

# THE OBSERVER

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## Fightin' Irish Battalion continues excellence

*ND ROTC program recognized with McArthur award*

By KRISTEN DURBIN  
News Writer

With a strong tradition dating back to 1858, the Notre Dame Army Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) program is one of the most distinguished and respected organizations on campus. Now, that acknowledgement has spread nationwide.

On Feb. 6, the Army's Cadet Command announced the winners of its MacArthur Award, which recognizes the top eight ROTC programs of 273 total across the country. Notre Dame was chosen to represent the 7th Brigade, which includes 38 programs

see AWARD/page 4



Photo Courtesy of Brett Leahy

Members of the Notre Dame Fightin' Irish Battalion pose for a picture as they leave South Bend for field training at Ft. Custer last April.

*Army cadets compete for German badge in military proficiency*

By CHRISTIAN MYERS  
News Writer

Notre Dame's Army ROTC program prepares cadets for American military life, but this weekend members of the Fightin' Irish Battalion will compete for German recognition.

Four cadets will compete for the German Armed Forces Badge for Military Proficiency, awarded by the German Army, known as the Bundeswehr.

Senior Josh Sandler, will compete for the award along with Holy Cross sophomore triplets Randy Jozwiak, Matt Jozwiak and Allen Jozwiak. The group will participate this weekend in Indianapolis, with Sandler serv-

see GERMAN/page 4

## Scanlan wins in Sophomore Class Council runoff

MARISA IATI  
News Writer

After Thursday's Sophomore Class Council election proceeded to a runoff, the results were announced Tuesday night.

Tim Scanlan, current freshman class president,

will begin his term as sophomore class president April 1. His council will include Nathan Foje, Andrea Palm and Emily Voorde, who will serve as vice president, secretary and treasurer, respectively.

The Judicial Council reported Scanlan's ticket re-

ceived 541 of 1066 votes (50.75 percent), not including 121 abstentions. The opposing ticket received 525 votes (49.25 percent).

Scanlan and his ticket defeated Kevin McMannis, Cristin Pacifico, Ryan Newell and Kai Gayoso to win the election.

Scanlan said his ticket looks forward to working to achieve the goals and ideals it ran on.

"We want to unite the class, get people to connect across the quad, across the hall and between the different dorms," he said. "We want to do that through sev-

eral different events, from a class cup to a class stimulus package."

Scanlan said through the stimulus package, any sophomore can submit an idea for an event and Soph-

see COUNCIL/page 5

## President Jenkins reorganizes staff

Observer Staff Report

University President Fr. John Jenkins announced Tuesday three staff members will assume new positions in his office over the next month, according to a University press release.

Frances L. Shavers, chief of staff and special assistant to the president, has been appointed to the newly created position of chief diversity officer. According to the press release, Shavers will focus on staff diversity, assist in diversity efforts with students and faculty and provide advice on how the University can continue to improve its efforts in this area.

Ann M. Firth, associate vice president and counselor to the president, will become chief of staff. Firth was formerly associate vice president for student affairs.

Firth will work in the Office of the President to manage staff, act as a liaison with the Board of Trustees and plan the University Commencement Ceremony.

Firth and Shavers will assume their new roles March 5.

Fr. William M. Lies, executive director of the Center for Social Concerns, will assume the new position of vice president for mission engagement and church affairs March 19.

Lies will take on key responsibilities previously assigned to the Office of the Counselor to the President. He will also coordinate with Church leaders and look to sustain and enhance the contribution of Holy Cross to Notre Dame, according to the press release. Lies will also have ecclesial responsibility for the University's Tantur Ecumenical Institute in Jerusalem.

## Zuckert earns achievement award

By DAN BROMBACH  
News Writer

Political science professor Michael Zuckert recently won the Jack Miller Center Chairman's Lifetime Achievement Award for his extensive work in political theory.



Zuckert

The award recognized Zuckert for his outstanding scholarship and his work as a classroom teacher. Zuckert provided generations of students with a profound knowledge of American constitutional heritage, according to a statement released by the prize committee.

Zuckert said he feels privileged to join the illustrious

ranks of past recipients.

"My predecessors in this award are very distinguished people, and I'm proud to be in their company," he said.

Zuckert said he didn't know he would receive the award until a colleague surprised him with the news the day it was given.

"I didn't actually find out I was getting the award until the day it was supposed to be handed out," Zuckert said. "Somebody slipped the news to me at lunch on accident."

In addition to writing and teaching in his main fields of political theory and constitutional studies, Zuckert organized a new constitutional studies field that will begin next semester. He also edits the journal 'American Political Thought.'

Zuckert said the responsibility that came with editing the journal played a key role in receiving the award.

"The award is definitely in

some degree for me editing that journal, which makes contributions to the understanding of the American political tradition," Zuckert said. Zuckert said it was ultimately his college experience at Cornell University that motivated him to pursue a career in political science. He said he was influenced by the quality of his teachers and the political climate of the time.

"I was in college in the '60s when there were a lot of exciting things going on politically, and I was also fortunate enough to go to a college where we had really good faculty in political science," Zuckert said. "They reinforced my interest in the subject."

Aside from making the new constitutional studies field a success, Zuckert said his other major goal at the moment is to finish a trilogy of books on constitutional theory

see THEORY/page 4



HIGH  
LOW



# Saint Mary's changes options for on campus living

By BRIDGET FEENEY  
News Writer

When campus opens for the fall semester, Saint Mary's will welcome back returning students, members of the Class of 2016 and possibly some four-legged guests.

Next year, Regina South will be open exclusively to seniors and, if approved, their pets as well. The newest senior housing option, announced by the Department of Residence Life and Community Standards last month, is an example of how the College is working to retain students on campus for all four years.

Janielle Tchakerian, assistant vice president for Student Affairs and director of Residence Life and Community Standards, said 72 percent of the graduating senior class signed housing agreements to live on campus next year.

"For some students it is cheaper to live on campus than off because of financial aid reasons," she said. "Others choose to live on campus because of the conveniences and the new senior living option in Regina South."

Tchakerian said in addition to the growing list of senior-only living options, the College is also retaining so many seniors due to changes in the housing selection process.

"[Some students chose to live on campus] because we had senior room selection in February which allowed [the seniors] to know sooner if they got into a particular hall, floor, etc. instead of waiting until April," she said.

In addition to private access to kitchens, a new visitation policy, upgraded computer labs and flexibility when selecting a meal plan, Tchakerian said Regina South residents have the opportunity to bring a small pet to join them in the room, which has drawn a positive response.

"I do not know any exact number [of how many pets will live in Regina South]," Tchakerian said. "However, there are 21 students who have indicated a strong interest and want the pet registration information."

Tchakerian said she is excited for the opportunity to collaborate with students to

## SMC Senior Housing

### Regina South-

Pets - Different meal plan options -Access to kitchens

### Anunciata-

Private Kitchen - Common Room

### Opus-

Apartment style living

further improve the senior housing options.

"I am looking forward to working with a group of women to help further enhance the senior living experience," she said. "We have the framework in place but are allowing the students to help further define their experience."

Regina South is not the only exclusive housing option available to seniors next year. Anunciata Hall and Opus Hall are also living accommodations designated for seniors.

Anunciata, located on the top floor of Holy Cross Hall,

features a private kitchen and common room for residents.

Junior Alyssa Baz said she is thrilled she secured a room in Anunciata for her final year of college.


"My stepmom was one of the founding residents of Anunciata when she was a senior, so I knew that I wanted to live there to keep the tradition alive," she said. "I wouldn't want to live in any other building during my last year at Saint Mary's."

Opus is filled to capacity for the 2012-2013 academic year. Each apartment features a furnished living

room, a full kitchen and private bedrooms. Junior Hilary Whitsett will live in an Opus quad next year. She said she has been hoping to spend her final year in Opus since she was a freshman.

"The apartments are really nice and it will be great to have my own room," she said. "I am looking forward to moving out of the dorms and having a real type of apartment and not living in one big room with a bunch of people. It will feel like a real living space."

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## Elections in Mexico: Change or Continuity?

### Cuauhtémoc Cárdenas

Recipient, 2010 Notre Dame Prize for Distinguished Public Service in Latin America  
President, Fundación para la Democracia  
Mexican Democracy Advocate

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# Write News.

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

## Laughter class teaches stress relief techniques

By CHRISTIN KLOSKI  
News Writer

If you heard a lot of chuckles emanating from Stapleton Lounge on Tuesday night, don't be alarmed. Certified laughter leader Mary Labuziensi provided an optimistic guide to college life as part of Saint Mary's "Love Your Body Week."

Labuziensi presented simple ways to be humorous in times of stress in the talk "Love my body? What's not to love!" A clinical exercise physiologist, Labuziensi trains people of all ages to release stress in their daily lives.

To live healthy lives, Labuziensi said students need to laugh, smile, celebrate and play.

"Laugh and make others laugh," she said. "You have to make it happen."

Labuziensi said laughter is a critical component in performing everyday tasks well.

"Laughter is a positive emotion that helps us to move forward," she said. "It allows us to act. We become paralyzed when we are too stressed."

Labuziensi said stress weakens the physical and emotional aspects of the mind and body. She said positive emotions allow people to take stress away from the body.

"Laughter is the shortcut to stress resistance," she said.

For college students, a stress-free lifestyle seems

near impossible, Labuziensi said. However, she said social environments full of laughter and positivity can release the negative energy anxiety causes.

"On average, a person should laugh a total of 15 minutes, with each being three seconds long throughout a day," she said.

By isolating themselves from others, college students are unable to obtain the daily positive levels needed to keep concentration or creativity. Labuziensi said students need to take the time every day to engage in humorous interactions, devoting at least five minutes at a time to initiate a comedic conversation or a funny joke.

Positive psychology leads people to thrive, and as such, happiness should be a part of every person's life, Labuziensi said.

"Laughter is a shortcut to happiness," Labuziensi said. "It makes us more attractive people when we are happy and others like happy people."

As such, the role laughter plays in everyday life can contribute to overall levels of happiness.

"Fifty percent of happiness is genetic, 10 percent is what happens in a person's life and 40 percent is what daily events occur in a person's life," she said.

*"Laughter is a positive emotion that helps us to move forward. It allows us to act. We become paralyzed when we are too stressed."*

Mary Labuziensi  
laughter leader

Contact Christin Kloski at cklosk01@saintmarys.edu



# Award

continued from page 1

throughout Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, Tennessee and Kentucky, Lt. Col. John Polhamus said.

Although the Army ROTC program may not be among the largest programs in the country, Polhamus said the quality of theBbattalion's roughly 70 current cadets, including students from Holy Cross College, Saint Mary's College, Bethel College, Valparaiso University and Indiana University – South Bend, contributes to its success in producing excellent junior officers.

“We have a good program because it's cadet-driven. We have a smart, intelligent group of cadets, and we give them a lot of flexibility and latitude to train and teach themselves,” he said. “It's all about leadership in creating junior officers, and we try to instill that in cadets as early as possible. It's paid off.”

Senior battalion commander Brett Leahy said the program's success stems from the hardworking, intelligent students at Notre Dame.

“We are fortunate to have a student body that has already proven a strong work ethic and high academic standards,” he said. “From that pool, we are able to draw some of the most dedicated and selfless leaders in the nation.”

Leahy also cited Notre Dame's focus on ethics and morality in all its operations as another reason for the success of Army ROTC cadets. The Universith consistently produces high numbers of Distinguished Military Graduates, defined as those cadets who fall into the top 20 percent of cadets nationwide.

“We also benefit from Notre Dame's commitment to ethics in its educational mission, as it gives our cadets a moral foundation that is consistent with the Army's Warrior Ethos,” he said.

This ethical focus and the University's service-oriented mission tie in closely with the ROTC program's mission in producing quality second lieutenants as well, Polhamus said.

“The University is extremely supportive of our community, and it allows us the flexibility to create a great program across the board,” he said. “A big reason for students coming into ROTC is their commitment to service, which goes along with the Notre Dame mission and contributes to the success of the program.”

Senior cadet Trevor Waliszewski said commitment to service goes hand in hand with the Army's core values and the University's Catholic

mission.

“As a Catholic university, Notre Dame attracts a lot of people who want to fight for something bigger than themselves,” he said. “One of the greatest Army values is Selfless Service, and it goes without saying that each of us [is] willing to pay the ultimate price for our country if necessary.”

That willingness to serve the nation carries on after cadets graduate from the program and join the hundreds of alumni currently serving on active dutysaround the world. hNotre Dame ROTC alumni currently serve in such locations as Germany, South Korea and Japan, Polhamus said.

Second Lt. Ryan Degnan, a 2011 alumnus of the Army ROTC program, recently completed the Basic Officer Leadership Course (BOLC) in military intelligenc, ande returned to Notre Dame this week to assist with the Hometown Recruiting Assistance Program (HRA).

Degnan, who begins work in his first unit in San Antonio on Monday, said the success of the Notre Dame ROTC program begins with the drive and passion of its cadets.

“The biggest thing about Notre Dame ROTC is that it comes with a lot of talented cadets who are all striving to be the best they can be, and they have a lot of drive to succeed,” he said. “It fosters a competitive atmosphere, but there's still a lot of camaraderie and teamwork in the unit.”

Degnan said the program pushed him to work hard in all aspects of his training and education, which prepared him well for his upcoming duties.

“The program instills a very strong work ethic in its cadets, and I can't even express how much that work ethic helps in the long run,” he said. “The Army-focused training we had senior year taught ue how to be good leaders and succeed as officers, and I think it gave me a good base to face any challenges I might come in contact with this year.”

Above all, Waliszewski said the strong sense of community among ROTC cadets contributes to the program's success and cohesion as a group.

“We are a very tight-knit community,” he said. “We all have friend groups from dorms, majors or clubs, but friendships made in ROTC tend to be the strongest and seem to last long after graduation, since we are all going into the same career and may run into one another in a different part of the world in the not-so-distant future.”

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# Theory

continued from page 1

spanning ancient Greece to the modern constitutional theory spanning ancient Greece to the modern era.

“I've been working on it for a long time, and at this point I just want to get it off my desk,” he said.

The opportunity to teach and interact with students on a daily basis is the most rewarding part of his job, Zuckert said.

“I very much like working with the students here,” he said. “That would be my num-

ber one thing.”

Ultimately, Zeckert said he is grateful for the assistance and the opportunities Notre Dame has provided him over the course of his career at the University.

“The administration has been extremely helpful in facilitating the work that I'm trying to do,” he said. “This is a university that I think is committed to keeping alive the tradition of political theory and making sure it thrives, and I think they've done a great job of supporting us.”

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# German

continued from page 1

ing as the team leader. Each will vie for his own badge individually.

Sandler said though the German army gives the award, it is for American participants.

“The German Armed Forces Badge is an award for military proficiency from the German army, authorized to be awarded to and worn by Americans,” he said.

The competition takes place over two and a half days and is comprised of eight separate individual events — a 200-meter swim, a 100-meter sprint, a five-kilometer run, a long jump, a shot put competition, a first aid test, a 9 mm pistol shoot and a march carrying a 33-pound pack called a “ruck march.”

Competitors have to meet or exceed a standard of performance in each event. These standards vary for different age brackets and are based on gender.

Further, some events are referred to as “go, no go” contests, and others determine whether a competitor receives a gold, silver or bronze badge, Matt Jozwiak said.

“Go, no go” means a competitor will no longer continue in the competition if they fail to meet an event's standards. Jozwiak said an example of a “go, no go” event is the long jump, where competitors are disqualified if they do not jump at least 4.5 meters. Other events in this category are the 200-meter swim, the 100-meter sprint, the five-kilometer run and the shot put.

Jozwiak said the first-aid test is similar to the “go, no go” physical event, as competitors must pass in order to receive a badge.



Photo courtesy of Josh Sander

**Fightin' Irish Army ROTC Battalion cadets pose for a picture after participating in last year's Army Ranger Challenge.**

The shooting competition and the “ruck march” determine the type of badge a competitor is eligible to receive, Jozwiak said.

“There is a shooting competition with a 9 mm pistol. You have five chances to hit a target 25 meters away,” he said. “Three out of five is the minimum to still be eligible for a badge. If you hit the target five times you are eligible for gold, four times you are eligible for silver, and three times you are eligible for bronze.”

The “ruck march” is the final competition and determines what type of badge an individual earns, Jozwiak said. Different distances and time standards for the march are required for different types of badges.

Sandler said he wanted to compete for the German Armed Forces badge for the prestige.

“In the Army, you wear your resume on your chest,” he said. “This is a shiny new bullet point.”

Jozwiak said he is competing for the badge because he has never participated in a similar experience.

“I really just wanted to do it because I've never done anything like the track-and-field events before,” he said. “The experience itself is what I'm looking forward to. I also want to better myself physically.”

Sandler said all of the Notre Dame ROTC cadets have a chance at a badge this weekend.

“It's not a participation ribbon, but if we continue to put the work in every one of us is capable of coming home with some hardware,” he said.

Jozwiak said he is confident at least one of the four teammates will come home victoriously.

“Personally, I don't know how I will do,” he said. “I think as a team we'll come back with some badges, at least one gold.”

Contact Christian Myers at [cmyers8@nd.edu](mailto:cmyers8@nd.edu)

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# SOPHOMORE CLASS COUNCIL ELECTIONS

Tim Scanlan

Nathan Foje

Andrea Palm

Emily Voorde

## NO. VOTES 541

## % VOTES 50.75

MARINA KOZAK | Observer Graphic

## Council

continued from page 1

omore Class Council will fund, advertise and run it. “We want to do a class trip to Cedar Point as well as an off-campus winter ball,” Scanlan said. “And we’re really excited about

some of the class apparel ideas we have. I think the class cup will be what we’ll work on first.” The class cup will be a year-long competition in which residence halls earn points through athletic events and activities, Scanlan said. At the end of the year, Sophomore Class Council will crown a cham-

pion. McMannis said he hopes to be involved in Student Government next year and is considering running for membership on Sophomore Class Council or applying to be the director of a Student Senate committee. **Contact Marisa Iati at miami@nd.edu**

## Mayor, Yale president face off

Associated Press

NEW YORK — The mayor faced off with the president of Yale University on Tuesday over an effort by the city’s police department to monitor Muslim student groups for any signs that their members harbored terrorist sympathies. The Associated Press revealed over the weekend that in recent years the New York Police Department has kept close watch on Muslim student associations across the Northeast. The effort included daily tracking of student websites and blogs, monitoring who was

speaking to the groups and sending an undercover officer on a whitewater rafting trip with students from the City College of New York. Yale President Richard Levin was among a number of academics who condemned the effort in a statement Monday, while Rutgers University and leaders of student Muslim groups elsewhere called for investigations into the monitoring. “I am writing to state, in the strongest possible terms, that police surveillance based on religion, nationality, or peacefully expressed political opinions is antithetical to the

values of Yale, the academic community, and the United States,” Levin wrote. New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg, speaking to reporters on Tuesday, dismissed those criticisms as baseless. “I don’t know why keeping the country safe is antithetical to the values of Yale,” he said. He said it was “ridiculous” to argue that there was anything wrong with officers keeping an eye on websites that are available to the general public. “Of course we’re going to look at anything that’s publicly available in the public domain,” he said. “We have an obligation to do so, and it is to protect the very things that let Yale survive.”

Asked by a reporter if he thought it was a “step too far” to send undercover investigators to accompany students on rafting vacations, Bloomberg said: “No. We have to keep this country safe.” “It’s very cute to go and blame everybody and say we should stay away from anything that smacks of intelligence gathering,” he said. “The job of our law enforcement is to make sure that they prevent things. And you only do that by being proactive.” Police talked with local authorities about professors 300 miles away in upstate Buffalo. The undercover agent who attended the City College rafting trip recorded students’ names and noted in police intelligence files how many times they prayed. Detectives trawled Muslim student websites every day and, although professors and students had not been accused of any wrongdoing, their names were recorded in reports prepared for police Commissioner Raymond Kelly.



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## Panel discusses body image and addiction



KARLA MORENO/The Observer

**Professor Stacy Davis, left, and Maureen Barrett, speak at the panel “Where Do You Draw the Line?” Tuesday in Carroll Auditorium.**

By MADELINE MILES  
News Writer

Loving your body can entail many things, as attendees of Tuesday’s panel “Where Do You Draw the Line?” learned. Panelists at the event discussed alcohol abuse, cultural influences within the community, body dissatisfaction and controlling and taming personal thoughts.

Held in Carroll Auditorium as part of “Love Your Body Week,” the panel included psychology professor Catherine Pittman, professor of religious studies Stacy Davis, Eating Disorder Recovery Services Coordinator Valerie Staples and alumna Maureen Barrett.

Barrett said she struggled with her body image during her time at Saint Mary’s.

“Loving my body is something I’ve been striving to do since I can remember,” she said. “From the outside, I looked completely normal. But the outside doesn’t always match the inside.”

Barrett said she turned to consuming alcohol excessively, because when she drank, she felt better.

“I loved the warmth of the alcohol going down my throat,” Barrett said. “When I drank, I felt taller, smarter, skinnier, prettier, powerful, even blonde.”

Barrett said her problem reached the point where she recognized the need for professional help.

“I hated myself. I didn’t care about anything anymore,” Barrett said. “I finally asked for help from the counseling center here on campus.”

Barrett left Saint Mary’s in April of 2006 and checked into a professional treatment center. She returned to campus this past fall and graduated in December.

Davis presented the ties between spirituality and alcohol by introducing the views of alcohol consumption in Islam, Buddhism, Judaism, Christianity and Hinduism. Davis said Buddhists have a positive mindset about the consumption of alcohol.

“There are four rules that the Buddhists follow,” Davis said. “One, know why you’re drinking. Two, taste what you’re drinking. Three, watch what happens to your mind when you drink. And four, find your own middle way.”

*“I hated myself. I didn’t care about anything anymore. I finally asked for help from the counseling center here on campus.”*

**Maureen Barrett**  
SMC alumna

Staples said students’ perception of body image is influenced by the media, as well as the Notre Dame and Saint Mary’s culture she referred to as the “bubble.”

“There are a lot of great things about the Notre Dame and Saint Mary’s community,” Staples said. “But there are also a lot of challenges.”

Staples said the lack of diversity in race, religion, ethnicity, sexual orientation and even body type contribute to the intensity of this “bubble.”

“There is a world outside of the bubble with people of all different sizes,” she said. “We don’t appreciate our body as this amazing machine. We focus on its appearance rather than its function.”

Pittman said internal thoughts are the reason behind the distortion of one’s self-perception.

“It’s not that you need to change your body,” Pittman said. “But you need to change your thoughts.”

Pittman said it is crucial to recognize the illusion the media, the “bubble” and other outside influences create.

“If we can change our thoughts, we’ll find it so much easier to love our bodies.”

**Contact Madeline Miles at mmiles01@saintmarys.edu**



## INSIDE COLUMN

### Basketball magic

For most of my first 12 years on Earth, I was a fairly casual college basketball fan. I had my two favorite teams — Notre Dame and Kansas — but besides that I did not have too substantial of an interest. That all changed in March of 2002 when my father acquired tickets to four first-round NCAA Tournament games at the United Center in Chicago.

I strongly hoped that either Notre Dame or Kansas would be playing in one of these games, yet when the brackets were released neither of my favorite teams was scheduled to play a first round game in Chicago. I was significantly bummed by this fact, but I thought these games would serve as a good opportunity to acquaint myself with other teams. Little did I know that the first game of the day would forever sell me on the greatness of college basketball.

The first game of the day was a No. 5-seed vs. No. 12-seed matchup between Billy Donovan's Florida Gators and Dana Altman's Creighton Blue Jays. Going into the game, all I really knew about either team was that Florida had played for the national title two years prior.

For the first half of the game, it seemed as if Florida was the superior team. Players such as guard Brett Nelson, forward Matt Bonner, forward Udonis Haslem and center David Lee controlled the tempo of the game and it seemed as if the Gators definitely had the guns to pull away in the second half. Creighton, however, had other plans, as junior forward Kyle Korver and junior guard Terrell Taylor led a feverish comeback to make it a hotly contested matchup.

With the Gators leading 82-80 with just under five seconds on the clock, Creighton put the ball in Taylor's hands. Taylor launched his eighth three-pointer of the game over Brett Nelson and as it cleanly went through the net, the United Center exploded. I can still visualize the scene as the Blue Jays bench launched into hysterics, mobbing Taylor and wildly celebrating the sizable upset.

Once the players cleared the court, I found myself salivating at the fact that there were still three more games I would get to watch — one of which was a matchup between Robert Montgomery Knight's first Texas Tech squad and a Bruce Weber-coached Southern Illinois team and another of which included a Georgia team coached by Jim Harrick, who would see his coaching career end just one year later amid an academic fraud scandal. This sensation has stayed with me ever since and I give all the credit to the magic college basketball emitted on that Friday in March of 2002.

Sometimes I think about how different my life would be if I had not attended those four games that Friday in March. I can honestly say that I do not believe I would be enjoying my life as much if I never fell in love with college basketball. It is just comforting to know that no matter what I am going through in life, college hoops action will always be there for me almost every night between mid-November through the first week in April every year — and that is a wondrous thing.

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



Walker Carey

Sports Writer

## The guns of February

The Russian and Chinese U.N. delegations vetoed a U.N. resolution which called for a "Syrian-led political transition to a democratic, plural political system" earlier this month. This has kicked off

a new chapter in the Syrian conflict that might push it into an outright civil war. Bashar Al-Assad has been assured that there will likely be no international intervention against him and his increasingly militant tactics for quelling the rebellion in Syria.

This is not the first time that the Assad regime has faced serious internal rebellion. In the early 1980's, President Hafez Al-Assad faced a similar rebellion and used ruthless methods to eliminate his enemies. This was when Hafez carried out the now infamous "Hama Massacre" against the rebel stronghold of Hama. The Syrian military is now massing near Homs, the epicenter of current Syrian resistance. The military appears to be on the brink of launching a massive military campaign against Homs, just like Bashar's father in Hama.

In 1982, Hafez faced an uprising led by Sunni religious leaders who despised Hafez's authoritarian regime and the way in which the regime favored the president's Alawite sect over the majority Sunni sect. The city of Hama was the epicenter of this Sunni-led resistance. Hafez Al-Assad, in response, dispatched his brother to lead some 12,000 troops armed with tanks and artillery to initiate a siege of

the city. What ensued was the systematic extermination of the Hama-based Sunni resistance. Hafez and his brother Rifaat, to ensure the total elimination of the Sunni resistance, utilized mass executions, artillery shelling and ignited the sewer system to ensure no one escaped. This month, eerily, marks 20 years since the "Hama Massacre," which resulted in the deaths of between 10,000 and 25,000 Syrians.

The parallels between Hafez Al-Assad's massacre and the looming massacre in Homs are chilling. Bashar, like Hafez before him, faces unprecedented civilian unrest and most of the protests are still aimed at the disproportionate amount of power Alawites retain in the government. The Sunni majority is once again calling for representation in the Syrian government. The majority has tired of minority rule. The phone lines and internet connections in and out of Homs have been severed and the situation in Homs remains unclear. Like the massacre of Hama, we may not know about it until after Homs has been razed and the optimism of the rebels is shelled back into fear.

The move by Russia and China to veto a U.N. resolution has mitigated growing international pressure on the Assad regime. Bashar has carte blanche to put down the rebellion by any means. The presence of Arab League observers has been meaningless. The UN was the last international institution that had a chance to effect a change in the Syrian government's tactics.

The United States has recently dem-

onstrated a willingness to intervene to prevent civilian slaughter, even in an auxiliary role. The success of the Libya mission, however, has not emboldened the United States or its Western European allies to intervene in Syria. This is probably because Russia sees Syria as indispensable and no country wants to come directly between Moscow and Damascus when the political benefits would be limited. China is supporting Russia because the Chinese see the Russians as partners against the influence of the Western Europeans and Americans in foreign affairs. 20 years after the fall of the Berlin Wall, Russia is embracing a realpolitik Cold War mentality. It seems that Russia and China are putting regional partnerships above human rights in Syria.

America's options, now that an effective U.N. resolution has been vetoed, are limited. The U.S. could attempt to indirectly arm the resistance groups. Sen. John McCain has recently spoken in favor of this strategy. The effort, while well intentioned, would likely induce a stalemate similar to Libya, and would require international intervention to succeed. With limited options, we must now wait and hope Bashar proves to be the moderate that he so often projects himself to be. If not, we may be on the verge of witnessing a Hama-like massacre in Homs. Like father, like son.

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

## EDITORIAL CARTOON



### QUOTE OF THE DAY

*"The most potent muse of all is our own inner child."*

Stephen Nachmanovitch  
American author

## Submit a Letter to the Editor

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

### WEEKLY POLL

What are you giving up for Lent?

Huddle candy  
Facebook stalking  
Super Smash Brothers  
Naps

Vote by 5 p.m. on Thursday at [ndsmcobserver.com](http://ndsmcobserver.com)



## A moral outrage

Institutions have the ability to create rhetoric in order to frame certain issues. They use this to justify certain actions (or inactions) and they repeat the rhetoric enough that it begins to seem reasonable. But once there is resistance to such rhetoric, the holes become more apparent.

So, we need to change the framework for the discussion of a gay-straight alliance and an inclusive nondiscrimination clause. We need to change the rhetoric.

It is partially our fault, that of those who advocate strongly for these changes. We have tried to convince the administration that recognizing a gay-straight alliance and adding "sexual orientation" to the non-discrimination clause are the right things to do because we are the only top-20 University that has failed to do so; because Public Religion Institute statistics show that Catholics are more supportive of gay rights than members of any other Christian denomination; because our sister school, Saint Mary's, has both; because there is overwhelming support from students, faculty and staff for these changes; because the possibility of discrimination creates a culture of fear in students, faculty and staff; and because soon enough we will be the



Alex Coccia

*Shard of Glass*

alumni/ae who decide whether or not to support the University.

What we hardly ever publicly argue is that these changes are the right things to do, no qualifications.

Whether the administration claims that it is for religious reasons, as it did in its 1995 open letter rejection of GLND/SMC; for legal reasons, as it did in its 1997 open letter following the Spirit of Inclusion; or for unstated financial reasons, the administration's steadfast refusal to recognize a gay-straight alliance and to include "sexual orientation" in its nondiscrimination clause is a moral outrage. Enough is not being done to live up to "the social teachings of the Catholic Church [which] promote a society founded on justice and love, in which all persons possess inherent dignity as children of God."

It is an offence to Notre Dame's high moral standard to refuse official club status to a gay-straight alliance because of the administration's perception that it is doing enough — an offence because there is clear evidence of prejudice and homophobia on campus, including hateful slurs such as "faggot," derogatory football chants and a comic insinuating homophobic violence. The University consistently ranks in the top six on the Princeton Review's Top 20 LGBT-Unfriendly Colleges and Universities list. The administration's perception of the Notre Dame environment contrasts sharply with the reality that gay students and allies experience. Year after year, gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and

questioning students, faculty, staff and their straight allies have repeatedly made it known that enough is not being done.

It is immoral for any university to reserve the right, by exclusion from official policy, to discriminate against a person because of his or her actual or perceived sexual orientation. The administration claims in the Spirit of Inclusion that "we consciously create an environment of mutual respect, hospitality and warmth in which none are strangers and all may flourish."

Despite the beautiful language steeped in multiple references to Christ, such as "at Notre Dame, Christ is the law by which all other laws are to be judged," the administration's refusal to include "sexual orientation" in the non-discrimination clause diminishes any genuine attempt by the University at inclusion.

Meaningful legal protection for people based on sexual orientation is lost in the morass of legal technicalities: "Institutional nondiscriminating clauses are highly stylized statements which are legally binding. Neither federal nor state law mandates that sexual orientation be included in nondiscrimination clauses." By avoiding legal responsibility, our administration is avoiding its moral responsibility to Christ and to Notre Dame. GLBTQ members of the Notre Dame community are not legal technicalities who can be told in one breath that they are cherished as family, and in another that they are not worthy of legal protection.

The high standard to which the

administration holds the entire Notre Dame community (including itself), the Spirit of Inclusion, must actually be practiced. If the administration truly believed its own spirit of inclusion, University policy would reflect it. Once again, the administration has the opportunity to make the commitment to its gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and questioning students, faculty and staff that would show its unconditional love for all children of God. These changes of course would not be the end of efforts for inclusion at Notre Dame. Until they are made, however, we can legitimately be skeptical of the administration's commitment to discouraging homophobia, prejudice and discrimination.

It is a moral outrage the way Notre Dame's current policies stand. But, to those at Notre Dame who identify as gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender or questioning: Allies are joining their voices with yours in support. The 4 to 5 Movement is doing all it can to create a culture of inclusion at Notre Dame. The administration must at the very least match that level of commitment. The struggle for true inclusion will not go away, and until the administration joins fully in the struggle, we must continue to stress the language that accurately reflects Notre Dame's current policies.

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

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Big East champs

Congratulations to the members of Notre Dame Men's swimming and diving team on your Big East Championships. You came into Da Burgh and left no question about who the best team is in the Big East. You are the hardest working group of people I have ever met. I am so happy for all of you.

The amount of time and effort this team put into the season is inspiring. I cannot begin to describe the sense of pride and happiness I felt for this team two weeks ago and all last week. Each member of the team contributed to this win and gave everything they had to win the conference title, and they did this with class and sophistication. Fans, parents and athletes from other teams told me they were rooting for you guys. I think this speaks volumes about your character.

Again, I could not be more proud. Thank you so much for making me feel welcome. I loved working with you guys and wish you all the best of luck in the future.

Your Manager,

Jessica Orlando  
senior  
off campus  
Feb. 20

## A call for solidarity

Monday marked the beginning of National Body Image and Eating Disorders Awareness Week, a week that is meant to promote positive messages and healthy outlooks regarding one's self-image. As a member of the Notre Dame community, I, for one, am so proud that our school takes the initiative to promote such an event. More than 10 million women and 1 million men nationwide struggle with either anorexia or bulimia and millions more struggle with binge eating disorder. As a woman who has battled an eating disorder myself (and won!), I want to take this time to send a message of solidarity to all people on this campus.

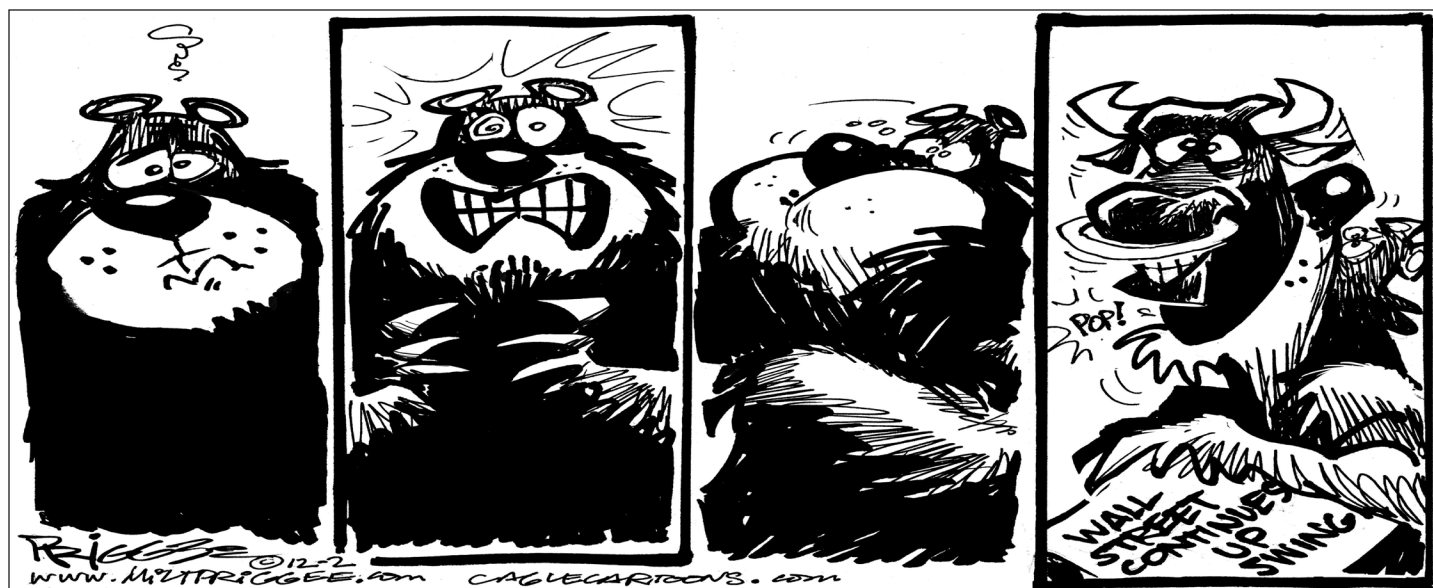
You are beautiful just the way you are.

While eating disorders are serious illnesses, I believe that the first step to reducing their prevalence and promoting a culture of confidence starts with each one of us. Girls, I urge you to revel in the beauty you have. Own it. Guys, understand how awesome you are. The aura you exude when you walk with confidence is magnetic. I know that the tragedy that is poor self-esteem cannot be solved overnight, but we can stand together as a school, as a family, as Notre Dame and let all who struggle know they are not alone. I pray that all who suffer from negative self-images and eating disorders may seek the help they need and begin to live a fruitful life free of their illnesses.

Kelly Jones  
senior  
Pasquerilla West  
Feb. 20



### EDITORIAL CARTOON







By PATRICK MCMANUS  
Scene Writer

Billy Crystal will host the 84th Academy Awards live from Hollywood's Kodak Theatre on Sunday.

Crystal was tapped to host this year's Oscar ceremony after a series of events complicated the original show. The original producer, Brett Ratner, resigned after making homophobic comments. The host he recruited, Eddie Murphy, followed him out the door.

Between 1990 and 2004, Crystal hosted the event eight times. Only the late Bob Hope has hosted the Oscars more, doing so 18 times over a span of 38 years.

It's hard to say what Billy Crystal is best known for. He was a standup comedian and a cast member on "Saturday Night Live," where he famously said, "You look mahvelous" as Fernando Llamas. Crystal starred in Hollywood movies like "When Harry Met Sally..." and "City Slickers." He was also the voice of Mike Wazowski in Pixar's "Monsters Inc." But maybe it is in fact Crystal's long and successful career hosting the Academy Awards that first comes to mind at mention of his name.

For anyone of my generation, however, that is probably not the case. I wasn't alive the first time Crystal hosted the Oscars. I don't think I cared very much at all when I was 12, the last time he hosted. However, since then I have taken an interest in the biggest night of the year for Hollywood. I'm definitely excited now, because everyone seems to make a big deal about how well Crystal hosts the Oscars.

In the past, he made a video inserting himself into the nominated films. He offered his humorous take on "What the Stars are Thinking" and came out dressed as Hannibal Lecter. It all sounds very funny, but I'm not rolling over laughing. The humor of the Academy Awards comes from the timeliness of it.

These were movies everyone talked about for a year, especially in the last week or so before the Awards telecast, and one of them was about to win the most prestigious prize in the film world. The Academy Awards offers the perfect opportunity to skewer the year's movies and the people who made them. Looking back years later it can still be funny, but nowhere near as funny as it must have been the first time around.

I'm glad Crystal is hosting this year. Obviously he has the skillset and experience necessary to host the Oscars well. He is the type of person who ought to host, not whoever it is that some executives think will get more young people to watch.

Even though Crystal is the safe, noncontroversial, fallback option this year, he still has the attributes that made him good at the job in the first place. He is respected enough by the Hollywood community to be able to make fun of them, funny enough to make everyone laugh along and quick enough on his feet to be able to handle any situation that could arise.

Hopefully by Sunday night I'll be able to share with my parents and all the other old people the experience of watching Billy Crystal hilariously host the Oscars.

Contact Patrick McManus at [pmcmanu1@nd.edu](mailto:pmcmanu1@nd.edu)

## OSCAR SHORT FILMS AT DPAC

By KEVIN NOONAN  
Scene Writer

For those caught up in the spirit of film award season, the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center will feature the 2012 Oscar-nominated short films throughout the week. The center will show all the nominees in each of the three short film categories: animated, live and documentary.

Movie theaters across the country will also feature the short films in an effort to reach wider audiences.

Contact Kevin Noonan at [knoonan2@nd.edu](mailto:knoonan2@nd.edu)

### On campus

**What:** Oscar-nominated short films

**Where:** DeBartolo Performing Arts Center

**When:** Documentary — Wednesday, 7 p.m.; Animated — Saturday, 6 p.m., Sunday, 3 p.m.; Live Action — Saturday, 9:30 p.m.

**How Much:** \$3 students, \$4 seniors, \$6 regular

**Learn More:** <http://oscar.go.com/nominees>

### DOCUMENTARY:

"THE BARBER OF BIRMINGHAM:  
FOOT SOLDIER OF THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT"

"GOD IS THE BIGGER ELVIS"

"INCIDENT IN NEW BAGHDAD"

"SAVING FACE"

"THE TSUNAMI AND THE CHERRY BLOSSOM"

### ANIMATED:

"DIMANCHE/SUNDAY"

"THE FANTASTIC FLYING BOOKS OF  
MR. MORRIS LESSMORE"

"LA LUNA"

"A MORNING STROLL"

"WILD LIFE"

### LIVE ACTION:

"PENTECOST"

"RAJU"

"THE SHORE"

"TIME FREAK"

"TUBA ATLANTIC"



Photo courtesy of ontheredcarpet.com





By MAIJA GUSTIN  
Scene Editor

This upcoming Sunday might just be the most important day of the year. On this day, the stars align and deserving people are showered with gold.

That's right, Sunday, Feb. 26 marks the 84th annual Academy Awards, when Mr. Oscar goes home with Hollywood's hottest celebrities.

Sure, the prestigious ceremony has been consistently criticized for ignoring movies beloved by the masses in favor of pretentious critical darlings the public doesn't care much about. But who would level such a claim in a year when the finale to the most popular film franchise in the history of the medium got nominated for three whole awards — Art Direction, Makeup and Visual Effects. And these knockers say the Oscars are out of touch with the will of the masses...

Whether you've seen all nine Best Picture nominees or none, Sunday will be a great day for film fans and party enthusiasts alike.

Even if you couldn't care less about the outcome of Hollywood's biggest night, the Oscars are a great excuse to get together with your friends and throw a party that can be as fancy or fun as you want.

To start, you need to decide on the ambience of your party. Will guests show up in their finest loungewear, or are ball gowns and tuxes required?

There are merits to both — there is no better way to spend a day in front of the TV than in your best pajamas, but it is equally fun to join with the likes of Meryl Streep and Brad Pitt by dressing up in your Dome Dance best.

When the dress code is set, move on to decorations. Sunday is the perfect day to roll out the closest thing you have to a red carpet. If nothing else, there must be a red towel or pillowcase lying around, begging for center stage on such an occasion.

Continue the red throughout your viewing room, but don't forget those gold accents. If forced to choose between the two, always go for the gold. It will add an air of class and prestige to your event that may be lacking from even the finest dorm rooms and apartments around.

If you really want to go all out, create a custom poster to hang by your red carpet as guests arrive for personalized red carpet photos, just like the stars have. Or, for a more authentic feel, create fake paparazzi to bother your closest friends with their flashing cameras. With a heavy-duty printer and some cardboard, real paparazzi can stalk your party from behind couches and closet doors. For a more economical choice, create silhouettes of the crazy photographers

to tape to your wall. Add in a few flashing cameras for an extra-special effect.

Don't forget the mood lighting. In order to get the full effect of the movie clips shown throughout the ceremony — or George Clooney's pearly whites — don't leave too much light on. If you're watching off-campus, consider lighting a few candles for full dramatic effect. Just don't pick a scent that will ruin the elevated mood of your evening.

When décor and lighting are all set, that leaves only the most important element of all — the food.

While the Hollywood A-listers may be stick-thin due to restrictive diets and who knows what else, the only way to truly celebrate the Oscars is to indulge in the finest culinary delights you and your friends can muster up.

For a special event, prepare a series of fancy hors d'oeuvres — caviar is the obvious choice, but even pigs-in-a-blanket can be classy. Arrange a potluck to guarantee a wide range of options without overburdening the host.

If fancy, Pinterest-esque finger food isn't up your alley, create themed foods for each of the nominated films.

A simple baguette will do for "Hugo" while pineapple pizza is a great stand-in for the Hawaii-set "The Descendants." Make a black-and-white version of your favorite food for "The Artist" and a Southern specialty or, if you're brave, chocolate pie for "The Help." Cake balls quickly become "Moneyball" baseballs and "Extremely Loud & Incredibly Close's" Big Apple setting is well-represented with apple pie.

The options are as endless as the wide array of nominated films, so all your guests will surely find something to enjoy.

Don't forget to print out ballots so guests can place their bets on the night's big winners. Create your own or scour the Internet to find an abundance of pre-made ballots. Prizes can range from personalized Oscar statues (for example, "Best Friend" or "Queen of the Feve") to something bought on flex points at the Huddle — free stuff is universally loved, particularly when you get to battle your friends for the big prize.

Really, Oscar Sunday doesn't belong to Hollywood — it belongs to you. Make it your own and use it as the perfect excuse to throw the ultimate bash with your friends.

Contact Maija Gustin at  
mgustin@nd.edu



Telling a fashionista not to watch the Oscars is like asking George Clooney to remarry — it's never going to happen. Like haute couture runway shows, the Oscar red carpet presents our dreams as reality: countless layers of chiffon, Lloyds of London-insured jewelry, designer handbags raining like manna from heaven and, let's not forget, all eyes on you.

The addictive component of the Oscars, however, lies in the fact that walking the red carpet in a mind-blowing gown is not precluded by height, body type, color or any other physical barrier. This differs from runway shows where petite women like myself will never walk, no matter how many times we insist the height discrepancy is solely due to a faulty feet-to-meters converter (come on — haven't we ALL used that as an excuse?!).

In the truest sense of the American dream, talent — and lots of schmoozing — is the cultural commodity that can make you a star. Of course, in this modern technological century, talent is more than ever an equal opportunity inspirer. Every fashionista can tweet, blog, style spot and be street chic! Moreover, in today's global fashion market, Marchesa dresses are only a click away via Net-a-Porter and Rent the Runway, while H&M and Zara give us designer quality at friendly prices.

Reese Witherspoon, Angelina Jolie and Emma Stone? Darlings, they're yesterday's stars — you are today's headliner. And what better way to shout it from the rooftops, than by making the proper fashion entrance at your own Oscar Party?

There are two proverbial fashion yellow brick roads to travel at your Oscar fete: taking inspiration from the classic gold statue or contextualizing the style choice within the greater film nomination context.

The first is obvious. We've all seen those glistening gold gowns. In fact, we might all have one in our closet. Peek-a-boo mesh, lace fabrics, feathers and even lame have made their metallic appearance on the red carpet this season. Go for the gold in a flirty short dress, or rock an ankle length A-line skirt for a magical touch.

Even more appealing, however, is the huge roaring 20s Parisian theme which has pervaded this year's films. "The Artist," "Midnight in Paris" and "Hugo" all speak to this era and the Spring 2012 Fashion Week picked up on the beads, art deco and flapper silhouettes in the air. Take a look at Salma Hayek's geometric bustier on her black Golden Globes Gucci dress for a point of reference (Francois Pinault, I hope you appreciate what a lucky man you are).

Reinterpret this look by placing it on a modern silhouette — fringe is also a definite option. Pick a monochrome dress and pair it with a sparkly sweater. The key to this style, like the art deco artistic movement, is linear symmetry. Think of the top of the Chrysler Building — alternating diamond shapes in shimmering silver. Who could resist that? Keep the shimmer coming in your accessories. Sparkly flats give that grounded, urban Parisienne feel. A vintage beaded bag can pull your whole look together.

While bold colors are in this season, this look works best with soft pastels and nudes. Would Bérénice Bejo have looked as elegant, arresting and ethereal in "The Artist" if she weren't in black and white? The icons of those early Hollywood years of glamour knew what they were doing. Let's show Mr. DeMille that we women of the 21st century are also ready for our modern close up.

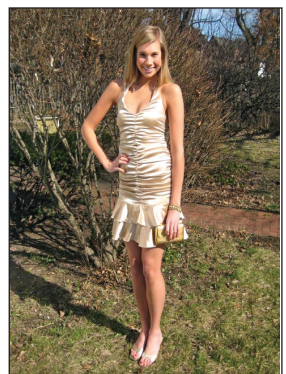
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The views expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.



Felicia Caponigri

Scene Writer



FELICIA CAPONIGRI/The Observer

Johnson models Oscar gold.



FELICIA CAPONIGRI/The Observer

Senior Kjerstin Johnson models modern roaring 20s.



Photo courtesy of zara.com

Handbag, \$59.90, zara.com



Photo courtesy of 6pm.com

Beaded dress, \$77.40, 6pm.com



SPORTS AUTHORITY

We are all witnesses to a grave injustice

There are many things about sports that seem to resist explanation. Why does Josh Smith prefer to brick jumpers all day rather than shove the ball through the hoop directly? Why would any base-ball team not treat “Money-ball” as the bona fide gospel? How is Jack Cooley not related to Luke Harangody?



Joseph Monardo  
Sports Writer

But, more than the rest, one question persists in defying even the best attempts to formulate an answer: why is LeBron James public enemy No. 1?

The one-time Akron Hammer, the Chosen One, the King, LeBron James has for the past two years played the role of the bad guy. Jersey burnings, smearing letters and widespread hate are now the defining characteristics of James’ career. We have all been witnesses to the injustice heaped onto this one man because of one decision. Well, one “The Decision,” but still.

Meanwhile, many exalt and respect Kobe Bryant, discounting LeBron as a loser.

Certainly, Bryant is one of the greatest players of all time. He has proven himself to be a winner again and again and again and again. Killer instinct? Mental toughness? The ability to close games? Check, check and check.

However, for all of his accomplishments on the court, Bryant couples with his stellar game an attitude that is anything but endearing. Often short and petulant with reporters, Kobe frequently comes off as downright rude. Bryant forced the Big Aristotle out of Los Angeles several years ago and is currently on a mission to glut himself with points. Perhaps his selfishness can be excused because of his consistent excellence, but it is there nonetheless.

LeBron, on the other hand, represents what every kid wishes he could be. He is a professional basketball player, but one who does not apologize for having fun while on the job. When the members of the audience sees LeBron and Dwayne Wade joking around during timeouts, showing genuine affection for one another and the rest of the Miami Heat, how do they feel anything but admiration? For the 99.9 percent of basketball players who don’t end up in the NBA, but instead hold memories of playing pick-up games with their friends, LeBron should be an

undisputed hero. He is on the laminated hard courts of basketball’s highest level, but he plays like some high school kid would on a blacktop with the neighbors.

The only difference is LeBron plays at a higher level. A much, much higher level. Already in his ninth season, LeBron James is averaging 27.7 points, 7.1 rebounds and 6.9 assists per game for his career. James’ stats improve on those of Bryant, who has averaged 25.4, 4.5 and 4.6 per game for his career.

The biggest knock on the would-be King is that he is not a winner. Admittedly, in the 2011 NBA Finals against the Dallas Mavericks, James was lackluster, especially in the fourth quarter. But should those six games supersede an entire playoff career?

LeBron has racked up ridiculous averages of 28.0 points, 8.4 rebounds and 7.0 assists per game in the playoffs. Again, these stats surpass Kobe’s playoff line of 25.4, 5.1 and 4.8 per game. While everyone can reference James’ playoff collapse of the past two years, have James’ detractors forgotten about the King’s performance in the 2007 Eastern Conference Finals, when he led the Cavs over the Pistons and scored 29 of his team’s final 30 points in Game Five? What about when LeBron dropped 45 in Cleveland’s game seven loss to the Celtics in 2008?

Obviously, LeBron has failed to deliver a championship so far, which is no small blemish on his record. But to keep things in perspective, Kobe earned his first three rings while being aided by Shaq, Phil Jackson and the powerful prestige of the Lakers. LeBron was asked to bring a championship to Cleveland with the help of “Boobie” Gibson, Zydrunas Ilgauskus and the like. And 0-1 with the Heat is nothing to panic about yet.

The Chosen One figures to be, as the Black Mamba already is, one of the greatest players in the history of the NBA. Although you may take offense with his Decision to raise \$2.5 million for the Boys and Girls Club of America and may mock the absence of bling on his finger, do not discount LeBron James. Instead, just enjoy watching him perform a chase down block from behind or flush an alley-oop from D-Wade, smiling the whole time.

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

PGA

Woods remains top target

Associated Press

MARANA, Ariz. — Tiger Woods must be mellowing with age.

There was a time when a comment from his opponent in the Match Play Championship, even tongue-in-cheek, would be an extra bit of motivation that Woods didn’t need. Most famous at this event was in 2006, when Stephen Ames was asked about playing Woods and said that anything could happen, adding with a big smile, “Especially where he’s hitting it.”

Woods beat him 9 and 8, the most lopsided score in tournament history.

But that was when Woods was No. 1 in the world. He is the No. 19 seed this week at Dove Mountain.

That was when Woods was winning two majors a year. Now he hasn’t won a tour event in more than two years.

So when Gonzalo Fernandez-Castano, who faces Woods in the opening round Wednesday, said that his opponent is “beatable,” Woods didn’t seem the least bit bothered.

“I feel exactly the same way as he does,” Woods said. “I feel he’s beatable, too.”

Then again, that goes for all 64 players in the field for the first World Golf Championship of the year. The difference in talent at this level of golf is miniscule. Over 18 holes of match play, it’s even smaller.

The best example might be Luke Donald, the defending champion and No. 1 player in the world. For his opening round, he gets to play Ernie Els, a three-time major champion and seven-time winner of the World Match Play Championship at Wentworth, where each match is contested over 36 holes.

Not since the inaugural Match Play Championship in 1999 has No. 1 against No. 64 featured such big stars, when Woods beat Nick Faldo.

Of course, there’s a reason Els comes in as the No. 64 seed.

The Big Easy hasn’t won since the South African Open at the end of 2010, and he only got into this tournament because Phil Mickelson is taking a family vacation (Paul Casey later withdrew with injury). If his results don’t improve quickly, he might be out of the Masters for the first time in nearly 20 years.

Donald has had a slow start to the year. He tied for 48th in the Abu Dhabi Championship, and closed with a 78 at Riviera last week to tie for 56th, the first time in more than two years that he didn’t earn ranking points despite making the cut.

Even so, he’s coming off a year



Tiger Woods answers questions during a news conference before playing a practice round at the Match Play Championship on Tuesday.

in which he won money titles on the PGA Tour and European Tour, and won a career-high four tournaments, starting with the Match Play Championship. Donald was so dominant at Dove Mountain last year that he never played the 18th hole all week in competition.

“He had an unbelievable year last year, and becoming world No. 1. So he’s got a lot going for him,” Els said. “It’s 18 holes, you know? It’s not like I’m the worst match-play player in the world, either. I think I know what I need to do. You’ve got to keep the ball in play. You’ve got to keep it in play on every single hole, because he’s going to be in every hole.”

“It’s basically who can make the most putts and make the most birdies,” he said. “So we’ll take it from there.”

U.S. Open champion Rory McIlroy makes his PGA Tour debut this year by taking on George Coetzee, who is playing for the first time ever in America as a pro. Coetzee got in when Casey’s shoulder injury from snowboarding was not fully healed.

Lee Westwood is the No. 3 seed and will play Nicolas Colsaerts of Belgium. Martin Kaymer, who lost in the championship match to Donald a year ago, is the No. 4 seed and opens with Greg Chalmers of Australia.

Match Play is loaded with examples of those who play good rounds and lose to someone who made one more birdie, and guys who can’t break par who are lucky enough to play someone even worse.

Only twice has the No. 1 seed lost in the first round — Woods in 2002 and Steve Stricker in 2010.

Stricker, the fifth seed who opens against Kevin Na, is coming off a five-week break designed to keep his head fresh and build up

strength in his left arm, a product of a neck injury.

No one knows how long they will stay. The smart players don’t even bother looking ahead in the bracket to see whom they might face in the next round. Ben Crane opens with Bubba Watson, interesting in that their caddies are sharing a room this week. One of them will be checking out Wednesday afternoon.

“If you get on a roll and you play well, you can run the tables here,” said Stricker, who did just that in 2001 as the No. 55 seed.

“I don’t think it really matters where you come from, to tell you the truth,” he said. “They’re all good players. There are 64 good players here, and they deserve to be here. They’ve shown that they’ve played well over the last year to be within that top 64. So you need to play well, just because everybody is good.”

Woods is a three-time winner of the Match Play Championship, yet this is the first time he has not been among the top four seeds. He shared the lead at Abu Dhabi going into the final round and tied for third, and he was in the penultimate group at Pebble Beach, four shots out of the lead, when he played with Mickelson and shot 75.

He is hitting the ball well. There are times when he is putting well. He is not yet winning.

As for the “beatable” comment? Woods said such things used to motivate him “quite a bit” when he was younger.

“But as I’ve matured and gone beyond that, it’s just an opinion,” the 36-year-old Woods said. “What matters is how I go out and play, and how I’m progressing in my game. At the end of the day when I’m retired, I think I’ll have mastered a pretty good record.”

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Charlie O. Finley - 1918 - Former owner of Kansas City/Oakland Athletics

Ted Kennedy - 1932 - Former Massachusetts US Senator

Sparky Anderson - 1934 - Former Cincinnati Reds and Detroit Tigers manager

Julius Erving - 1950 - Former Virginia Squires, New Jersey Nets, and Philadelphia 76ers shooting guard

Steve Irwin - 1962 - The Crocodile Hunter

Vijay Singh - 1963 - Three-time PGA major champion

Bradley Nowell - 1968 - Lead singer of Sublime

Michael Chang - 1972 - Hall of Fame tennis player

James Blunt - 1974 - English musician

Drew Barrymore - 1975 - American actress

Rajon Rondo - 1986 - Boston Celtics point guard

Go Irish. Beat Mountaineers.

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NCAA MEN’S BASKETBALL

Ninth-ranked Hoyas fall to Seton Hall 73-55

Associated Press

NEWARK, N.J. — Georgetown looked nothing like a team that has spent five weeks ranked in the Top Ten this season.

The ninth-ranked Hoyas came into Tuesday night’s game as one of the Big East’s — and the country’s — best defensive teams. They weren’t too shabby on the offensive end either.

Not in their 73-55 loss to Seton Hall.

“We thought we play pretty good perimeter defense, but we were atrocious tonight,” Georgetown coach John Thompson III said. “They hit some shots early and we got frustrated early and that frustration carried over to our offense. That was the crux of everything.”

Jordan Theodore was nearly perfect in helping Seton Hall get the signature win it needed for its NCAA tournament resume. He had a career-high 29 points on 8-of-11 shooting, including making all five 3-point attempts.

“We just needed this one so bad. I was jacked up for this game,” said Theodore, who also had five assists and four rebounds. “I didn’t want to blow another opportunity like we did my sophomore year when we were on the bubble. I have a little experience in being on the bubble. I want to dance so bad. I can taste it we’re so close.”

The Pirates (19-9, 8-8 Big East), whose best win this

season was over Connecticut on Jan. 3, have two games remaining — Rutgers and DePaul — to solidify what would be their first NCAA tournament bid since 2006. Their RPI is in the high 30s and it never hurts to be from the Big East, which a record 11 teams in the field last season.

Still, nothing is official until Selection Sunday.

“What could be better than having a game like this with your fate in your hands,” said Herb Pope, Seton Hall’s other senior. “We stayed solid. We shot terrific today.”

Then he started talking about Theodore.

“That’s my little brother and we’re going out together,” Pope said. “We moved one inch closer to our goal. He came out on fire and we rode the wave.”

The Hoyas, who could have clinched a first-round bye in the Big East tournament with a win, have three games left in the regular season — Villanova, No. 20 Notre Dame and at No. 10 Marquette. They can’t afford a losing streak this late in the season.

“I think our team is good at bouncing back after a loss,” senior guard Jason Clark. “We’re still a hungry team. We want to bounce back and get a win the next game.”

Seton Hall shot 61.0 percent (25 for 41), the best against the Hoyas this season and only the third time any team shot 50 percent or better. Georgetown (20-6, 10-5) came in allowing 38.4 percent shooting this season.

NHL

Blue Jackets dominate Sharks

Associated Press

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Jeff Carter had three goals — two on the power play during Columbus’ four-goal first period — and the last-place Blue Jackets handed the San Jose Sharks their season-high fourth straight loss, 6-3 on Tuesday night.

R.J. Umberger and Rick Nash, who is the subject of trade rumors with the deadline less than a week away, had a goal and an assist. David Savard also scored for Columbus. Vinny Prospal added three assists while Derick Brassard had two.

Steve Mason made 38 saves to get the win and surpass Marc Denis as the Blue Jackets’ career wins leader.

Logan Couture scored twice and Joe Thornton also had a goal for San Jose. Starting goalie Antti Niemi was pulled after allowing three goals on 11 shots.

The Sharks fell to 1-4-1 on their season-long, nine-game road trip.

Carter scored his 15th goal of the season and the third of the game for his second hat trick of the season at 1:26 of the third to give Columbus a 6-2 lead.

Couture scored his team-leading 27th goal on a redirection on a power play to make it 6-3 at 8:35 of the third.

Then just 13 seconds later, the Sharks thought they pulled closer when Jamie McGinn batted in another high puck that went into the air behind Mason.

But the play went to video



Blue Jackets center Jeff Carter scores his third goal of the game during Columbus’ 6-3 win over San Jose on Tuesday.

review and it was ruled the puck was hit when it was above the crossbar and the goal was disallowed.

Columbus started strong, scoring twice in the first seven minutes. The Blue Jackets then made it 3-0 that ended Niemi’s night and added one more with 30 seconds left in the period. Niemi was replaced by Thomas Greiss, who stopped 21 of 24 shots.

Umberger opened the scoring as he stuffed in his own rebound for his 10th of the season at 4:55.

Carter made it 2-0 at 6:51 on the power play with a shot from the high slot past Niemi after a nice give and go passing play with Prospal.

Then Nash curled out of the right corner, and scored on a wrister from between the circles for his 20th at 15:18, sending Niemi to the bench.

On the fourth goal, the puck skidded off two San Jose players to Carter, who with his back to the net, redirected it past Greiss at 19:30 on another man advantage.

The Sharks scored twice in a 26-second span early in the second period to cut the deficit in half.

Thornton scored his 13th of the season at 5:11 to make 4-1.

Couture then took a pass into the zone from Michal Handzus and ripped a shot from the left dot over Mason’s glove at 5:37.

But the momentum was short-lived because two minutes later, Ryan Clowe was assessed a double minor — one penalty for a cross check, the other for unsportsmanlike conduct when he slammed the penalty box door.

Savard sent a one-timer from the left point that hit another skate in traffic at 10:59 to make it 5-2.



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## NASCAR

## Concussion concerns worry NASCAR veterans

Associated Press

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. — If Michael Waltrip were to count up all the concussions he has sustained over a NASCAR career that stretches back nearly 30 years, he'd certainly hit 10 — and probably keep going.

Safety measures since Dale Earnhardt's death in 2001 have gone a long way toward preventing head injuries, and NASCAR officials have taken steps to improve the way they identify and treat concussions. But Waltrip knows that won't undo all those hits he took in the 1980s and '90s.

"I whacked my head — a lot," Waltrip said. "If you think about this, I showed up in '85, when it was relatively 'safe.' We thought we had it figured out. I raced all the way through 2001 when people were getting killed. And all through that time, I was hitting my head and knocking myself out and getting concussions and going to the hospital. And I don't know what that means to me in 10 years. But I know it's a concern."

The 48-year-old Waltrip gets uneasy when he hears stories about NFL players and other athletes who are having serious neurological problems after they retire, issues that a growing amount of research indicates may have been caused by repetitive brain injuries they sustained during their playing days.

Could that happen to him, too?

"I would be the perfect case study to see what's going to happen," Waltrip said. "Because I can go back and look at the races and count up times I was knocked unconscious that I can't count on both hands."

Five-time NASCAR champion Jimmie Johnson says he has had two concussions racing stock cars, and probably many more racing dirt bikes when he was younger.

"We're not immune to concussions," Johnson said. "And certainly after severe concussions or being concussed several times, the numbers change. We know that. The dynamic is there. I think we've reduced the opportunity for it to happen, but ultimately, it can happen. I just think the odds are a lot better today than they've ever been."

Earnhardt's death in the 2001 Daytona 500 — which came after drivers Kenny Irwin, Adam Petty and Tony Roper all were killed from similar head injuries — forced NASCAR to get serious about safety.

Today, drivers must wear a head and neck restraint, while impact-absorbing SAFER barriers have been installed on racetrack walls and NASCAR completely redesigned race cars to reduce the risk of injury. Racing seats used to look a lot like passenger car seats; now they look more like something out of a spaceship, with foam-padded supports on each side of the helmet that barely allows a driver's head to move during a crash.

It's working. Going into Sunday's Daytona 500, there hasn't been a death in NASCAR's top three national series since Earnhardt's.

"If I'm Kasey Kahne or Kyle Busch, I don't have those concerns any more," Waltrip said.

"We've got the cars and the tracks, we've got it all fixed. You can still get hurt. You're running 200 miles an hour. But the chances of getting hurt are slimmer. The chances of hitting your head and hurting it are really slim."

NASCAR officials say they've identified 29 concussions in their top three series since 2004 — and only 11 of those happened in the past five seasons.

"Not huge numbers, when you see it," said Steve O'Donnell, NASCAR's senior vice president of racing operations. "But with each of those, each one's different, we've had to assess each one differently. Knock on wood, we haven't had as many to have to deal with."

And while there have been some drivers who experienced long-term effects from traumatic head injuries over the years — including Bobby Allison, Ernie Irvan, Jerry Nadeau and Steve Park — O'Donnell says NASCAR doesn't see any evidence of widespread health issues related to multiple head injuries, as the NFL and other sports are.

"There's always concerns for any driver that's been in the sport," O'Donnell said. "But in terms of drivers formally approaching us and saying, 'Hey, I want to talk about this or look at it,' we haven't seen that occur, in terms of what you're seeing in other sports right now. We'd certainly be open to working with anyone, if we see that, in helping to stop any trend that we saw."

In response to reports of football players, hockey players and other athletes having serious neurological issues in retirement, researchers at the Boston-based Sports Legacy Institute have studied brain tissue of deceased former athletes. They've found evidence of a degenerative brain disease known as Chronic Traumatic Encephalopathy that has been linked to repetitive brain injuries.

O'Donnell said NASCAR officials have noticed.

"Absolutely," O'Donnell said. "It's something we pay attention to on any aspect of other sports, what they're doing. Can we learn from it? Can we implement some of these things? We're open to working with any other sport as well."

For now, veteran driver Jeff Burton is trying to gather as much information as he can about the long-term effects of concussions. Burton's father-in-law is a physician and has attended sports medicine conferences on his behalf.

"I think anybody that has any sense at all has to understand that it doesn't matter if you're playing football or hockey or racing a car, head injuries can have had ramifications later in life," Burton said. "It appears to be the case. I think we are exposed to less of it. But at the same time, when we do have them, they can be big hits."

The 44-year-old Burton started racing in NASCAR's top division in 1993, well before the post-Earnhardt safety advances.

"I can tell you that in retrospect, there's been many times that I've had concussions," Burton said. "And the definition of concussion is a very widely used term, and how you



AP

NASCAR driver Michael Waltrip climbs out of his car after a qualifying attempt at the Daytona 500 on Sunday. Waltrip said he has probably suffered 10 concussions during his career.

actually define a concussion has changed over the years. But there's no question that with hitting concrete, not having (today's safety equipment), there's no question people had concussions. No question."

Waltrip said he blacked out after an accident in practice at Las Vegas in 1998, but kept it to himself.

"Hit the wall, got in the backup car, made a couple laps, went to the hotel, woke up the next morning, didn't even know how I got there," Waltrip said. "You could just fake people out back then. 'Yeah, I'm fine, I'm fine.' They didn't care. 'OK, you're fine.'"

Today, any driver involved

in a significant accident must visit the infield medical center, where checking for signs of a concussion is standard procedure. If there's reason to suspect a concussion, the driver will be sent to a local hospital. From there, the driver will need to be cleared by a neurosurgeon with at least five years' experience in sports-related head injuries before he or she can race again.

"They always ask you," Burton said. "The key to that, though, is honesty. Unless it's obvious. Sometimes you can tell. But a lot of times, in football and in every sport, people say, 'I'm fine.' It's hard if you don't tell them the truth to

help you."

Burton acknowledged that drivers, along with athletes in other sports, have an incentive to hide symptoms.

"There's fear in not being able to do what you want to do," Burton said. "NASCAR's always been really good saying, 'Look, we don't want to keep you from racing unless it's in your best interests.' They've been pretty good about that. People are always nervous, I think, in any sport to stand up and say I'm having these issues, because they want to race or they want to play. But if NASCAR doesn't want you to race, then you probably shouldn't be racing."

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WOMEN’S LACROSSE

# Halfpenny has new season philosophy

By MATTHEW DeFRANKS  
Sports Writer

Everyone is on the bus — the energy bus, that is.

New Irish coach Christine Halfpenny has not only changed the philosophy of the program already this season, but also has altered the team’s reading list, requiring every player to read *The Energy Bus*. The book, written by Jon Gordon, was assigned over winter break and preaches positive energy in a team environment.

“You bring the attitude you’re going to bring and you stay focused on what you can control,” Halfpenny said. “Positive thoughts bring positive outcomes sometimes. We’re just controlling what we can control right now. We’re showing up, trying to be as consistent as we can be, individually and collectively.”

After break finished, Halfpenny said the culture around the team really changed as more and more players bought into the new coach’s teachings.

The Irish displayed the result Sunday when No. 15 Notre Dame opened its season with a convincing 17-14 victory over then-No. 6 Stanford. In the game, senior attacker Maggie Tamasitis notched six assists while sophomore attacker Lindsay Powell scored a career-high five goals.

The Irish (1-0) started out quick, netting 12 goals in the first half alone.

“[A 12-goal first half is] like a coach’s dream,” Halfpenny said. “I think that when our girls stay in the system, we get a lot of openings. I think over half of our goals were assisted. That’s the style game we’re

playing and the looks we’re getting are very much team-oriented.”

Notre Dame’s team-oriented approach appeared to be in full effect Sunday, as six different players found the back of the net.

“That just shows that we’re really a dynamic offense that can score in a number of different ways,” Halfpenny said. “[You would] see quick ball movement with an upbeat style. [You would see] a good high-paced tempo with a team-oriented offense. The ball goes through a lot of people’s hands.”

Before leaving William & Mary to come to Notre Dame, Halfpenny’s teams set single-season records for points, goals and draw controls while running her offensive system.

“We are working toward the ultimate goal of flying around a little bit more, overall athleticism, playing on instincts, some of that stuff we certainly saw,” Halfpenny said. “I think there was a little lack of discipline within this high-octane type of style, high tempo we want to see.”

On defense, the Irish have become more aggressive, resulting in 42 fouls in the season-opening win. Halfpenny said the fouls will happen when the defense puts on so much pressure.

“[You would] see a high pressure defense and be like ‘Whoa, I thought this was no contact,’” Halfpenny said.

Halfpenny and the Irish look to continue to grow in the new system when they face Duquesne on Saturday at noon at Arlotta Stadium.

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



SARAH O’CONNOR/The Observer

Irish coach Mike Brey instructs his players during Notre Dame’s 84-76 win over DePaul on Feb. 11. The Irish look to extend their eight-game winning streak against West Virginia tonight at home.

## Brey

continued from page 20

20.4 and 11.3 per game, respectively. Jones scored 14 points and grabbed 12 rebounds in the teams’ first meeting.

“Our controlling of the tempo doesn’t give the ball to those scorers as much,” Brey said. “I do think it messes with rhythm of individual guys, too.”

The Irish stumbled out of the gates against Villanova (11-16, 4-11), falling behind by 20 points before making a comeback late in the second half. Even when they held a 10-point halftime lead in West Virginia, the Irish had scored just 26 points.

“I don’t want to harp on [the slow starts] too much,” Brey said. “Maybe we’re not in an attack frame of mind early in the game as we are in the second half. That’s something we can do better. A lot of the time, we start the game in a control-the-tempo atmosphere so that dampens the speed of things.”

Since the teams last met in Morgantown, Notre Dame has averaged just under 77 points — nearly nine points above its season average.

“I’d like to see us get out and run a little bit,” Brey said. “It’s been a subtle slide [toward scoring more points]. We’ve got some guys offensively who are in a little better rhythm, so let’s put 75 up instead of 52.”

Notre Dame sophomore guard Jerian Grant has scored in double figures in eight straight games and Cooley has shot 73 percent from the field in the past four contests.

Brey said the Irish may look to get out more in transition against the bigger Mountaineers.

“We’ve talked about rebounding and running, especially in our building, getting out and going,” Brey said.

Notre Dame tries for a record-setting ninth straight conference win tonight against West Virginia at Purcell Pavilion. Tip-off is set for 7 p.m.

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

## Mallory

continued from page 16

Sign Language class.

“The whole sign language thing just helped out with the whole talking thing,” she said. “My grandparents are deaf, so I’ve known it for a while, just had to brush up on it a little bit in class.”

“There was a lot I learned, but then a lot of people were looking to me in class because I can understand it when they’re signing to me better than I can do it myself.”

Mallory, who also goes by “Mom” amongst her teammates, was chosen as a captain for the second consecutive season. With Peters and junior guard Skylar Diggins as the more aggressive motivators on the team, Mallory said she stepped into a role as a sounding board and a reassuring motivator.

“I really look after my teammates like they’re my own kids,” she said. “I just want them to do well and know where everything is on the court, like where they’re supposed to be. I’m not really a mean person.”

“I just like helping people. It’s just in my nature to make sure people know what they’re doing if they have any questions.”

Averaging nine rebounds and 1.6 blocks per game, Peters is putting together one of the best seasons for an Irish forward in program history.

While she plans on continuing her basketball career after graduation, her love of sports commentary steered her to the FTT program.

“I always wanted to do commentary on games, so that just kind of drew me to it,” Peters said. “I took a couple classes early on, and I was in business first. [FTT] seemed to fit me a lot better than what I was doing in business, so I switched over.”

While the parallels between color commentary and rebounding are few, Peters said she has drawn from her acting and television experiences to help her on the court.

“The training you learn from watching television and seeing how people act on there, and mannerisms and how to control yourself — [It’s about] just bringing that to the court, and how stuff looks on TV, as opposed to how you’re acting on the court,” Peters said.

“It’s about getting on the same page and organizing and coming together to make something that’s a movie and something that’s perfect.”

The script for the 2011-2012 season is over halfway written, and victories over then-No. 7 Duke, then-No. 7 Tennessee and then-No. 2 Connecticut have already provided highlight material. A return date to the NCAA national title game could be the movie’s best scene yet.

Contact Chris Masoud at [cmasoud@nd.edu](mailto:cmasoud@nd.edu)



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CROSSWORD

- Across

1

Places for flocks

5

Some sporty cars

8

Sandbox retort

13

Pizza topping

15

Wide shoe spec

16

Like a perfect game, of a sort

17

Nabisco wafer

18

Monopolist's clothing accessory?

20

Teen idol Efron

21

Like a poor attendance

23

Crewman on the Jolly Roger

24

Designers for Microsoft Windows?

27

Blow it

28

"Do Ya" rock grp.

29

Blow it

31

Refs. for Web site newbies

34

Brewer's equipment

38

Oil well firefighter Red \_\_\_\_\_

41

What Martian invaders may be intent on?

44

Martian, e.g.

45

Viral phenomenon on the Web

46

Assemble-it-yourself chain

47

Sleepaway, e.g.

49

Young 'un

51

Really get to

53

What the backer of a failing business may do?

60

License prerequisite, often

62

"Take your time!"

63

\_\_\_\_ chi

64

Trunk item ... or what has been put on 18-, 24-, 41- and 53-Across?

66

Moves first

68

King who had the Labyrinth built

69

Trail the pack

70

"Love Train" singers, with "the"

71

Become, eventually

72

That, in Toledo

73

Cause to roll in the aisles

Down

- 1

Schemer called to mind by the Madoff swindle
- 2

Univac I predecessor
- 3

Word after "roger," to a radioer
- 4

G, in the key of C
- 5

Insinuate
- 6

Country singer Clark
- 7

Dr. for kids
- 8

Tiny colonist
- 9

Pitchfork-wielding groups
- 11

Gretzky, for many years
- 12

Bewhiskered frolicker
- 14

Like some French vowels
- 19

Where props are seen
- 22

Bit of math homework
- 25

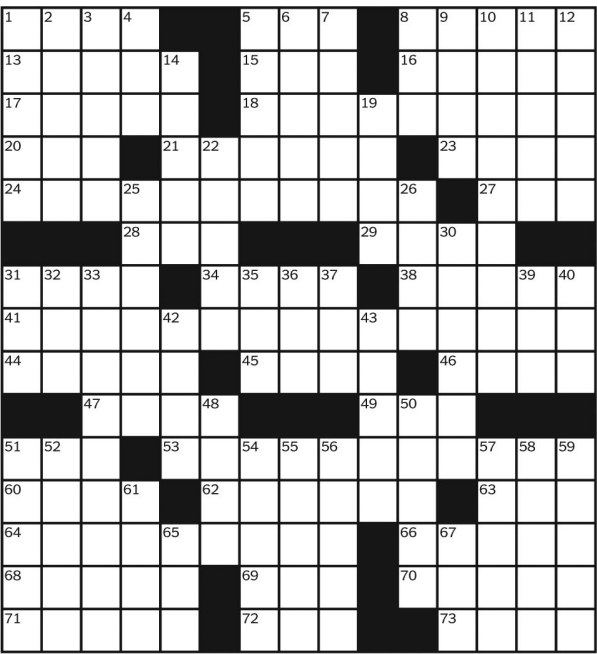
Lipton competitor
- 26

Beanery side dish
- 30

Emphatic assent
- 31

Monk's title
- 32

WWW giant



- Puzzle by Chris Handman

33

Stuff that can give you a sinking feeling?

35

\_\_\_\_ Inside (store sign)

36

That ship

37

"Tiny" boy

39

\_\_\_\_ de la Cité

40

Nutritionist's fig.

42

Words of generosity

43

Hawks

48

Huff and puff

50

It may elicit a blessing

51

Words after a knock

52

Adjust, as a corsage

54

Upholstery fabric

55

Polonius's hiding place

56

"Hasta \_\_\_\_"

57

Item at a 95% markdown, say

58

Country singer Tucker

59

He-man's opposite

61

Drop \_\_\_\_ (moon)

65

Eerie gift

67

Sleepover attire, for short

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EUGENIA LAST

**CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:** Ashley Green, 25; Ellen Page, 25; Jennifer Love Hewitt, 33; Kelsey Grammer, 57.

**Happy Birthday:** Secrets, intrigue and plenty of behind-the-scenes activity will come your way. Being organized will help you make spontaneous decisions that can set you apart from any competition you meet along the way. Keep things moderate but precise and you will bypass the obstacles inherent to extravagance and excess. Your numbers are 4, 13, 17, 27, 34, 40, 44.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19):** ): Keep your thoughts and plans to yourself. You need more time to decide the best route to take. Impulsiveness will send the wrong message to someone you are trying to impress. Secure your position by showing greater stability and responsibility. ★★★★★

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20):** A receptive attitude will help you get what you want. Bide your time and consider suggestions that at first seem odd or out of the ordinary. You will recognize something special that others miss. Don't let uncertainty be your downfall. ★★

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20):** Stick to the skills you have to offer and the people you know best. Trying to work outside your means will lead to criticism and arguments. An encounter you have with someone will lead to personal changes. Love is highlighted. ★★★★★

**CANCER (June 21-July 22):** You'll make a statement by taking the road less traveled. Understanding will be an asset that guides you to a better place, allowing you to connect with people who will contribute to your journey. Your confidence will help raise your profile. ★★★★★

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22):** Stick to your budget. Use your skills and knowledge to make an impression, not your money. Keep things simple, even if someone is expecting more. The ability to get the most for the least will lead to the best results. Love is highlighted. ★★

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):** Don't get trapped in a situation that goes against your morals. Your patience will be tested, along with your integrity. Own up to any mistake you've made and move on before you waste time or miss a better opportunity. ★★

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):** Share your thoughts and make a point of networking with people who have something to contribute. A partnership or job opportunity is apparent if you are aggressive in your pursuits. Don't let someone's negative attitude daunt you. ★★

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22):** Focus on what you can accomplish, as well as being original and unique in your presentation. Partnerships may face changes, but in the end you will satisfy your needs by gaining the freedom required to grow as an individual. ★★

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):** Put your best foot forward and don't look back. No matter what you decide, you will make it work in your favor. You have good ideas and the ability to make things happen. Favorable changes at home will improve your attitude. ★★★★★

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):** Don't trust everyone with whom you come into contact. Disagreements are likely to be unnerving and can lead to minor accidents or mishaps. A personal or domestic change will help you recognize how to avoid outside interference. ★★★★★

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):** Take action when it comes to financial, legal or health matters. Experience and someone you haven't seen in a while will help you make the right choice. Put pressure on anyone you must rely on in order to get what you want. ★★

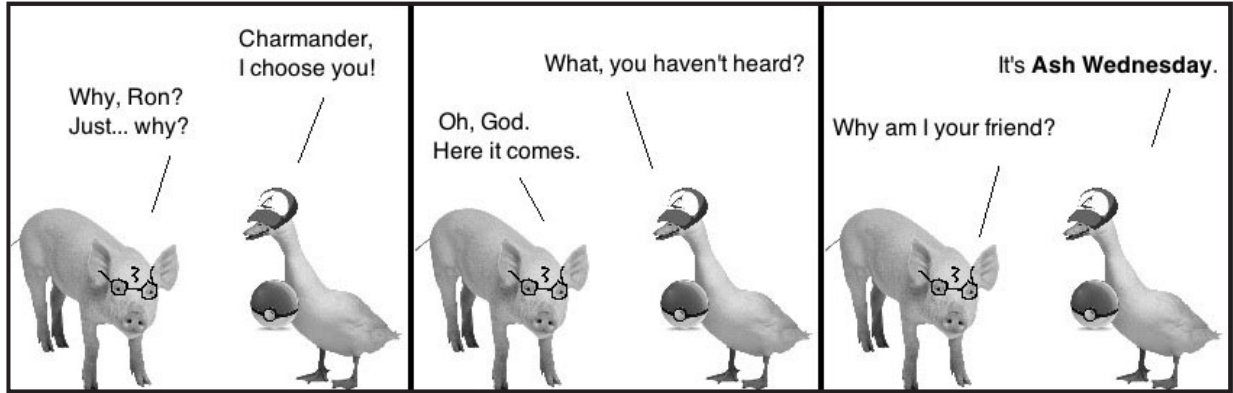
**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):** Focus on what's important to you. Look through personal paperwork if it will help you negotiate or settle a difference of opinion. Your intuition will not let you down. Follow your heart and prove your point with clear-cut facts and figures. ★★

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20):** Balance and equality will be essential. Listen carefully to what's being said and offered if you don't want to be taken for granted. For everything you give up, you must get something in return. ★★

**Birthday Baby:** You are creative, forceful and proud. You see what you want and follow through.

LONDON EXPRESS

ALEX GRISWOLD and LEE HAGGENJOS



ExpND

JON REPINE

The Observer apologizes for the absence of

ExpND

JUMBLE

DAVID L. HOYT  
JEFF KNUREK

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

LVEAV

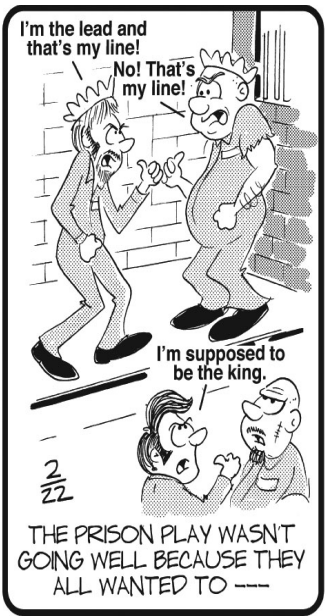
SPETW

SOHDAW

SLUDOH

**Answer:** THE  (Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's | Jumbles: PANDA MOOSE FIGURE TACKLE  
Answer: He started putting predictions into cookies because he wanted to do this — MAKE A FORTUNE



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

THE OBSERVER

Published Monday through Friday, The Observer is a vital source of information on people and events in the Notre Dame and Saint Mary's Community.

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## MEN'S BASKETBALL

## Climbing mountains

By MATTHEW DeFRANKS  
Sports Writer

Most fans probably knew freshman guard Pat Connaughton knocked down seven 3-pointers Saturday. Most fans probably knew junior forward Jack Cooley recorded his fourth straight double-double in the 74-70 overtime win over Villanova.

But Irish coach Mike Brey didn't.

"I don't even look at stats when we're playing really well," Brey said. "I don't want to see the final stats. When there's something really good like this going on, you just kind of massage it."

The No. 20 Irish, who return home riding an eight-game winning streak to face West Virginia tonight, haven't needed to check the stat sheet to see how well they've been playing.

"I'm staying away from stats because of the overall tone of playing together, chasing it together, frame of mind being good," Brey said. "I try to use my energy there."

Notre Dame (19-8, 11-3 Big East) has reeled off eight straight conference victories, tying a program record for consecutive Big East wins, while only allowing one team



JULIE HERDER/The Observer

**Irish junior forward Jack Cooley dribbles past a defender during Notre Dame's 71-53 win over Rutgers on Feb. 15. Cooley grabbed his fourth straight double-double against Villanova on Saturday.**

to score more than 70 points.

In their 55-51 win at West Virginia (17-10, 7-7) on Feb. 8, the Irish held the Mountaineers to just two-for-16 shooting from behind the

arc and allowed only three free throws attempted. West Virginia senior guard Darryl Bryant failed to score, missing all six of his shot attempts.

Senior Mountaineer forward Kevin Jones leads the Big East in both scoring and rebounding, averaging

see BREY/page 14

## FOOTBALL

Top recruit  
Neal signs  
with Irish

Observer Staff Report

After California receiver Deontay Greenberry spurned Notre Dame on National Signing Day three weeks ago, Irish coach Brian Kelly picked up a big commitment in his place Tuesday when Arizona receiver Davonte Neal committed to the Irish.

Neal plays receiver and cornerback and was ranked as the No. 1 athlete in the country by ESPN. He is a two-time Gatorade Arizona Player of the Year and led his team to state championships in both 2010 and 2011.

"Davonte was an electric playmaker in high school and was capable of making the big play any time he had the ball in his hands," Kelly said in a statement. "He excelled as a receiver, as a running back and as a returner for coach [Charlie] Ragle at Chaparral High School. I imagine we'll use him in a similar fashion here."

see NEAL/page 13

## BENGAL BOUTS

Boxers enter second day,  
thousands of tickets sold

By BRIAN HARTNETT  
Sports Writer

After recovering from an intense round of preliminary fights, 88 Notre Dame boxers will return to the ring tonight for the quarterfinal round of the 82nd annual Bengal Bouts tournament.

Forty-four fights across 11 weight classes, ranging from the 133-pound weight class to the heavyweight division, are on the docket.

The quarterfinal round comes after an action-packed preliminary round, held on Feb. 12, that featured 58 bouts spread across two boxing rings. Although the number of fights in the preliminary round was down from last year — there are 20 fewer boxers — this year the quality of fights seemed to be much improved, junior boxer and captain Jeff Ulrich said.

"I think the smaller field helped to make the preliminary fights really good, since there wasn't as many No. 1 seeds beating up on No. 16 seeds," Ulrich said. "There were a lot of intermediate seeds fighting each other, and the quality was definitely improved which is a reflection of how hard everyone prepared."

Ulrich said he noticed a surprisingly low number of knockouts in the preliminary rounds and several more fights lasted all three rounds. Ulrich also said the novice fighters in the first round made impressive debuts, as several boxers scored victories in their first official fights in the ring. Novice victors included freshmen Kevin Katalinic, Eric Tommarello, Keegan Somers, Eric Palutsis and Evan Escobedo.

Since Bengal Bouts functions as both a boxing tournament and charity fundraiser, the preliminary round also acted as a revenue generator for the Holy Cross missions in Bangladesh, which receive all proceeds from the bouts. Ulrich said he estimated the Boxing Club has sold about 2,000 tickets so far, a number that will likely rise to 4,000 by the time the final round commences.

With the preliminary round complete, competition will heat up as the quarterfinals begin and boxers move on to challenge more skilled and experienced opponents. Some of these opponents will include former champions

see BOUTS/page 13

## ND WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

## Mallory, Peters explore film

By CHRIS MASOUD  
Assistant Managing Editor

Notre Dame's success on the court this season is well documented on the stat sheet, in sports columns and on film. But for graduate students Brittany Mallory and Devereaux Peters, the camera has followed their highlights off the court, as well.

Mallory recently starred in "The Talker," a featured film in the Notre Dame Student Film Festival, while Peters regularly studies featured films as a Film, Television and Theatre (FTT) major, with a concentration in television.

Mallory leads the Irish with 30 3-pointers and 85 attempts and has a quick trigger on the court. Although she admits her reluctance at first to be the star of a student film, "The Talker" follows a very vocal Mallory from the classroom to the court.

"I'm not very good on camera. I get very embarrassed easily, but I had a lot of free time," Mallory said. "The whole talking thing for me didn't come about until I became a captain really, because I didn't know if I should say anything being an underclassman. And then when I got voted captain, it just came naturally.



SARAH O'CONNOR/The Observer

**Irish graduate student forward Devereaux Peters shoots over a defender during Notre Dame's 66-47 win over Providence on Feb. 14.**

[Irish coach Muffet McGraw] always wanted me to be a good communicator between her and the team."

Perhaps the film's most meaningful messages are

those without words. A capable sign language signaler, the film details Mallory's success in her American

see MALLORY/page 14