coach Tracy Coyne said. "I don't want players to carry frustration from the first half of the season."

The Irish (3-5) have dropped two consecutive thrillers, one in double-overtime to Cornell, the other in the final seconds against Hofstra. Notre Dame is now 0-3 in one-goal games and their five losses have come by a combined 11 goals.

While the recent losses have been disappointing, Coyne

still finds positives in them.

"Knowing that we were up late in the game gave us some confidence," Coyne said. "[The Hofstra game] also gave us an opportunity to work on late game situations in practice."

Rutgers (6-3, 1-1 Big East) will march into Arlotta Stadium on the heels of an 11-7 loss to Syracuse. Senior midfielder Marlana Welsh and junior midfielder Ali Steinberg, who have combined for 37 goals and nine assists, will lead the team.

Last season, the Irish dropped a 12-11 overtime decision to the Scarlet Knights.

"We have unfinished business [with Rutgers]," Coyne said. "We need to be tactically smarter and do a great job off the draw."

see BLANEY/page 17



# IRISH INSIDER

Friday, April 1, 2011

THE OBSERVER



## 10 years later

Under Niele Ivey's guidance, Skylar Diggins leads Notre Dame to its first Final Four in a decade

Photo Illustration by Suzanna Pratt and Brandon Keelean, Photo Courtesy of Notre Dame Archives



## COMMENTARY

# Swagger sets ND apart in Final Four

Connecticut. Stanford. Baylor. Tennessee.

Prior to the NCAA tournament, President Barack Obama picked those four No. 1 seeds to reach the Final Four, and you really can't blame him. (He also picked Duke, Kansas, Ohio State and Pittsburgh on the men's side, but that's a separate issue).

But, of course, he picked wrong.

Led by coach Geno Auriemma, the Huskies are the two-time defending national champions and feature the best all-around player in the country in senior guard Maya Moore. They're going to Indianapolis.

The Cardinal are the only team in the country to beat Connecticut in the last three seasons (once in the Final Four in 2008 and again during the 2011 regular season). They're going to Indianapolis.

The Bears have Brittney Griner, a 6'8" sophomore and probably the only female forward in the nation who can dunk a basketball. They lost to Texas A&M in the Elite Eight. They're going home.

Tennessee's Pat Summitt is the all-time winningest coach in NCAA basketball, men's or women's. She also has the best glare in the game. For the first time in 21 meetings, the Lady Volunteers lost to Notre Dame. They're going home.

The television networks will do their annual rain dance in the hopes of a Connecticut-Stanford rematch for the national title. ESPN's Rebecca Lobo will compare the all-around greatness of Moore to the all-around greatness of former Huskies' star Diana Taurasi.

A color analyst may even drop a "How exciting would it have been if Tennessee played Connecticut for a trip to the national championship game on the line? The two most storied programs in women's basketball haven't met since 2007, but now..." Worst of all, someone in



Chris Masoud

Sports Writer

*Auriemma's players may be the only ones left in the tournament who have experience a national title. But McGraw's could be the only ones in the country who want it more.*

Bristol will frame the Final Four as the unlikely pairings of Notre Dame and Connecticut, Stanford and Texas A&M. Who could have imagined a pair of No. 2 seeds making it so close to the title game?

But this isn't a Cinderella story. Notre Dame and Texas A&M punched their tickets to Indy because they outplayed the favorites. But they were also more talented.

"We didn't feel like underdogs. We went in expecting to win," Irish senior and leading scorer Natalie Novosel said after Notre Dame took down Tennessee 73-59 Monday.

She couldn't be more right.

The only way you beat a program like Tennessee is with swagger, the kind that Irish senior forward Devereaux Peters had when she finished an alley-oop layup on a Skylar Diggins pass Monday.

The kind that senior forward Becca Bruszewski

showed by getting a technical foul for brushing off a Tennessee player after she body-slammed her into the baseline.

Sophomore guard Skylar Diggins hitting a 3-pointer with a hand in her face to quiet any Tennessee hopes of a comeback — swagger.

Don't forget about Muffet McGraw. She

made all the right moves Monday night, including a gutsy decision to play Peters with four fouls and more than six minutes remaining in the game.

The Irish played angry Monday night, angry because they knew the rest of the nation, even the President, didn't think they could make it to this weekend.

After Connecticut's 75-40 win over Duke in the Elite Eight on Tuesday, Auriemma said, "There's only a couple kids in America that are playing next weekend that know how to win a national championship, and I'm fortunate enough to have them on my team."

True, Auriemma's players may be the only ones left in the tournament who have experienced a national title. But McGraw's could be the only ones in the country who want it more.

*The views expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer. Contact Chris Masoud at cmasoud@nd.edu*

## For Irish, all roads lead to UConn



GRANT TOBIN/The Observer

**Irish coach Muffet McGraw takes a clip of the net after Notre Dame's 73-59 win over Tennessee Monday. The Irish will play Connecticut Sunday in the national semifinals.**

By MEAGHAN VESELIK  
Sports Writer

Muffet McGraw and Niele Ivey finally beat Tennessee, and the Irish brought their historic jig to Dayton, Ohio, Monday night after a 73-59 victory over the No. 4 Lady Vols.

The Irish haven't had the opportunity to perform that jig in the Final Four since 10 years ago, when McGraw was coaching Ivey, and the team fought its way to win the National Championship.

Notre Dame will face Connecticut for the fourth time this season, an opportunity it hoped for.

"I think in the back of our minds, we were rooting for Connecticut," junior guard Natalie Novosel said. "Especially because [it is] another team in the Big East but also because they have beat us every single time this year, and we've been on kind of a vengeance run this year ... with Oklahoma, and then we've never beaten Tennessee."

The Irish have gone beyond the expectations of everyone but themselves this season, especially in the NCAA tournament. Entering the season, numerous reports called the team too young, too inexperienced and too unprepared.

"I think we have great momentum. I think we have the fighter mentality," McGraw said. "We're the underdogs, going into the game loose again. I think it's been very rewarding for them to see their hard work come to fruition."

The Irish entered the tournament with a record of 26-7, beginning their journey in Salt Lake City as a No. 2 seed taking on No. 15 Utah. Senior guard Brittany Mallory didn't score a single point but was the key to the win with her strong defense. She didn't need to score — she just needed to stop Utes guard Iwalani Rorigues from doing so. Her fellow guards, sophomore Skylar Diggins and junior

Natalie Novosel, made sure to keep the points coming with 20 apiece on the way to a 67-54 Irish win.

McGraw knew the win wasn't easy, though.

"I think the 10 days off, traveling, playing on somebody's home court, they're an underdog with crowd support coming off a huge tournament win. That was just a tough first matchup," she said. "You have the pressure of being a two-seed, you're supposed to win. Coming into the tournament we were not really at the top of our game. I think each game, we look a little more in rhythm and I think we're just starting to really peak right now."

Novosel and Peters kept the tempo going against Temple in game two in Salt Lake City. Novosel put up 17 points while Peters earned her ninth career double-double, and then some. She came out with 17 points, 12 rebounds, three assists, two steals and two blocks.

But the offense didn't win it all. The defense came out with 19 turnovers on the night and never allowed the Owls to get closer than within five points.

Game three was a similar story, with the Irish taking control on both ends of the court as they defeated No. 6 Oklahoma 78-53. Notre Dame has a history of overtime games in the last four years in the NCAA tournament, but the only drama coming out of this game was Bruszewski exiting play early with a twisted knee — then returning, with a twisted knee.

Her fellow captain, Mallory, made up for the loss with a season-high 20 points, a strong recovery from the shooting slump she'd been suffering. Novosel chipped in 15, Peters 17 and 13 rebounds while Diggins had 12 assists.

The intensity continued against Tennessee, when Notre Dame snapped an 0-20 streak against the Lady Vols.

Leading the Irish on Monday was Diggins. She finished with 24 points while Bruszewski fought the pain to play 37 minutes for 13 points and a team-

high eight rebounds, showing the intensity she knows will earn them another win.

"I would say the intensity still, at the same level, if not higher. It's all out, it could potentially be our last game, so we're going to give it our all like it's our last game," Bruszewski said.

But for her, Sunday's game is another extension of her senior season.

"Amazing," she said. "Just because I don't want my senior season to end and no one else does either, so we're going to go as far as we can."

The Irish are facing a six-player rotation in the Huskies, but they aren't letting their guard down.

"I don't think it's a huge disadvantage to only have six players. I think the team has great chemistry," McGraw said. "Our championship team in 2001, we played six people. ... If you can stay out of foul trouble, it's really not as much of a disadvantage as people may think."

Especially when Connecticut has the incredibly talented Maya Moore, a player Notre Dame has not been able to stop yet.

"I'm not sure that you can stop her. And definitely you can't do it with one person. She is just a phenomenal player," McGraw said. "She's incredibly difficult to guard. I don't think we've gone into any of the three games thinking we would hold her down."

But Bruszewski agrees with her coach in another important aspect, that this team is just hitting its peak.

"There's no better time than the end of the season to reach your peak, and that's when you want to be playing your best basketball: at the end, like we are," she said.

The Irish will take on the Huskies for a fourth time, hoping that this one's the charm, Sunday at the Conesco Fieldhouse in Indianapolis at 9:30 p.m. in the semifinals of the NCAA tournament.

Contact Meaghan Veselik at mvesel01@saintmarys.edu

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[ndsmcobserver.com/sports/irish-basketball](http://ndsmcobserver.com/sports/irish-basketball)



# Getting to the point

*Ivey lends experience to Skylar Diggins, Notre Dame as team prepares for national semifinals*

By LAURA MYERS  
Senior Sports Writer

It was 2001, and Notre Dame's point guard had just scored 21 points to lead her team in a 90-75 victory over No. 1 Connecticut in the national semifinals.

Notre Dame's future point guard, all of 10 years old, was rooting for her hometown team to win it all.

Even then, Skylar Diggins admired Niele Ivey.

"She was awesome at distributing the ball to her teammates but she could also score," Diggins said. "She just put herself in a position for her team to score, whether it was her shot or getting a shot for others."

In her senior season, Ivey was a first-team all-Big East and a third-team All-America selection. She averaged 12.1 points and 6.9 assists per game.

She was a freshman when Notre Dame played in its first Final Four, in 1997. She starred in its next Final Four. She graduated from Notre Dame a champion.

Now a new roster of Irish players, none more than Diggins, look to Ivey for guidance.

"The look at me and say, 'She's been where I want to go,'" Ivey said.

It was 2007, and Notre Dame coach Muffet McGraw had just called her championship point guard to offer her a position as an assistant coach.

Notre Dame's future point guard was 16 years old and lighting up Indiana high school basketball.

"When Coach McGraw called me, I told my family there had to be a reason for me to come back here to the

best place in the world for me," Ivey said.

That reason was to help the team compete for national championships. And to recruit Skylar Diggins.

"I was trying to prep for my interview, and people told me, 'You need to get Skylar Diggins,'" Ivey said. "I had no experience at the assistant coaching level or as a recruiting coach."

But the Washington High School superstar was more than receptive to Ivey as a potential coach.

"She called me all the time," Ivey said. "We developed a relationship during the recruiting. She'd come up to campus, we'd go out to eat."

That relationship was a major factor in Diggins' decision to join the Irish despite an offer from historical powerhouse Stanford.

"It made it more attractive to Skylar to know she'd be able to play and learn from Niele," McGraw said.

It was 2009, and Notre Dame's future point guard was beginning her college career. Notre Dame's guards coach was there for every step of it.

Diggins played at the No. 2 guard position behind senior point guard Melissa Lechlitner, and adjusted to college life while becoming one of the most accomplished freshmen in Notre Dame history.

"[Niele has] been her mentor. I think she has done a fantastic job of helping her in every way," McGraw said. "At practice, off the court watching film, just talking about leadership. She's really, really been the guiding force for Skylar since she came on campus."

Ivey and Diggins analyzed film nearly every day, and worked on adjusting the high school star to the college game. Diggins' biggest improvement came in the weight room, Ivey said, as she worked to get stronger.

The results were remarkable: Diggins became a starter just five games into her career, and led the team in scoring (13.8 ppg), steals (2.6 spg) and assists (3.2 apg).

But the relationship extended beyond basketball.

When Ivey was at Notre Dame, then-assistant coach Coquese Washington served as her mentor in every aspect of campus life. Ivey has played the same role for Diggins. She was there for any problem the freshman might have had, from tough classes to boyfriend issues.

"She's basically like my daughter," Ivey said. "I'm always worrying about her, about the court, about the classroom. ... We know each other inside and out. Whenever she is going through things she goes to me, and I'm happy to be there for her."

It was 2010, and Notre Dame's No. 2 guard had become Notre Dame's point guard, with guidance from one who'd been there before.

"[Ivey] helped me through two transitions, the one from high school to college and the one from two-guard to point guard," Diggins said.

When Diggins struggled to learn the details early in the season, Ivey was right there to teach.

"You could tell in the first couple games she hadn't gotten into her groove yet understanding how to run a team," Ivey said. "And I think that's where I came in. I've been a point guard my whole life, a point guard on a championship team."

The two continued to watch film together nearly every day, picking apart Diggins'



SARAH O'CONNOR/The Observer

**Sophomore point guard Skylar Diggins puts the ball up during Notre Dame's 67-54 win over Utah March 19.**

games and Ivey's games to mold and improve the new point guard.

They've watched Ivey's 21-point performance against Connecticut on March 30, 2001, several times. The last time was before the Big East championship game.

"I think I'm going to have to return to that and see how they executed," Diggins said.

Under Ivey's guidance, Diggins has begun to play like the player she'd looked up to all those years before.

"People even say we have the same ponytail. We mimic each other a lot," Ivey said. "The only difference is she's left-handed and I'm right-handed."

The complete transition was no more evident than in the regional round of the NCAA tournament. Diggins distributes the ball to her teammates, but she can also score.

Against Oklahoma Saturday, Diggins broke Notre Dame's NCAA tournament record with 12 assists. Against Tennessee Monday, she scored 24 points. In doing so, she became the only sophomore in Notre Dame history to score more than 1,000 points in a season. Her total is now at 1,016.

"Her desire to win, her competitiveness, we're the

same. We have the same passion."

It's 2011, and Notre Dame's current point guard is ready to lead her team against No. 1 Connecticut in the national semifinals.

Notre Dame's former point guard, 10 years removed from school, is rooting for her hometown team to win it all.

And Niele Ivey admires Skylar Diggins.

"Her mid-range game is something that's developed as a sophomore. And that's something I wish I'd had," Ivey said. "She has it all."

In her sophomore season, Skylar Diggins was a first-team all-Big East and a third-team All-America selection. She averages 14.4 points and 4.8 assists per game.

She has just a bit further to go to imitate her role model, her "mom," her coach, her friend.

"She's helping me run this team like she ran it when they won the national championship," Diggins said. "I'm trying to follow in her footsteps and do the same thing this weekend, and then hopefully we can continue that for the next couple years."

Contact Laura Myers at [lm Myers2@nd.edu](mailto:lm Myers2@nd.edu)



GRANT TOBIN/The Observer

**Assistant coach Niele Ivey and sophomore point guard Skylar Diggins have a discussion during Notre Dame's 73-59 win over Tennessee Monday. Diggins scored 24 points in the game.**



# What they said

*Opposing coaches on the power of this season’s Irish*

“They really are just a tremendous team and it was an honor to play against them. I think they obviously have some huge goals ahead of them this season.”

– New Hampshire coach Maureen Magarity  
Nov. 12

“There is a reason that McGraw is in the Hall of Fame. There is a reason her teams always win, and there is a reason she has won a national championship. They don’t go away.”

– Baylor coach Kim Mulkey  
Dec. 1

“More points in the paint, more points in transition, more bench points, more offensive rebounds. I mean, Notre Dame outplayed us in every way today.”

– Connecticut coach Geno Auriemma  
Jan. 8

“They killed us on the inside. Peters and Bruszewski were dominant. They really have a good team. I’m very impressed with them, and I think this is one of the best teams they’ve had in a long time.”

– St. John’s coach Kim Barnes Arico  
Jan. 23

# Record-breaking wins, deval

By LAURA MYERS  
Senior Sports Writer

During the first game of Notre Dame’s season, the 2001 championship team presented the current squad with an autographed basketball and told the team, “Now it’s your turn.” This year’s captains, seniors Becca Bruszewski and Brittany Mallory, placed the ball in the team’s locker room, where it has stayed ever since. At the time, it just seemed like a nice thing to say, Irish coach Muffet McGraw said. But after an up-and-down season, the Irish are in the Final Four since the first time since that 2001 trip. “It almost seems like fate,” McGraw said.

A look at the season that got them there:

**The first half: Nov. 12, 2010 – Jan. 5, 2011**

Notre Dame began play with a 99-48 win over New Hampshire, and ended the first half of its season with a 97-21 win over Southeast Missouri State in which it broke six school records. In between, the team compiled a 13-3 record that included 11 games of 80+ points, and five wins by a margin of more than 50.

It also included three losses to ranked teams, starting with an 86-83 loss in double overtime to No. 15 UCLA and an 81-76 loss to No. 9 Kentucky three days later. “After we lost to Kentucky, we were 2-2 on the season and I told the team that’s how the ‘97 Final Four started out,” McGraw said. “And we didn’t lose to ranked teams [in 1997]. But we started out 2-2 and ended up 31-7.” Four games later, Notre Dame traveled to Texas to play No. 1 Baylor and lost 76-65. “We talked about how close we were to the No. 1 team on their home court,” McGraw said. “We tried to stay positive.” The Irish then won seven straight games leading into conference play and won their first conference game against Marquette. Notre Dame started the season uncertain about this year’s team after losing starting guards Lindsay Schrader, Melissa Lechlitner and Ashley Barlow, all of who had graduated with numerous conference and national honors. After finishing the 2009-10 season ranked No. 7, the Irish were No. 12 in the AP preseason poll. Sophomore guard Skylar Diggins took over the point guard position previously held

by Lechlitner, and senior guard Brittany Mallory, senior forward Devereaux Peters and junior guard Natalie Novosel became regular starters for the first time. “We had our growing pains early, which is good for us,” Diggins said. “We were a young team. A lot of players didn’t start last year. A lot of people just coming in and getting in-game experience really helped them out.” At the start of Big East play, the Irish were ranked No. 13. But a turning point came in early January, when McGraw said she realized her team could truly contend.

**Connecticut: Jan. 8** At home against No. 2 Connecticut, the Irish led much of the game and lost by a heartbreaking three points in the final 30 seconds of play. “We saw how close we were playing with the number one team in the country,” she said. “We saw that a little bit at Baylor. ... There were flashes of it early. But the Connecticut game was the biggest in terms of confidence boosting.” In that game, Peters scored 17 points and had 11 rebounds, one of her 10 double-doubles this season. Diggins and Novosel scored 16 each, and the teams went into halftime tied at 41.



DAN JACOBS/The Observer

Players chase after a loose ball during Notre Dame’s 76-73 loss to No. 2 Connecticut Jan. 8. Irish coach Muffet McGraw called the loss a “catalyst” for the rest of the season.

“I thought all year they were one of the toughest teams in the country.”  
– Oklahoma coach Sherri Cole  
March 26

“We showed tape, we practiced it for two days and it went completely out the window.”  
– Seton Hall coach Anne Donovan  
Feb. 8



# astating losses mark season

But Diggins missed a jumper at the end of the game, and Huskies guard Kelly Faris put Connecticut ahead. Notre Dame wouldn't lose again for over a month.

## Conference play: Jan. 12 – Feb. 28

Notre Dame's defense and post play were keys to a 14-2 conference record that included wins over four ranked teams (No. 16 Georgetown, No. 23 St. John's, No. 25 Syracuse and No. 19 West Virginia) and the program's second-largest conference win ever, 89-38 over Seton Hall on Feb. 8.

On Jan 23, the Irish took another personnel hit when standout freshman guard Kayla McBride announced she would be leaving the team for personal reasons. At that point, McBride was averaging 8.7 points in 24 minutes per game.

In a punishing stretch at the end of the season, Notre Dame faced No. 2 Connecticut, No. 19 West Virginia and No. 12 DePaul on the road in the space of 10 days.

It fell to Connecticut 78-57 on Feb. 19, its first loss since the Huskies won Jan. 8. The team then defeated West Virginia 72-60 on Jan. 22, but suffered yet another last-second loss, 70-69, to DePaul.

Heading into the Big East tournament, the Irish had lost

six games. All were to teams ranked in the top 15, and five were by a single-digit margin. At this point, Notre Dame was ranked No. 7.

"We've been up and down, down a lot within the team. The reason is injuries and losing two people, but we knew we had to come together," Mallory said. "We knew it was going to happen. At some point, we knew we were going to play our best basketball."

## The Big East tournament: March 6 - March 8

The loss to DePaul gave Notre Dame the No. 3 seed in the Big East tournament, held in Hartford, Conn.

The Irish took care of Louisville 63-53 in the quarter-finals before a rematch with DePaul just a week after their first game. This time, it was Notre Dame pulling off the last-minute victory, defeating the Blue Demons 71-67 on the strength of Diggins' 19 points.

The win sent Notre Dame to the Big East tournament championship for the first time in program history and to a match against Connecticut for the third time this season.

On a court that was anything but neutral, the Irish were down just one, 32-31, at half-time before ultimately falling 73-64.

In their first season as regu-

lar starters, Novosel was named the Big East's most improved player and Peters the Big East defensive player of the year.

Despite the loss, the tournament gave Notre Dame momentum that it took to the NCAA tournament, and still hasn't ceded.

"It's fun to see the growth and maturity since the beginning of the season," McGraw said.

## The Final Four, April 3-5

The Irish will bring the autographed basketball with them to Indianapolis for Notre Dame's first final four appearance since that run, said assistant coach Niele Ivey, who played point guard for the 2001 national championship team.

Ivey sided with Muffet, saying this season was beginning to look like "destiny."

But after everything it has endured, Diggins said the team has a lot more than fortune on its side.

"As you can see this team is playing with a lot of energy and tenacity and relentlessness," Diggins said. "We all come out here with a lot of excitement knowing we have a chance to make history again and be like them."

Contact Laura Myers at lmyers2@nd.edu



COURTNEY ECKERLE/The Observer

Junior guard Natalie Novosel faces off against a defender during Notre Dame's 71-67 win over DePaul in the Big East semifinals March 7.

“We turned the ball over 28 times and you can’t do that against a team like Notre Dame and expect to be in the ball game, which we weren’t in the end.”

– Cincinnati coach Jamelle Elliot  
Feb. 26

“We got beat by one of the best teams in the country.”

- DePaul coach Doug Bruno  
March 7

“Across the board, they had great player movement, ball movement, intensity and sense of urgency. They got to a lot of loose balls and used the glass well. I am very impressed with this team.”

– Tennessee coach Pat Summitt  
March 28

# What they said

*Opposing coaches on the power of this season's Irish*

“Well, against a team like Notre Dame... your worst fears are going to come true because of how they play, how they get the ball from point A to point B, and what they do when they get in the lane and how aggressive they are.”

– Connecticut coach Geno Auriemma  
March 8

“That was our game plan, to not let them score in the paint. I don’t know what happened.”

– Temple coach Tonya Cardoza  
March 22

“It becomes a battle of wills, and I thought that they just didn’t give ground. They really put their feet in the paint and said, ‘You’re not going to get all the way to the rim.’ They were very tough-minded in the paint.” –

Syracuse coach Quenten Hillsman  
Feb. 1



NOTRE DAME

Third Final Four adds to McGraw’s legacy

By ANDREW OWENS  
Associate Sports Editor

In 1987, when Notre Dame athletics director Gene Corrigan introduced Muffet McGraw as the head coach of the Irish, he told those in attendance that he would not find a better candidate even if he had utilized an additional year to find someone to lead the program.

Not even Corrigan could have imagined the depths the former Lehigh head coach would take the program to, and now McGraw prepares her team for its third Final Four appearance, with enshrinement into the Hall of Fame coming this summer. Not to mention her most sparkling achievement: transforming the Irish into one of the sport’s biggest powerhouses.

Ten years ago, the Irish were playing in their second Final Four appearance under McGraw and were able to avenge a loss in the Big East championship game to Connecticut with a 90-75 victory over the Huskies in the national semifinals. A decade later, McGraw once again finds only Connecticut between her squad and an appearance in the national title game.

“We weren’t really thinking about [the possibility of the Final Four] too much,” McGraw said. “We had our reunion in the fall; they presented our team with a basketball and said we won one, now it’s your turn.”

In the 2001 Big East championship game, McGraw watched as Huskies guard Sue Bird went coast-to-coast and finished it off with a game-winning layup in a heart-breaking loss. But McGraw would

not allow the team to stay down in the loss. After all, the NCAA tournament was only days away.

McGraw worked her magic and got the team to focus on the ultimate prize: a trip to the Final Four. In the same situation this year, she once again delivered and led the team to women’s basketball’s semifinals.

“She’s the woman with the answers,” Irish senior forward Becca Bruszewski said. “She’s the one that tells us what to do, calls the plays, gets on us about what type of defense we are, knows how to shut a team down, you know, whatever the game plan is, she sets it and we go to it.”

McGraw, now in her 29th season as a collegiate head coach, has often had to deal with adversity and obstacles, with this year being no different. Earlier this season, two key contributors left the team for personal reasons — junior forward Erica Solomon and freshman guard Kayla McBride. Overcoming the two departures, injuries to Bruszewski at critical times and the uncertain health status of senior forward Devereaux Peters heading into the season, McGraw has pulled off one of the most impressive performances in her illustrious career.

“She’s been unbelievable,” senior guard Brittany Mallory said. “She’s led us from losing people from injuries. She’s got a great mindset, and she’s been here before. She’s just kind of getting us ready for everything.”

When the Irish take the court Sunday night, McGraw will have one of the best coaching staffs in the country sitting next to her — one that includes assistant coach Niele



GRANT TOBIN/The Observer

**Irish coach Muffet McGraw watches Monday from the sidelines as the Irish defeat Tennessee for the first time in her career.**

Ivey, who starred on the 2001 championship squad.

“I think I’ve been fortunate to have great coaches with me,” McGraw said. “We’ve had great assistant coaches over the years. The coaches are extremely competitive. We want to win and we hate to lose.”

This season’s Final Four squad will have one advantage that McGraw’s 2001 team did not have — the advantage of playing in their home state. McGraw, however, does not think the close proximity will play much of a role in Sunday’s matchup.

“We do get to get on a bus instead of a plane which is kind of nice but other than that we’re going to be

staying in a hotel in a different city,” she said.

With two more wins this season, McGraw can reach the pinnacle of college basketball by adding an NCAA championship to her résumé.

“It’s rewarding [to reach the Final Four],” McGraw said. “You worry at the beginning of the year, you think ‘Gosh, I’m going into the Hall of Fame, what if we have a really bad season?’ Now to beat Tennessee and head to Indianapolis, it takes on a bigger meaning.”

A meaning bigger than what she, or Corrigan, could have ever imagined.

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**No. 2 Notre Dame Fighting Irish**

**Record: 36-1**

**Path to the Final Four:**

64: 67-54 over Utah  
32: 77-64 over Temple  
16: 78-53 over Oklahoma  
8: 73-59 over Tennessee

**Key players:**

Senior forward Becca Bruszewski is the team’s mental leader, and the Irish look to her to keep intensity high during games.

Senior guard Brittany Mallory and senior forward Devereaux Peters keep Notre Dame in close games with their all-out defense.

**How they win:**

Notre Dame is on a wave of momentum that has grown with each game of the NCAA tournament, and are playing just two hours from campus. These factors could tip a game in Notre Dame’s favor.

**How they lose:**

Several team members have been playing through injuries during the NCAA tournament. Notre Dame needs every member of its lineup to mount a serious challenge to Connecticut.

CONNECTICUT

Auriemma builds UConn program unmatched in success

**No. 1 Connecticut Huskies**

**Record: 36-1**

**Path to the Final Four:**

64: 75-39 over Hartford  
32: 64-40 over Purdue  
16: 68-63 over Georgetown  
8: 75-40 over Duke

**Key players:**

Senior guard Maya Moore, a four-time All-American, has won two national championships and has been lauded as the best ever to play the game. She leads her team in points, rebounds, steals, assists and blocks.

Freshman point guard Bria Hartley has never been there before, but has incredible poise for a freshman and averages 12.5 points per game.

**How they win:**

Moore plays like the senior she is and makes up her mind to end her career with a national championship.

**How they lose:**

Even at their worst, the Huskies are only slightly vulnerable. But they have been inconsistent thus far in the tournament, and that inconsistency could hurt them against top competition.

By ANDREW GASTELUM  
Sports Writer

771 wins, seven national championships, 12 Final Fours. And Geno Auriemma still has a full head of hair.

The Connecticut coach probably doesn’t remember what it is like to lose, having to go back all the way to the 1992-93 season to find the last time that his Huskies team posted double digits in the losing column. In fact, the coach has only had one losing season in his career — the 1985-1986 season, when the Huskies

went 12-15 in the program’s first year of existence.

Meanwhile, the Connecticut coach has established himself comfortably at the top of his conference with 17 Big East tournament championships, including a stretch from 1993-2002 during which Connecticut (36-1) won nine consecutive titles. Auriemma earned his 10th Big East coach of the year honor this year, after leading the Huskies to a 32-1 regular season record.

“He’s a great coach,” Irish coach Muffet McGraw said. “This year I thought he should



COURTNEY ECKERLE/The Observer

**Connecticut players crowd the paint during the Huskies’ Big East championship win over Notre Dame March 8.**

be National Coach of the Year. He has done a great job with losing Tina Charles. He’s a great coach on the defensive end. I don’t think he gets enough credit on defense. ... Over the past 10 years I don’t think there’s been a better coach in the country.”

In addition to his regular-season prowess, Auriemma has been to the NCAA tournament in each of the past 23 seasons. Even more impressive is that he has taken the Huskies to the Sweet 16 or beyond in his past 19 March Madness trips.

And with Tuesday’s 75-40 pounding of No. 2 seed Duke, Auriemma advanced to his fourth straight Final Four — all with four-time first team All-American senior guard Maya Moore, who went for 28 points against the Blue Devils.

But the coach’s biggest accomplishment came in a typical 31-point UConn win over No. 21 Florida State Dec. 21. That night, the Auriemma-led Huskies won their 89th consecutive game, dating back to the 2007-2008 season. The mark topped the 88-game winning streak of the legendary John Wooden and UCLA compiled from 1971-1974. When asked how he felt being compared to Wooden, the Connecticut coach answered with sharp disapproval.

“Only in the comparison of what we try to do,” he told ESPN’s Pardon the Interruption when asked if the comparisons were fair. “It’s

not, ‘Is it any harder or easier or does it have any more significance.’ No, we are trying to get a group of kids to play together, play really well every night and beat all comers. He tried to do it, I try to do it, and to compare us versus them ... I am not into that.”

The Huskies eventually saw the streak come to an end at 90 games Dec. 30 against No. 8 Stanford, their only loss of the year. But since the loss, Connecticut has come back to win the next 24 contests, with all but three wins coming in double-digit fashion.

With another visit to the Final Four, it comes as no surprise that Auriemma is setting his sights on an eighth national championship, understanding the tough task at hand.

“With the three teams that are there, you can make a case for all three of them to be there. There is not one of those teams that you can take away and say that so-and-so should be there,” he said Wednesday. “This is probably one of the more unique Final Fours. I don’t think there are a lot of similarities between these teams. They each have distinct styles of play, personality types, size and speed. There is a little bit of everything and it is going to be a true test for whoever can win these two games because they are going to have to adjust to a variety of things and that is just really exciting.”

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TEXAS A&M

Aggies haven't been there, but plan to act like it

No. 2 Texas A&M Aggies

Record: 31-5

Path to the Final Four:

64: 87-47 over McNeese State  
32: 70-48 over Rutgers  
16: 79-38 over Georgia  
8: 58-46 over Baylor

Key players:

Senior forward/center Danielle Adams is critical to her team's defensive and offensive efforts. She averages 22.3 points per game, nearly twice as any other teammate. She also leads her team with 8.6 rebounds and 1.33 blocks per game.

How they win:

If it's possible for a two-seed to be a wildcard, the Aggies are that. Compared to the other three teams remaining, the Aggies are an unknown in this tournament, which means opponents probably aren't familiar with their style of play. This could work as an advantage.

How they lose:

The Aggies have never played on this stage before, and could easily succumb to the pressure of competing against a historically successful program for a championship.

By MEGAN GOLDEN  
Sports Writer

Taking advantage of its eighth NCAA tournament appearance, No. 2-seed Texas A&M stepped up in the clutch Tuesday, as it defeated top-seeded Baylor for the first time in four tries this season and secured a ticket to its first-ever Final Four in Indianapolis.

The Aggies (31-5) — which lost twice in the regular season and once in the conference tournament to fellow Big 12 power Baylor (34-3) — knew all along that they were capable of beating the Bears.

Aggies coach Gary Blair admitted in a press conference call Wednesday that his team was simply unable to close out tight games.

"We were in all three games; we were leading in all three games. I was the 37-minute coach," Blair said. "I just didn't coach well in the last three minutes, and our kids didn't make good decisions, and Baylor did. They deserved to win all three games."

The Aggies approached their fourth and final matchup against Baylor with a different intensity.

"We played the socks off of them, and they know it," Blair said. "I think that's one of the reasons why they didn't want to try that fourth time against us, and I think it bothered Baylor more playing us for

four than it did us playing Baylor."

Blair said he enjoyed the win against Baylor, but he has even higher expectations for his team. In the final minutes of the regional final, Blair called a timeout to remind his team how to celebrate appropriately.

"I wanted our kids to realize, when we win this thing, we don't dog pile on the floor. Okay? Act like you've been there before. Give respect to Baylor, because they've been to Final Fours," Blair said. "I said we'll have time to celebrate later. But why do you want to ruin your best celebration on just getting to the Final Four? If we can get to the Final Four and win the whole thing, I'll be on the top of that dog pile."

The Aggies have been pretty consistent all season, minus a couple bumps in the road. Falling to Duke in just their seventh game of the season, the Aggies bounced back and went on a 12-game winning streak. Aside from the early loss to Duke and the three tough losses against Baylor, only Kansas State was able to put a black mark on Texas A&M's record.

Led by the region's most outstanding player in junior guard Sydney Carter, the Aggies' rotation resembles that of a few other Final Four teams, frequently consisting of six players. Blair said he is able to rely on Carter, regardless of how tired she is, to make good



Texas A&M players celebrate after the Aggies' 58-46 Elite Eight win over Baylor Tuesday.

decisions both with the ball and away from the ball.

"You are talking about the perfect build for a basketball player, whether she was 5'6" or 6'4". I mean, this kid is just built. She can be a model. She could be anything she wanted to," he said. "You are talking about a kid that's just fun to be around. Every day she brings it; in practice and in games she brings it. Sydney Carter is just that type of player that's going to throw it out there on the line — everything."

The Aggies have taken advantage of their opportunities thus far, and they hope to

continue to surprise the college basketball nation.

"We've enjoyed being under the radar just a little; we should be under the radar," Blair said. "I believe until you get to the Final Four, you haven't really earned it. You've always been sort of the trendy team that everybody wants to pick but cannot get over that hump of getting there."

For the first time ever, the Aggies are there. They will tip off against Stanford Sunday at 7 p.m.

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STANFORD

Ogwumike sisters lead strong Cardinal team to Indy

By CHRIS MASOUD  
Sports Writer

Connecticut and Tennessee may have combined to win 11 of the last 15 national championships, but Stanford coach Tara VanDerveer has built her own powerhouse on the West Coast. Under VanDerveer's remarkable tenure, the Cardinal have won 19 consecutive PAC-10 titles and two NCAA championships.

After dismantling Gonzaga 83-60 in the regional finals on Monday night, Stanford will be making its fourth consecutive trip to the Final Four.

"Going to four Final Fours for Stanford, what this senior class has accomplished... is outstanding," VanDerveer said in a press conference after Monday's game. "It's really special that we're back at the Final Four, four years in a row. It's incredibly exciting. I'm so happy for this team."

The Cardinal reached the title game in 2008, but fell to a Tennessee team featuring the Naismith College Player of the Year in Candace Parker. A return to the championship game last sea-

son was foiled by Connecticut and 2010 Naismith winner Tina Charles.

While this season's winner will not be named until the end of the season, VanDerveer's squad features a Naismith finalist of its own. Junior forward Nneka Ogumike leads the Cardinal with 17 points and 7.6 rebounds per game.

And she has a sister.

Forward Chiney Ogumike starts alongside her sister and is currently averaging 12 points and 8.1 rebounds in her freshman campaign. The duo has given Stanford one of top frontcourts in the nation.

"Obviously Chiney is my other half and so we're like fire and ice," Nnemkadi Ogumike said in the postgame press conference Monday.

While the sisters give Stanford a strong presence in the post, senior guard Jeanette Pohlen captains the backcourt. Shooting 41.2 percent from behind the arc, Pohlen was named to the Associated Press All-America First Team Tuesday.

"They [Cardinal] have great players too," McGraw

said. "Tara's a great coach. ... She's one of the icons in women's basketball. She's one of the elite coaches, and her teams have been very successful over the years."

The respect is mutual. VanDerveer credited Notre Dame for taking down the No. 1-seed Tennessee in the regional finals Monday in Dayton, Ohio. The No. 1-seed Cardinal took down No. 11-seed Gonzaga in a convincing win, but VanDerveer welcomes the challenge of fac-

ing new competition.

"Just congratulations to Notre Dame for beating Tennessee," VanDerveer said. "I think Gonzaga shows that there's more than just a couple teams that can play basketball. There are more than a couple players too."

Stanford will face Texas A&M Sunday with a trip to its third national title game in four years on the line.

Contact Chris Masoud at cmasoud@nd.edu



Stanford forward Nneka Ogumike looks to pass during Stanford's 83-60 win over Gonzaga Saturday.

No. 1 Stanford Cardinal

Record: 33-2

Path to the Final Four:

64: 86-59 over UC Davis  
32: 75-49 over St. John's  
16: 72-65 over North Carolina  
8: 83-60 over Gonzaga

Key players:

Junior forward Nneka Ogumike averages 17 points per game and leads a big Cardinal team that is tough in the paint.

Senior guard Jeannette Pohlen is the outside complement to Ogumike. She shoots 3-pointers with 41.2 percent accuracy and has made 93 of them on the season.

How they win:

The Cardinal are deep and experienced, and are the only team that has beaten Connecticut this season. Since then, they've only grown.

How they lose:

Though they did defeat Connecticut, the Cardinal struggled early this seasons with losses to physical teams like DePaul and Connecticut. The Pac 10 is not known for that type of play, and Stanford could struggle against a peaking Big East team.





SARAH O'CONNOR/The Observer

Left: Sophomore guard Fraderica Miller dribbles during Notre Dame's 67-54 win over Utah in the round of 64 on March 19.

Below: Junior guard Natalie Novosel evades a Temple defender during Notre Dame's 77-64 victory over Temple in the round of 32 on March 21.



SARAH O'CONNOR/The Observer



GRANT TOBIN/The Observer



GRANT TOBIN/The Observer

Above: Novosel drives to the basket during Notre Dame's 78-53 victory over Oklahoma in the Sweet 16 Saturday, which sent the Irish to their first Elite Eight since 2001.

Center: The Irish celebrate winning the Dayton Region after their defeat of Tennessee Monday night.

Left: Senior forward Devereaux Peters grabs a rebound during Notre Dame's 73-59 win over Tennessee Monday, the first victory over the Volunteers in program history.



GRANT TOBIN/The Observer