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LGBTQ students discuss campus relationships

Members of gay community express challenges and unique aspects of dating, friendships and hook-ups

By SARAH MERVOSH
Managing Editor

Editor's note: This is the third and final installment in a series about the experience of LGBTQ students at Notre Dame in light of recent requests that the University grant club status to a gay-straight alliance.

For senior Rocky Stroud II, meeting up with other gay men on campus is not as simple as getting coffee or hanging out in a dorm room. With other gay students sometimes still in the closet, it often takes planning, and a bit of secrecy.

"[Some guys don't] want the same guy who has been labeled or somewhat seems like he's gay to keep coming in and out of his room," Stroud said. "People will then either suspect or know or figure out that he is not coming over to just watch the game."

So when Stroud II spends time with a male student who

is not out to the Notre Dame community, the pair will go off campus for dinner, wait until late at night to see each other or sometimes, look for obscure places to hook up.

"There are rooms on campus that students have used," he said. "The Jordan science lab was one of them."

At a Catholic university that has not recognized a gay-straight alliance or added sexual orientation to its non-discrimination clause, the gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and questioning (LGBTQ) community has formed an underground network that helps them find friendship, love or simply a hook up.

Sophomore Mia Lillis said this network is particularly important at Notre Dame — not only for meeting potential romantic partners, but also for finding support.

"In an environment like this, a community is necessary because we still feel discriminated against by the official standpoint of the



SARAH O'CONNOR and PAT COVENEY/The Observer

University," Lillis said. "So we all connect to each other so we can have that haven."

Running underground

Students said the underground network is par-

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Seniors Rocky Stroud II, above, and Jason G'Sell, right, discussed their experience as gay students at Notre Dame with The Observer.



Sociology professor dies at 70

Observer Staff Report

C. Lincoln Johnson, associate professor of sociology emeritus at the University of Notre Dame, died Thursday. He was 70 years old.

Johnson specialized in statistical methods and social psychology, pursuing a particular interest in the effects of globalization on the world food supply. In addition to teaching a popular course titled, "Global Food Systems: the Sociology of Food," he applied this interest to local needs by serving on the board of the Northeast Neighborhood Center Food Pantry in South Bend and actively served the community.

A native of Valparaiso, Chile, Johnson joined the Notre Dame faculty in 1971 after earning master's degrees from the New School of Social Research and the University of Kansas in 1966 and 1968, respectively, ac-

see PROFESSOR/page 5

Saint Mary's holds class board elections

By BRIDGET FEENEY and
MEAGHAN DALY
News Writers

Saint Mary's students will cast their ballots Thursday to decide on the next team of student leaders for the 2012-2013 school year, as elections for class councils and school boards begin.

Voting starts at 8 a.m. Thursday and ends at 8 a.m. Friday. Students can vote

electronically, or they can cast their ballots at Student Government Association's (SGA) booths set up in the Student Center, Spes Unica atriums and the Dining Hall. Senior Emma Brink, SGA executive secretary, said SGA is hopeful these elections demonstrate a high voter turnout.

"SGA is so excited about last week's Student Body election turnout that we hope to replicate the same enthusiasm for

the class and big board elections this week," Brink said.

Class of 2013 President and Vice President

Three tickets are running for class of 2013 president and vice president: Emily Caltrider and Megan Hogan, Meg Brown and Christina Bueno, and Silvia Cuevas and Ambreen Ahmad.

Though each ticket has expressed plans to unify the se-

nior class and host a variety of events, the candidates have expressed different means to achieve their platform goals.

Caltrider and Hogan, members of the class of 2013 board, are running on a platform focused on offering diverse events, including a barn dance, wine tours and various service activities.

Hogan said these events

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Special Olympics works to end 'r-word'

By ADAM LLORENS
News Writer

Members of the Notre Dame community will look to remove the derogatory term "retard" ("r-word") from their vocabulary in a show of solidarity with the "Spread the Word to End the Word" international campaign today.

Graduate student Jenna Newcomb, a project leader of the Notre Dame Special Olympics Club, which coordinates the event, said the project is focused on chang-

ing the way people with disabilities are perceived worldwide.

"[Today] is essentially an international day of awareness," Newcomb said. "It is a day we set aside to gauge the effect we are having across the world."

Newcomb said the campaign has gathered about 15 million pledges globally since 2011 alumnus Soeren Palumbo started the program in 2009. She said over 1,000 high schools and 200

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Spread the word to end the word

15 million pledges globally in 2009

>1,000 high schools

200 colleges participate

LISA HOEYCK | Observer Graphics

THE OBSERVER

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

Questions regarding Observer policies should be directed to Editor-in-Chief Allan Joseph.

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CORRECTIONS

Tuesday's "Community Addresses Discrimination" article misattributed a statement as being made by Nneka Ekechukwu. The statement was actually made by Kennena Amuzie. The Observer regrets this error.

QUESTION OF THE DAY: WHAT DID YOU DO WITH YOUR SUNNY DAY ON TUESDAY?



Kayla Tinsley

junior
Farley

"Walked around the lakes."



Derek Wolf

junior
Siegfried

"Homework."



Eric Bens

junior
Siegfried

"Got kicked off the Warren Golf Course practice facility."



Sara Cloon

sophomore
Breen-Phillips

"Laid on the quad."



Christine Fagan

senior
Farley

"Ran around all the lakes!"



Michael McCormick

junior
St. Edward's

"Gave my lovely girlfriend, Morra, a foot rub on the quad!"

Have an idea for Question of the Day? Email obsphoto@gmail.com



ANDREW CHENG/ The Observer

Seniors Jackson Bangs and Kevin Eller take advantage of the nice weather to go running Tuesday on North Quad. With the temperature reaching a high of 56 degrees, many students headed outdoors to enjoy the sunny skies.

OFFBEAT

SC country GOP endorses purity pledge

LAURENS, S.C. — A county Republican group in South Carolina wants its candidates to promise to not cheat on their spouses and not watch pornography. But the state GOP says it would be illegal to keep candidates off the ballot only because they refuse to sign the pledge.

Bobby Smith, the chairman of the Laurens County Republicans, says the "purity pledge" endorsed by the group last month is meant to encourage good values in the party's candidates. He says it won't prevent anyone from getting on the ballot.

The pledge would require candidates to promise they

have not had premarital sex and will protect gun rights and oppose abortion, among other things.

The state Republican party says it would be illegal to enforce such a pledge.

Miss Seattle apologizes for city-bashing tweet

SEATTLE — The newly crowned Miss Seattle says she was just having a bad day back in December when she tweeted, "Ugh can't stand cold rainy Seattle and the annoying people."

Since winning the pageant on Saturday, Jean-Sun Hannah Ahn has said she was just complaining about the weather like any Seattle native and didn't mean that

people in Seattle are annoying.

She is a former Miss Phoenix who graduated from Arizona State University. Ahn told KIRO-FM that she was in a transition period three months ago, missing friends and sunshine.

She says she learned a valuable lesson.

She tweeted on Monday that: "I really do love Seattle ... the summers are to die for."

Miss Seattle represents the city this summer at the Miss Washington Pageant.

Information compiled from the Associated Press.

IN BRIEF

A campus-wide pledge called "Spread the Word to End the Word" will be available at South Dining Hall, North Dining Hall and LaFortune from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Wednesday to curb casual use of the word "retard." The event will continue at both dining halls from 4:30 to 8 p.m.

A physics colloquium titled "Development of Next-generation Ultraviolet Astronomical Instrumentation" will be held Wednesday at 4 p.m. in Room 118 of the Nieuwland Science Hall.

An apparel sale for the class of 2014 will be held today in the LaFortune lobby from 5 to 8 p.m.

An event called "Domer Rally for Human Dignity" will take place in the ballroom on the second floor of LaFortune from 5:15 to 6:15 p.m.

A screening of the film "Promising the Moon," sponsored by the Nanovic Institute for European Studies, will take place at 7 p.m. Wednesday in the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center. Tickets cost \$3-6.

A Lenten vigil to pray for those affected by the death penalty will be held at 9 p.m. tonight in the Geddes Hall chapel, followed by a walk to the Grotto.

The Howard Hall Chapel Crawl will move to Ryan Hall's waffle Mass at 10 p.m. Wednesday.

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

LOCAL WEATHER

TODAY



HIGH 64
LOW 45

TONIGHT



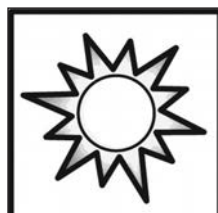
HIGH 60
LOW 49

THURSDAY



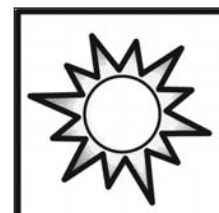
HIGH 47
LOW 32

FRIDAY



HIGH 38
LOW 25

SATURDAY



HIGH 47
LOW 36

SUNDAY



HIGH 50
LOW 42

Professor discusses Dutch mystic

By KAITLYN RABACH
News Writer

The works of the Dutch poet and mystic Hadewijch inspired Saint Mary's women to deeply analyze thirteenth century spiritual life Tuesday night.

Professor Amy Hollywood of the Harvard Divinity School explored the work of Hadewijch in the lecture "Love Abyss: Hadewijch's Infinite Desire" in the Stapleton Lounge. She said it is crucial to understand the time period the mystic lived in to understand the poet's work.

"To understand Hadewijch, one must understand the context in which her work was created," Hollywood said.

Hadewijch's work was sparked by the practices of the beguines in the thirteenth century, groups of women that were semi-religious, but not bound by taking formal vows, Hollywood said.

"These women often worked in the cloth industry, took care of the sick or were school teachers," she said. "They were spiritual women, but since they were not bound by vows there was more permeability between the beguines and the outside world. This is what sparked a

movement." Hollywood said this progress includes the many letters, poems and the manuscript of Hadewijch. Today, the work of Hadewijch is studied and translated into many languages, but Hollywood said experts are still trying to fully understand the poet.

"We really do not truly know anything," Hollywood said. "All we have are these texts and poems. We do not even know if there is a Hadewijch, but we assume there was based on bodies of text with her name."

Hollywood said communal prayer, manual labor and private reading and devotion were the main components in Hadewijch's texts where she described her divine episodes.

"For Hadewijch, communal prayer is a necessary pre-condition for anything to do with the divine," Hollywood said. "This especially includes psalms."

Hollywood said Hadewijch often referred to the word love as meaning God, and

believed love was God's act. Hollywood said it is through this understanding of love that Hadewijch described her divine mystical experiences.

"Hadewijch had intense personal devotion and this allowed for spontaneous mystical ways in which the divine can be encountered," she said.

Hollywood said it is important to study the intense practices of spirituality of the past in order to bring the same passion into modern times.

"For Hadewijch and other women in the thirteenth century, there was

an understanding of their own intense amount of labor for being a Christian," Hollywood said. "By reading material from the past we see this intensity and the vitality it had within Christianity at the time. When we see this intensity we must recognize it and think about it."

"To understand Hadewijch, one must understand the context in which her work was created."

**Amy Hollywood
professor
Harvard Divinity School**

Contact Kaitlyn Rabach at krabac01@saintmarys.edu

Campus elections see three unopposed races

SMC Campus Elections

Student Activities Board	▶	Liz Kraig Stefanie Schwab
Student Diversity Board	▶	Maggie Galvin Maddie Meckes
Residence Hall Association	▶	Sarah Copi Lauren Meyer

LISA HOEYCK | Observer Graphics

By CAITLIN HOUSLEY
Saint Mary's Editor

Saint Mary's campus elections March 8 will feature three races with tickets running unopposed—Student Activities Board (SAB), Student Diversity Board (SDB) and the Resident Hall Association (RHA).

Juniors Liz Kraig and Stefanie Schwab are the only names on the SAB ticket. Kraig said she and Schwab want to incorporate student voices, amongst other things, in next year's Board.

"We want to incorporate the opinions of the student body into every event, create unity among the three campuses through our events and maintain Saint Mary's traditions while bringing new exciting events to campus," she said.

To do this, the ticket plans on maintaining traditional events such as Belles Bash, Midnight Madness and SMC Tostal, while launching new events such as a field day and a Slip n' Slide day.

Kraig said a top priority of the team is to cater to the wants of the student bodies — Notre Dame and Holy Cross included.

"We are very interested in collaborating with Notre Dame and Holy Cross to create a kick-off of the school year or ending school year event for all three campuses to enjoy," she said. "This year we really want to stress the importance of the student body's opinion and are looking for feedback for new events that students would like to see brought to campus."

In order to better meet the needs of the student body, Kraig said the team will rely heavily on student feedback.

"We would like to send out more surveys and create an open door policy where students can feel free to email us with ideas or suggestions for new events or improvements for old events," she said. "SAB caters to the wants of the student body so it is important for us, if elected, to make sure these wants are fulfilled to the best of our ability."

Juniors Maggie Galvin and Maddie Meckes are running

unopposed on this year's SDB ticket.

Galvin said she and Meckes hope to stick with tradition but introduce new programs.

"One of our goals for Student Diversity Board next year is to continue with our traditional events while launching new ones," she said. "We want to be as successful as all of the previous boards while adding our own twist to things. There are always new issues being presented as time goes on and we plan on addressing them in creative ways."

As in years past, Galvin said the biggest project she and Meckes will plan is the Diverse Student's Leadership Conference.

"[The Conference] is a year of hard work from so many amazing girls," she said. "The conference is the largest student led conference in the Midwest and we can-

not wait to begin planning the eighth conference next year."

Galvin also said she hopes to use the Student Diversity Board as an outlet for welcoming study abroad students.

"We ... want to be mentors and support systems for the multicultural community on campus," she said. "We are aware of how hard it is to be immersed in a different culture after our study abroad experience in France. So we would like to be there for the students coming from all over the world to help them and make it a little easier."

Most importantly, Galvin said, the team will help enhance the campus' perception of diversity.

"We hope to bring awareness to the community that everyone is diverse as well as embracing each other's differences," she said. "We want to make Saint Mary's a welcoming place for every girl who comes here."

Rounding out the campus elections are junior Sarah Copi and freshman Lauren Meyer, who are running as RHA president and vice president, respectively.

Contact Caitlin Housley at chousl01@saintmarys.edu



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Kroc Institute fellow discusses Arab Spring research

By CHRISTIAN MYERS
News Writer

Will Moore, a visiting research fellow at the Kroc Institute and Florida State University professor of political science, addressed the shortcomings of popular perspectives on the events of the Arab Spring.

He revisited the dissent and revolutions in the Middle East on Tuesday during the lecture "Dissent, Repression and Outcomes of the Arab Spring."

"Conventional Arab Spring narratives are unpersuasive because they don't focus on outcomes," he said. "These narratives also have a very strong 'blame the victim' approach, which is ahistorical."

Moore said there should be a focus on the behavior and interactions of dissidents and states. He discussed 24 instances of mass protests in four different countries — Algeria, Egypt, Jordan and Syria — since 1990 and said it was significant that only one of those protests resulted in a victory for the dissidents.

"Unless you start paying attention to the interaction of states and dissidents, you can't understand the outcomes," he

said.

Moore outlined the research methodology and theoretical approach for his current project, which will supply the content for an eventual book on the subject.

"I don't yet have the answers to the questions I'm addressing. I'm going to be laying out how I've designed a research project," he said.

Eventually, the project will include case studies for every country in the entire Middle East and North Africa, as well as further analyses for the period of 1990 to 2011, Moore said. Currently, he is focused on 10 countries in particular and only has access to data from 1990 to 2004.

"During this time and in all of these countries, dissidents and states are interacting. In every single one of these 10 nations, there is a long history of people challenging government and government responding in kind," Moore said.

During the lecture, Moore displayed a graph of dissident and state activity in each of the 10 countries and pointed out that some, such as Tunisia, stood out as having less dissident activity. The data came from a database of news re-



Will Moore, a professor of political science at Florida State University and a current visiting research fellow at the Kroc Institute, explains his research on revolution and dissent Tuesday. KENZIE STAIN/The Observer

ports, he said.

"Something I have to consider is whether there is less news coverage or actually less dissident activity," he said.

Moore said he intends to evaluate the behavior of two actors, the state and the dissidents, along a Hostility-Cooperation Continuum.

He said the continuum shows how one side responds to the behavior of the other and how both the desire to stay in power and the influence of constituents are important in determining this behavior.

"If you're halfway up the hostility scale, my people want me slightly ... more hostile than you," Moore said.

Moore said the continuum allows him to estimate the average behavior when the other actor does nothing. For example, the state will be very cooperative on average when the dissidents do nothing.

He said he can also estimate the average responsiveness to surprise for each actor, though his calculations do not differentiate between hostile and cooperative responses to surprises.

Moore said his current data reveals interesting patterns, but he has not analyzed the set thoroughly enough to draw any conclusions.

"I haven't delved into how much I can trust these particu-

lar estimates," he said. "I'm showing you a flavor of what I'm going to be able to do."

Moore said his project might not lead to the kind of results he hopes for, but he believes it addresses something existing literature is missing.

"Does this project that I've launched give me any leverage? It's possible I'll strike out," he said. "I've argued existing scholarship ignores behavior and limits our ability to understand and answer important questions. The missing objective of inquiry is the behavior of dissidents and states."

Contact Christian Myers at cmyers@nd.edu

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Physics professor simplifies discipline



SARAH O'CONNOR/The Observer

Brian Greene, mathematics and physics professor at Columbia University, gave a lecture Tuesday about Physics theories, like string theory, designed for a non-scientific audience.

By ANN MARIE JAKUBOWSKI
News Writer

Most students are so preoccupied enough with classes, schoolwork and extracurriculars that they cannot escape their immediate surroundings. However, for Brian Greene, his work places him in the cosmic realm on a daily basis, transcending the world, the galaxy and even the universe.

Greene, a professor of physics and mathematics at Columbia and a leading expert on string theory, delivered a lecture Tuesday titled "The Fabric of the Cosmos" at the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center.

Greene has published three books written for a non-scientific audience, which he drew material from for Tuesday's lecture.

Greene cited Einstein's theory of general relativity as the foundation of today's work in the cosmic arena. Using the analogy of a rubber sheet, Greene explained general relativity in terms of the physical observations gleaned from gravity. He said warps created by an object with mass, such as a bowling ball, parallel those in space and time itself, creating the gravitational force we know.

"Imagine space and all around us, envisioning an astronomical body like the sun warping the fabric of space just by virtue of its presence in it, changing the trajectory of objects around it," he said. "The moon is kept in orbit because in a sense, it's rolling along a valley in the curved environment [in the rubber sheet] that the earth creates. This means that at the deepest levels of our understanding of the cosmos, space and time are vital participants, not just the stage on which events take place."

According to this theory, Greene said black holes are

warps so steep, not even light can escape. He said in effect they are masses so compact they create nearly vertical vortices.

"One very specific puzzle that black holes have raised is the question of what happens if I take an object and throw it into a black hole," Greene said. "One of the very basic principles of physics is that the data in any object, everything from its appearance to the distribution of the molecules and atoms that make it up, cannot fundamentally be lost. If a black hole were to actually eat information and it was permanently gone from the universe, it would violate this law and ultimately wreak havoc on our fundamental equations of quantum mechanics."

The widely accepted solution to this problem has fantastic implications for the conventional understanding of our very existence, Greene said.

"We now believe that when an object crosses the edge of a black hole and falls in, the information it contains gets 'smeared out' over the surface of the black hole and that the bits of information on the surface are in principle retrievable," he said. "The two-dimensional version of the object that is smeared out on the surface has a three-dimensional counterpart inside the space of the black hole."

Because the spatial environment within a black hole is governed by the same laws of three-dimensional space, Greene said it is probable the environment we inhabit can also be described by two-dimensional information at the very edge of the observable universe. He compared this to a holograph.

"Not only do objects in a black hole have a holographic description, but so do we in the two-dimensional surface surrounding the universe," Greene said. "A

sort of binary code can contain a fundamental description of everything we see, so everything we perceive is, in some sense, just an illusion."

Continuing his examination of the expansion of space, Greene addressed the always-transient nature of our observational capacity and the effect this may have on future discovery. He said the increasing expansion speed of the universe means one day the other galaxies will be beyond our observational capacity.

"Now, we can examine faint pinpoints of starlight from distant galaxies, but in the future those galaxies will be rushing away faster than the speed of light," Greene said. "This means we won't be able to see them because they'll be going faster than light can show us."

Greene said he sees this as a source of urgency in physics today.

"We are living in a remarkable era when answers are in reach, which may not always be the case," he said. "Sometimes, nature guards her secrets with the unbreakable grip of physical law, but sometimes the true nature of reality beckons to us from beyond the horizon."

The most important thing this generation's scientists can do is retain their childlike wonder, Greene said.

"It's so important not to lose what you already have; we all begin life as little scientists smashing things together to figure things out," he said. "A successful scientist goes into the unknown not afraid of being right or wrong, but giving it an uninhibited shot. The great scientists are the ones who don't lose their childlike wonder and willingness to explore."

Contact Ann Marie Jakubowski at ajakub01@nd.edu

Word

continued from page 1

colleges and universities are participating.

Notre Dame gathers the most pledges of any university, Newcomb said.

"Last year, 2,701 pledges came from Notre Dame," she said. "Our goal this year is to beat that number, a goal we have accomplished every year."

Newcomb said the use of the word carries a negative stereotype, but students have the power to end the use of the term.

"Even when used in a joking way among friends, you still evoke all of those negative implications," she said. "As college students, we are in a position to set an example for our parents and those who will come after us."

Graduate student Molly Carey, also a project leader for the Notre Dame Special Olympics Club, said the campaign is concerned with the way the "r-word" is used by people in everyday language. She said Notre Dame students in particular have a responsibility to end such discrimination.

"The mission of this University is committed to justice and serving those vulnerable in our society," Carey said. "The Notre Dame community must be committed to that message."

Solidarity with the global community is an important aspect of the Notre Dame mission, Carey said, and the use of the "r-word" detracts from this harmony.

"When you use the 'r-word' with friends, it suggests people with disabilities are lesser," Carey said. "It takes away their humanity."

Best Buddies International, a non-profit group dedicated to improving the lives of those

with intellectual and developmental disabilities, helped the Special Olympics plan the campaign.

Junior Elizabeth Klinepeter, president of the Notre Dame Best Buddies chapter, said Best Buddies and the Special Olympics club collect pledges and spread awareness of the "Spread the Word to End the Word" message.

"This event is really important because the 'r-word' has such a derogatory meaning in our society," Klinepeter said. "It is so commonly used by everyone in our country, around the world and here on our campus."

"Whether people realize it or not, the 'r-word' is a form of hate speech and threatens the dignity of people with intellectual or developmental disabilities."

Klinepeter said if students consider the detrimental effects of using the "r-word," they will understand the impact the word has on people with intellectual or developmental disabilities.

"The event promotes respect and inclusion both on campus and whenever we go out into society," Klinepeter said.

Klinepeter said if a student hears someone use the "r-word," the student should nicely ask the user of the word to avoid saying it and explain the word's harm.

"It is so engrained in people and it is such a common word," Klinepeter said. "It's not promoting the kind of respect we want here on campus and in the wider world."

Interested students can pledge to end the use of the "r-word" during lunch and dinner hours at LaFortune Student Center and both dining halls or online at www.r-word.org

Contact Adam Llorens at alllorens@nd.edu

Professor

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cording to a University press release.

He earned his doctoral degree from the University of Kansas in 1974, graduated from the University of Arkansas in 1963 and earned a bachelor's degree in divinity from Southern Methodist University in 1966.

Johnson, who directed Notre Dame's Laboratory for Social Research for 14 years, once said his many interests helped him better under-

stand himself and his place in society.

"I have a wide range of interests, but each area of study usually comes down to focusing on that interesting intersection between self and society: How one understands a sense of self in a rapidly changing world, and how the social structure tends to shape and mold the ways we think and act," he said.

Contributions in Johnson's memory may be sent to the Center for Social Concerns, Relief for World Hunger, Geddes Hall, Notre Dame, IN 46556.

Apple rumored to release new iPad model Wednesday

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Apple is holding an event Wednesday in San Francisco, and has hinted that it will reveal a new iPad model. Rumors speak of an updated tablet with a speedier processor, a sharper screen and an option for faster wireless broadband access.

If last year's launch of the iPad 2 is any guide, the new iPad model will go on sale in the U.S. next week, likely on Friday.

The upgrade from the iPad 2 to the iPad 3 will be less significant than the upgrade from the original iPad to the iPad 2, which added two cam-

eras while cutting both the thickness and the weight of the device.

One big unknown is whether Apple will keep the iPad 2 in production and offer it at a lower price, like it kept the iPhone 3GS after the launch of the iPhone 4.

Another big question is whether Apple will reveal its rumored foray into making TV sets. Some have speculated that the invite to the Apple event, which said "We have something you really have to see," points in that direction.

Apple already sells and "Apple TV." It's not a TV, but a small box that attaches to a television set to display movies

and play music from iTunes.

The iPad launch comes as Apple has reached a rare milestone: Last week, it was worth more than \$500 billion. Only six other U.S. companies have been worth that much, and none have held that valuation for long. On Tuesday, Apple's stock fell, bringing its market value down to \$493 billion, but analysts believe the company is worth closer to \$550 billion.

These are some rumored features of the iPad 3:

A sharper screen, similar to the "Retina Display" on the iPhone 4 and 4s. The rumored resolution is 2048 by 1536 pixels, which would make text

look smoother and some high-resolution pictures look better. It won't make much of a difference for images on the Web, or video.

Some speculate that Apple will call the model the "iPad HD," for "high definition," rather than "iPad 3."

The new iPad could include Siri, the voice-activated "assistant" found on the iPhone 4S. Siri has gotten mixed reviews, but Apple has been touting the feature heavily in its advertising, and it would make sense to expand the availability of this high-profile feature.

Faster wireless capabilities. iPads are available with built-

in modems for AT&T's and Verizon's third-generation, or "3G" cellular networks in the U.S. The iPad 3 could come in a version that offers faster "4G" or "LTE" networks. However, most iPads are used only on Wi-Fi, so an "LTE" chip wouldn't matter to most buyers.

In this respect, Apple is playing catch-up. Some competitors, such as Samsung and Motorola, already sell LTE-compatible tablets.

Since last fall, Sprint Nextel Corp. has sold the iPhone. But it doesn't sell the iPad. It's possible it could join AT&T and Verizon Wireless in selling the iPad 3.

Dating

continued from page 1

ticularly strong among gay men on campus, who meet each other through word of mouth, unofficial student clubs and technology.

When students do meet to hook up for those students that use the network to hook up, Stroud II said there is often a mutual understanding of secrecy.

"It was always kind of like an understanding," he said. "You won't tell. I won't tell. No one will know sort of thing."

However, when the underground nature of the network is accidentally brought to the surface of social circles, things can get messy. For example, Stroud II once had a closeted student contact him asking to get together. When someone later saw Stroud II calling him, it resulted in accidentally outing the student.

"It's always walking on thin ice and there's a lot of room for hurting people unintentionally," he said.

Despite the challenges of connecting with other gay men on campus, Stroud II said he feels the pool is larger than many straight students might think.

"I personally have found it to be enough of people to choose from," he said. "There are definitely categories to pick from."

However, Lillis said the underground network is less connected among lesbian students because gender stereotypes allow women to stay in the closet if they choose to do so.

"Girls will come out to their close friends and then they don't really feel the need to get connected to the community," she said. "It's very possible that there is an equal amount of gay guys and gay girls on campus, it's just that the girls are not as networked in as the guys."

Another difference between the gay and lesbian communities on campus is the amount of sexual activity among members, which Lillis said is typical of the LGBTQ population in general.

"A few [girls] have hooked up, but a very minimal amount," she said. "I think we are very wary about hooking up with someone or even starting a relationship with someone simply because we do not want to jeopardize friendships."

Without a University recognized gay-straight alliance and only a few sanctioned get-togethers a month through Core Council, senior Jason G'Sell said students use invite-only Facebook groups, websites and cell phone applications to connect.

On one popular cell phone app, Grindr, gay men create profiles and the app sorts users by distance, he said.

"It shows you headshots of people based on location. So

this guy is the closest to me. He is 558 feet away," G'Sell said. "You can guess by their age and how close they are [if they are a student.] Some people will say on their profile that they are a student at Notre Dame or a grad student or something."

G'Sell said students can chat on Grindr and choose to meet in person. While he said the original purpose of the app was to find people to hook up with, most students do not use it for that purpose.

"On campus, it's more of a social networking tool than a hook up tool," he said.

Lillis said lesbian students do not use websites or apps to meet each other, and mostly meet by chance.

"A lot of it is just hearsay," she said. "I'll come out to someone and they'll be like, 'oh, I know a lesbian.'"

A key component of the underground network is OutreachND, a student organization solely for LGBTQ students that does not apply for club status at the University, G'Sell said.

"It's totally underground. By going there you're not outing yourself," he said. "It's only through word of mouth that people would hear about them."

The group puts on parties once a month and has a private Facebook group that students must be added to in order to see.

"We just hang out and play silly games and stuff," Lillis said. "It's just for fun."

The 'gay loophole'

Despite the challenges to identifying as LGBTQ at Notre Dame, students have found one clear advantage — parietals don't apply when they look to want to sleep over with members of the same sexgender.

"It's the gay loophole," G'Sell said. "We joke about it all the time. It's like, if the University is going to screw us over in every other dimension, at least we get this one thing. We get the gay loophole."

When G'Sell was dating his ex-boyfriend, he said he spent the night more than once.

"I slept over in his room," G'Sell said. "No one cares.

Again, there is still the rule against having sex and that applies to everyone."

According to the student handbook, du Lac, one reason parietals exist is to respond to the privacy needs of students sharing common living space.

"It's kind of awkward then if someone is gay because how are you supposed to enforce that? Would it make my roommates more uncomfortable if I had a gay guy over or if I had my girlfriend over to sleep

over?" Lillis said. "Because one of them the University doesn't approve of, but the other one the University has nothing to say about."

Stroud, who lives off campus now, said he never ran into a problem when he had male students sleep over in the dorm. However, he said he was often cautious so he did not out a closeted student by accident.

"Yes, parietals and the RA couldn't get me in trouble, but running into another guy could get him in trouble," he said.

A range of relationship experiences

G'Sell said once LGBTQ students enter a relationship, the degree to which couples are "public" varies. However, these students said they have been able to engage in typical Notre Dame dating experiences — from SYR's to dining hall dates.

When G'Sell was dating his ex-boyfriend, he said "everyone" in their dorms knew they were together.

"He came to Duncan's dance with me. I knew his rector and he knew my rector," he said. "There was no doubt about it. I mean, we would hold hands all the time and kiss in public."

Stroud said he has had "all sorts of experiences" in the dating world, from relationships to hook ups to dining hall dates.

"Just like a normal couple would," he said.

Stroud II said his first Notre Dame gay experience was at a party his sophomore year, before he was out to the campus community.

"This guy was just kind of looking at me funny, differently than a straight guy would look at you," he said.

"I think a large part of the problem here is not at all the student body. I think the student body is majority on board with granting the gay students on this campus what they are asking for, but I think a large part of it is the administration and the alumni that are holding the University back."

Mia Lillis
sophomore



SARAH O'CONNOR/The Observer

Sophomore Mia Lillis spoke to The Observer on the different challenges lesbian students face while attending Notre Dame.

"I kind of let it happen."

After that, Stroud II hooked up with him for the next week or two. He said in an underground network that often relies on immediacy and secrecy, a relationship that lasts even a few weeks can seem more serious than it is.

"It makes relationships be the extreme," he said. "It's either a one night stand, maybe twice, or monogamy is going to start happening to where it is serious after a week. There is no room to 'date' because of the underground culture just perpetuates easy access, convenience and no strings attached."

However, Stroud II has now been dating another student for the past three months, and said their relationship is fairly public.

"It's a very open, kiss you goodbye, hold your hand type of relationship," he said. "Everyone can pretty much tell when we're walking down the quad that we're dating."

When Lillis came to Notre Dame, she assumed she would be single her entire college experience. But as a freshman, she met an alumna who lives in the area and they began dating.

Though Lillis has been out since middle school, she sometimes felt uncomfortable expressing affection in

public at Notre Dame.

"We would hold hands on campus sometimes and I was so wary of who was around and who was looking at us," she said.

Without sexual orientation in the University's non-discrimination clause, Lillis feared she would receive backlash at work if a co-worker saw her with another girl because she works at an organization that values Catholic tradition.

"I feared that my orientation was a conflict of interest at the job," she said.

However, she said she didn't experience any overt negative reactions from the campus community when the couple was affectionate in public. She said current students seem to be progressive when it comes to gay men and women expressing themselves romantically on campus.

"I think a large part of the problem here is not at all the student body," Lillis said. "I think the student body is majority on board with granting the gay students on this campus what they are asking for, but I think a large part of it is the administration and the alumni that are holding this University back."

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Election

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would build on the traditions of the College.

"If elected, we plan to incorporate Saint Mary's rich history and traditions while introducing new ideas," she said. "I would love to have the opportunity to represent the Class of 2013 and make our senior year memorable."

Caltrider said the pair would look to foster an environment where members of their class could express their thoughts and concerns.

"We hope to create a welcoming environment in which our peers can voice their concerns and be heard," she said. "We also want to focus on better communication and collaboration among the four classes at [Saint Mary's]."

Ahmad said she and Cuevas want to build on Saint Mary's traditions, while introducing new and exciting experiences to the Class of 2013.

"Our slogan is 'New perspectives on old challenges,' as Silvia and I hope to bring new ideas on how to have a great senior year, while also requesting feedback from everyone in the class," she said. "I think it is important that we continuously strive to create a bond, and that should definitely not stop, especially in our last year."

Cuevas, who serves as SGA commissioner, said her ticket is focused on listening to the needs of their classmates.

"As seniors, many of us will be taking different paths after Saint Mary's, so we want to stress to our class that we are here to listen to their ideas and try our ultimate best to put those ideas into action," she said.

Ahmad said her and Cuevas' involvement with other campus groups makes them qualified to serve the needs and interests of their class.

"Silvia and I are involved in many different extracurriculars, making us more well-rounded and representative of the many interests of class," she said. "We both have experience in leadership and organizing for events through our various endeavors."

Cuevas said their experience in campus activities would benefit their leadership skills if elected to office.

"We want our class to know

that we know how to get things done and get them done right, since we are both involved in various parts of the College," she said.

Brown and Bueno are running a platform focused on establishing strong alumnae connections after graduation. Brown, who serves as the Lemans Hall treasurer, said relationships with fellow alumnae are crucial.

"The senior year is an important year for building connections and preparing for life after graduation," she said. "We will increase networking opportunities not only within the class, but also with the alumnae network by working to get graduating Belles in touch with their successful predecessors already tasting success in the 'real world.'"

Bueno said she and Brown are also focused on ensuring students have a say in the planning of events.

"The opinions and contributions of my fellow classmates is a real focal point for me," she said. "I really want my fellow class members to be a part of the planning process for senior year events such as Senior Dad's Weekend, Senior Formal and Senior Week. I want these well known events to be new and exciting, and more attractive to the majority of the class."

Class of 2014 President and Vice President

Susie Larson and Carolyn Backes will run unopposed for class of 2014 president and vice president. The ticket's platform is focused on unifying their class and involving students in more campus activities. The pair is also looking to provide more community outreach programs in the South Bend area.

In addition to hosting a memorable Junior Mom's Weekend, the Larson and Backes are planning a class trip to Chicago and mixers with Notre Dame students. Larson said her ticket also envisions implementing a ring ceremony for the junior class.

"Receiving your class ring calls for time to reflect upon who you are as a Saint Mary's woman and what you will represent to the world when you leave this unique and empowering campus experience," she said.

The ticket also looks to foster a sense of community through the event, as they plan on inviting current students and pre-

2013 Board

Emily Caltrider	Megan Hogan
Meg Brown	Christina Bueno
Silvia Cuevas	Ambreen Ahmed

2014 Board

Susie Larson	Carolyn Backes
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2015 Board

Anna Fanelli	Amy Trahan
Kelly Gutrich	Maddie Sampson

LISA HOEYNCK | Observer Graphic

vious alumnae who were not given this opportunity to participate.

Backes said through her and Larson's varied experiences, students can expect the pair to bring their class together in the next year.

"People should vote for [us] because we come from different backgrounds including our majors and our hometowns. I think as a team we would be able to bring lots of different people together and unite our class like it should be," Backes said.

Class of 2015 President and Vice President

Two tickets, composed of Anna Fanelli and Amy Trahan, and Kelly Gutrich and Maddie Sampson, will run for class of 2015 president and vice president. Both tickets emphasize a passion for student government and staying involved in the Saint Mary's community. Each woman on the ballot has said she is focused on unifying the class of 2015 and planning a memorable Sophomore Parents Weekend.

Fanelli said her ticket is focused on planning fun events for their classmates.

"Amy and I are just really stressing what the class wants and needs and (we) want to serve them the best we can," she said. "We think through

these fun activities and hearing their opinions and voice we could do just that."

Trahan said one of the focal points of her ticket's platform is planning a retreat for their classmates.

"Another big idea we have is a sophomore retreat that focuses on empowering one another as a class. The retreat will be a way for all the sophomores to touch base with one another and reflect on how we have all grown academically, socially and spiritually," she said. "It will also give us a weekend where we can develop stronger friendships within the class."

In addition to developing on-campus volunteer opportunities, Fanelli said she and Trahan would like to facilitate community service for students in the South Bend community.

"We thought becoming more active in South Bend missions and food shelters by providing transportation to such volunteering opportunities would give more incentive and accessibility for those without means of transportation," she said.

Gutrich said she and Sampson are focused on planning events that will foster relationships between members of their class.

"If elected, some of the first tasks Maddie and I hope to accomplish are the class bond-

ing activities," she said. "We want to use our ice cream socials, community service and t-shirts to give our class lots of quality time together and to really build on the sisterhood we have here at Saint Mary's."

With her current position as class treasurer and Sampson's role as the class of 2015 vice president, Gutrich said she and Sampson are prepared for the job.

"[These roles have] prepared me to take on the role of president. I know how the class board operates, and can use the knowledge gained from experiences this year to make next year even more of a success for our class and school," she said. "We are an awesome pair and have already gained a lot of experience working together."

Sampson said the pair will build off their leadership experience in the coming year if their peers elect them.

"I know what can be done, and how to go about getting them done," she said. "[Kelly and I] have knowledge about how the system works, and genuinely want to make our sophomore year as exciting and worthwhile as possible."

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Romney adds to delegate lead with strong Super Tuesday

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Mitt Romney squeezed out a win in pivotal Ohio, captured four other states with ease and padded his delegate lead in the race for the Republican presidential nomination but was forced to share the Super Tuesday spotlight with a resurgent Rick Santorum.

"I'm going to get this nomination," Romney told cheering supporters in Massachusetts, pointing particularly to his growing delegate totals.

On the busiest night of the campaign, he scored a home-state win in Massachusetts to go with primary victories in Vermont and in Virginia — where neither Santorum nor Newt Gingrich was on the ballot. He added the Idaho caucuses to his column.

Ohio was the big win, though,

and the closest contest of all as the Republican rivals battled for the chance to face Democratic President Barack Obama in November.

Santorum countered crisply, winning primaries in Oklahoma and Tennessee and the North Dakota caucuses — raising fresh doubts about Romney's ability to corral the votes of conservatives in some of the most Republican states in the country.

Ohio was the marquee matchup, a second industrial-state showdown in as many weeks between Romney and Santorum. It drew the most campaigning and television advertisements of all 10 Super Tuesday contests and for good reason — no Republican has ever won the White House without carrying the state in the fall.

After trailing for much of the

night, Romney forged ahead in a count that stretched past midnight. With votes tallied in 99 percent of the state's precincts, he led by about 12,000 out of more than 1.1 million cast.

Gingrich had a victory in his column, too — his first win in more than six weeks. The former House speaker triumphed at home in Georgia, but a barrage of attack ads by a super PAC supporting Romney helped hold him below 50 percent and forced him to share the delegates.

Texas Rep. Ron Paul pinned his hopes on Alaska as he scratched for his first victory of the campaign season.

Santorum waited until Oklahoma and Tennessee fell into his column before speaking to cheering supporters in Ohio. "This was a big night tonight," he said. "We have won in the West, the Midwest and the

South, and we're ready to win across this country."

In all, there were primaries in Virginia, Vermont, Ohio, Massachusetts, Georgia, Tennessee and Oklahoma. Caucuses in North Dakota, Idaho and Alaska rounded out the calendar.

Romney picked up at least 183 of the 419 Super Tuesday delegates at stake. Santorum gained at least 64, Gingrich 52 and Paul 15. About 100 remained to be allocated, and Romney and Santorum appeared in line for many if not most of them.

That gave the former Massachusetts governor 386, more than all his rivals combined, a total that included endorsements from members of the Republican National Committee who automatically attend the convention and can support any candidate they choose.

Santorum had 156 delegates, Gingrich 85 and Paul 40. It takes 1,144 delegates to win the nomination at the Republican National Convention in Tampa, Fla., this summer.

The split of the states ensured that the most turbulent Republican presidential campaign in a generation would continue.

Already, the candidates were looking ahead to the next contests, Kansas and Wyoming caucuses on Saturday, followed by Alabama and Mississippi primaries on March 13.

Restore our Future, the super PAC that backs Romney, disclosed a near-\$1 million investment for television ads in Illinois, the next big-state primary on the calendar, on March 20. The organization is already airing commercials in Mississippi and Alabama, as is a group that supports Gingrich, although at lower levels.

INSIDE COLUMN

Love, hate and laundry

I despise laundry. I despise most everything about it. I hate the separating of dirty clothes. I hate walking up and down the stairs. I hate the money I need to spend.

So I guess that's why I wait until I absolutely have to in order to do my laundry.

Up until yesterday, I had a mountain of clothes climbing from my hamper up toward my bed like a bonfire's smoke reaching the sky.

I had jeans. I had sweatshirts. I had polos. I had boxers. I had socks. I had everything in that monstrous pile. For a while, I thought I was having a competition with myself to see just how high it could reach.

I almost took a Sharpie and made tick marks on the wall as if the laundry was my own child and I wanted to see its progress each and every day. But I didn't because I would have had to fix the walls and because that would have been weird to treat dirty garments as children.

I hate separating the clothes. My wardrobe tends to look like the colors of the rainbow. I have pastels and dark colors and whites. I need to make sure the colors don't bleed on each other and mess up whenever I attempt to match.

So I need to turn one big pile of laundry into four smaller piles? Sounds like so much fun.

No one likes to walk down two flights of stairs (For you people that must climb five stories, I feel for you. Except you people in Ryan, it's so nice there.) more than me. I'm a lazy college kid. I like to sit in my room doing almost nothing. But when I have to walk up and down stairs multiple times carrying clothes, I become an angry lazy college kid.

Even worse than the walking is the moment when you swipe your I.D. card and you realize that you don't have enough Domer Dollars to pay for the four loads of laundry you need to do.

Not only is this frustrating but it is also an additional task for the angry, lazy college kid. One does not simply put cash into your Domer Dollars on the weekend (I know you can do it online, I just do not know how to) and it becomes an extra thing to do during the busy week of a Notre Dame student.

Laundry does have some redeeming qualities, I guess.

The smell of freshly cleaned clothes is like walking into the kitchen to smell your mom's home cooking — except these are clothes and not steaks. The lingering aroma of the fabric softener is kind to everyone's noses, especially to the one wearing said clothes.

A newly washed batch of clothes also opens your wardrobe up infinitely. That shirt you wanted to wear a week ago but was dirty? Yeah, it's fair game now. Those comfortable socks you like so much? It's go time.

So, maybe I don't despise laundry so much.

I just hate it.

Contact Matthew DeFranks at mdefrank@nd.edu

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



Matthew DeFranks

Sports Writer

The power of voice

Pastor Martin Niemöller's famous quote reads, "They came first for the communists, and I didn't speak out because I wasn't a communist. Then they came for the trade unionists, and I didn't speak out because I wasn't a trade unionist. Then they came for the Jews, and I didn't speak out because I wasn't a Jew. Then they came for me, and by that time there was no one left to speak out for me."



Alex Coccia

Shard of Glass

The turnout to the Town Hall meeting on Monday in response to the recent racist and criminal acts was enormous. The fact that it ran over its scheduled time indicates not only its importance, but also the passion and desire for change that the people in attendance brought with them. During the segment in which people could provide witness regarding acts of discrimination and harassment that they had faced in the classroom, in the residence halls, because of campus culture and traditions and because of systems and resources, one sentiment was shared above all others: To dispel the ignorance, you must raise your voice.

From the mundane example of correcting someone in class about a misspeak to the more demanding example of correcting someone when they use hateful slurs, any ignorance can only be dispelled through vo-

cal action. Silence is indifference, and indifference always sides with the perpetrators. In any process for change, your voice is the necessary spark. These recent acts of racial intolerance are small flickers that have illuminated the bigger picture. As one student put it, the core of the problem is a lack of respect — giving it, getting it and creating an atmosphere that fosters it. How we respond to acts such as these says an enormous amount about how we define our Notre Dame family. Do we fall silent in the face of injustice? Do we speak up? The forum on Monday was a clear example of the latter.

I would certainly consider Monday's Town Hall meeting a "victory" of sorts. It was a victory because of the witnesses who spoke out, because of the possible solutions that were shared and because of the shared sentiment that we can work together to make our Notre Dame family better. Nevertheless, one "victory" over racism does not preclude our obligation to act preventatively through education in order to dispel any veins of racial hatred that exist.

The conversation did not end Monday night. It cannot have ended Monday night. To truly lay claim to our responsibility to educate, to dispel the ignorance and to combat the prejudice, we must continue the conversation, we must elicit ongoing dialogue and we must not be afraid to speak from the heart. The conversations that were had Monday night must be the conversations that we have daily in the dorm room, the classroom, the dining halls, in

the paper and in LaFortune. These acts of racial harassment and those deeper issues they have brought to light affect every single person who calls this University home.

So here is the challenge: The next time we hear things that are insensitive or ignorant, we must engage.

Engage, engage, engage. That's the only way to educate. It doesn't matter if those who feel they are not involved are engaged until they cannot stand hearing about it anymore. Because as long as racial harassment is a reality, it is an injustice not to speak of it. Because, until we speak the truth fully and openly, the false and seductive nature of "there are no problems here" cloud any chance at improvement.

Those who gave witness at Monday's event truly stood up and told truth to power. They told truth to the power of ignorance. They told truth to the power of silence. Most importantly, they told truth to the power of those with the ability to change things. So let's change things. All of us. Let's all join in this conversation and action.

Spring Break presents us with a great opportunity to search ourselves and find the inner strength to speak, even if our voices might tremble. We owe it to ourselves. We owe it to our friends. We owe it to our University.

Alex Coccia is a sophomore. He can be contacted at acoccia@nd.edu

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

EDITORIAL CARTOON



QUOTE OF THE DAY

"I don't want someone shoving his views down my throat, unless they're covered in a crunchy candy shell."

Stephen Colbert
American comedian and satirist

Submit a Letter to the Editor

Email obsviewpoint@gmail.com

WEEKLY POLL

What are you doing for spring break?

- Visiting friends
- Going home
- Celebrating St. Patrick's Day
- Going on a cruise

Vote by 5 p.m. Wednesday at ndsmcobserver.com

Finding a family

In general, I feel the most at home at Notre Dame when I spend time with international or ethnic minority students. That is not to say I do not have other friends; I just identify more with the international students, being one myself. This occurred to me at Monday night's Town Hall meeting. The Carey Auditorium was full of students voicing their concerns and experiences with racial discrimination or incidents that have impacted their time here.

Nikitha Taniparti

Guest Columnist

First, I commend all who shared their stories. People like Victor, Lindsey and Ryan definitely highlighted key issues we have to deal with on campus, ranging from name calling from passersby to racial derogations from hall staff. Most students are familiar with some episode or another in which a student has been negatively, or in some cases positively, affected by the ethnic

background they identify with.

What is the basis of this? If we accept that stereotypes are inevitable and inescapable, then does that justify incidents of racial offense? While I do not agree that these stereotypes can stand as an excuse for people's behavior, I do maintain that they are very much present everywhere and there are some things we can do to embrace them. Not accept, but use constructively.

The Town Hall was a great first step. Others include open dialogue and communication among everybody in the Notre Dame community. I also acknowledge that this is easier said than done. I can only imagine what everyone personally felt about the proceedings from Monday night — frustration, confusion, amusement — but I actually felt a sense of connection. I walked away glad that there existed so many people who would understand without much explanation what I feel like as a minority student on campus, secure

that other people could relate to how I felt at the end of some of my days and enthusiastic about what will happen next on campus to address these matters.

While working, I often tell prospective students when asked how I felt about leaving home to come here for college that "I feel confident in having left my family halfway across the world only to find a wonderful new family here." The past couple of weeks have definitely seen me struggle to sustain that sentiment. I am different from the majority of people here, I can't quite follow most (actually, any) Rudy references, I do get asked very often, "How do you know English?" and I do think that American food is really bland. But is that necessarily wrong of me? I could have the same thoughts if I were anyone — why is the way I look and the place I come from reason enough to treat me differently?

As these questions linger in my mind, I know that things will eventu-

ally get better. They always do. I hope, though, that it happens because of the cohesive change arising from the student body, not because it's imposed upon them. Bad days though I have had, I want to say thank you to the ever-increasing and amazing support system all around me — I live in the best dorm ever. I have too many professors who have adopted me for good and all the friends who put up with me, crazy Indian-girl that I am. Oh, and my favorite South Dining Hall staff.

Ultimately, I just wanted to say that while I understand and can attest to the unfair actions directed towards us "diversity kids," I also somehow managed to still find that Notre Dame connection we talk about and fall in love with.

Nikitha Rao Taniparti is a sophomore. She can be reached at ntanipar@nd.edu. The views expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

ND needs GSA

I am deeply disappointed by the SAO's apparent response to the current request for a gay-straight alliance.

Ms. Hnatusko, the director of student activities for programming, was quoted in the recent Observer article "Gay-straight alliance asks University for official recognition" (Mar. 5) as saying "It remains the viewpoint of the Student Activities Office that due to the sufficiently complex nature of the issue, the needs of gay, lesbian, bisexual and questioning students can best be met through the structures that are currently in place."

With all respect, I find this statement condescending and offensive. Notre Dame students are intelligent, mature adults who are capable of making their own decisions. Who is the SAO to decide what students need?

If the GLBTQ community is satisfied with the "structures that are currently in place," if its needs are being met, then why does it continue to petition for a GSA? Why would students continue to ask for a safe space on campus if they didn't need one? The needs of GLBTQ students and their allies on this campus are clearly not being met.

I hope the SAO takes the time to consider Sam Costanzo's request for an official GSA, keeping in consideration that the Church preaches that all people are God's children, equally deserving of love and dignity, and this includes everyone at Notre Dame.

Julia Kohn
junior
Lewis Hall
Mar. 6

Support from afar

I am writing in response to an article published on the front page of your Mar. 5 edition of The Observer titled "GSA Asks University for Official Recognition." I am in no way affiliated with Notre Dame, The Observer or the state of Indiana for that matter. I am a student at The American University in Washington, D.C. As a gay Catholic college student I am fortunate enough to come from a university whose Methodist affiliation appears meager when compared to the prevalence of its religiously diverse student body, representing everything from Catholicism and Judaism to Mormonism and Islam. Additionally, The American University was given five stars in the Campus Climate Index, ranking it among the top LGBT friendly universities in the country.

Queers and Allies (our student organization) often works alongside the student government and university administration to ensure that our university is kept up to par with the latest developments in the ever changing LGBT spectrum. However, from my experience with Q&A, I know why Notre Dame takes issue with the development of a similar club on its campus.

As a gay Catholic I have found that it is quite difficult to build a bridge between religion and sexuality, especially when the religion is Catholicism. As a private university with a Catholic background, it seems as though AllianceND's fight for recognition could last forever. That being said, I'd like to offer a possible solution. If it is not feasible to reach an agreement between one's desires for an LGBT Alliance (LGBT A) peer-to-peer interaction and the University's necessity to remain Holy, why not merge the two concepts?

Catholics for Equality is a DC based non-profit for Catholics who support full civil equality for LGBT Americans. Perhaps AllianceND could create a group based on this organization's platform to bring together LGBT A Catholics who believe in both the fundamental teachings of Christ and the need for a more progressive Catholic Church which equally recognizes LGBT Catholics as God's children.

My support goes out to Notre Dame's LGBT A identifying students. May God be with you as you push forth for equality.

God bless,

Joe Corcoran
Washington, D.C.
Mar. 6

EDITORIAL CARTOON





By BRANDY CERNE
Scene Writer

Notre Dame students have always bonded over pop culture, whether it's watching TV shows together in dorm rooms, belting out Lady Gaga at parties or quoting comedies over dinner at the dining hall. That's what makes it all the more exciting when we hear our very own school mentioned on a show or know that a celebrity is a fan just like us. This guide provides the most well known Notre Dame references in pop culture.

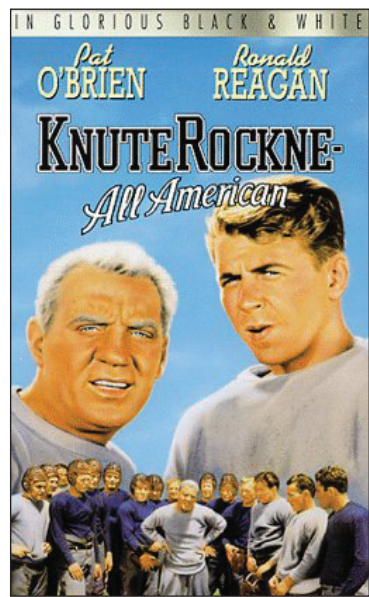


Photo courtesy of teachwithmovies.org
Ronald Reagan stars in "Knute Rockne, All American" (1940).

Beyond the classic football movies "Rudy" and "Knute Rockne, All American" (starring future President Ronald Reagan), Notre Dame has become a mini-star in Hollywood. One way to impress visitors is to point out all the parts of "Shrek" that relate to Notre Dame. It's been said that the connection is a myth, but there are just too many coincidences: the outline of the Dome is clearly visible on the back of Shrek's vest throughout the film; the names of Duloc and Lord Farquaad seem awfully similar to everyone's favorite rule book and far-off men's dorm; Duloc's castle resembles Hesburgh Library; and chemistry professor Graham Lappin's Scottish accent is a spot-on Shrek.

In both the book and movie versions of "Something Borrowed," Notre Dame provides a pivotal plot line. Rachel's dream was to be accepted to the law school. After she's rejected, her friend Darcy lies about getting in, even though she received lower test scores. This is just the start of Darcy one-upping Rachel, leading to their tense friendship throughout life. There's also a not entirely positive conversation about the arrogance of Notre Dame students.



Photo courtesy of todayinndhistory.com
Vince Vaughan, a lifelong Notre Dame fan, plays a football player in "Rudy" (1993).

Arts & Letters majors often get a bad rap, but they can always defend their choice of study by turning to Brad Pitt's character in "Mr. & Mrs. Smith," who majored in art history at Notre Dame. With that degree, he becomes a secret agent married to Angelina Jolie. Your move, Mendoza.

Notre Dame is also a fixture on the small screen. In the pilot episode of "Friday Night Lights," star quarterback Jason Street is heavily recruited to Notre Dame before getting a career-ruining injury. On "That 70's Show," Red wants Eric to attend Notre Dame.

It also has a presence on reality television. On the 17th season of "The Amazing Race," Thomas Wolfard, class of



Photo courtesy of notredamegoirish.blogspot.com
Thomas Wolfard ('02) and girlfriend Jill Haney talk about their 2010 "Amazing Race" experience.

2002, and his girlfriend made it all the way to third place, sporting Notre Dame apparel along the way.

In addition to perking up when seeing Notre Dame mentioned on screen, students get a rush to see celebrity fans on the sidelines of football games. In recent years, Jon Bon Jovi has appeared several times. He originally visited because Charlie Weis is a big Bon Jovi fan, but he even came last year after Weis had left.

Vince Vaughn grew up in Chicago and has supported



Photo courtesy of edwainsraisin.blogspot.com
Actor Jim Caviezel stands with fans at a Notre Dame football game in 2006.

the school his whole life. In the credits of "The Break-Up," Vaughn and Jennifer Aniston's characters are shown attending a football game here. He also has a brief role as a football player in "Rudy."

Taylor Swift has visited campus, both on a tour and at a football game with Selena Gomez in tow. But Swift probably isn't too much of a fan after her brother Austin transferred last year.

Snoop Dogg is a professed USC fan, but after performing



Photo courtesy of edwainsraisin.blogspot.com
Duloc Castle from "Shrek" (2001) resembles Hesburgh Library.

at Club Fever for two years in a row sporting Notre Dame gear, he just may have converted.

Catholic actor Jim Caviezel ("The Passion of the Christ," "Person of Interest") turned to Notre Dame for its education, taking courses in Spanish here for a summer in 2006.

It almost seems superfluous to mention super-fans Martin Sheen and Regis Philbin, but they have contributed to the most visibility of Notre Dame in pop culture yet. Sheen is a devout Catholic and received the Laetare Medal at the 2008 commencement ceremony. His character President Josiah Bartlett on "The West Wing" was an alumnus of Notre Dame.

With Philbin retired and off the air, there will be a lack of Notre Dame's presence in on-air morning discussions. His daughters and fellow alumnae J.J. Philbin, TV producer and writer of shows such as "The OC" and "Heroes," and Joanna Philbin, writer of young adult novels, will have to carry the torch.

Speaking of Philbin, when he interviewed George Clooney on the Oscars red carpet in 2008, the first thing Clooney mentioned was the Notre Dame basketball team, which continued to dominate the conversation. That may not be enough to convince anyone Clooney is a fan, but it's enough to spark hope.

Fan ambiguity abounds, especially concerning Leonardo DiCaprio. DiCaprio has been spotted numerous times in a Notre Dame baseball cap, but further research shows that DiCaprio is really just a fan of sporting all college hats, representing North Carolina, Louisville, Long Beach State and more. However, none of these schools' hats had the distinction of being worn on DiCaprio's romantic rendezvous with Blake Lively in Venice.

But what does this all mean for our Catholic school in the middle of the Midwest? It shows how pervasive Notre Dame is in not only the world of entertainment, but also in our world. Pop culture reflects the views of society at any point in time, and with Notre Dame's presence throughout the decades across various media, it just goes to show how relevant and recognized it really is.

There's a Notre Dame mystique, and a reference to the school carries an inherent meaning that stands for something more than just football. Above all, besides reaffirming how much Notre Dame has permeated society, it's just plain fun to notice these pop culture references.

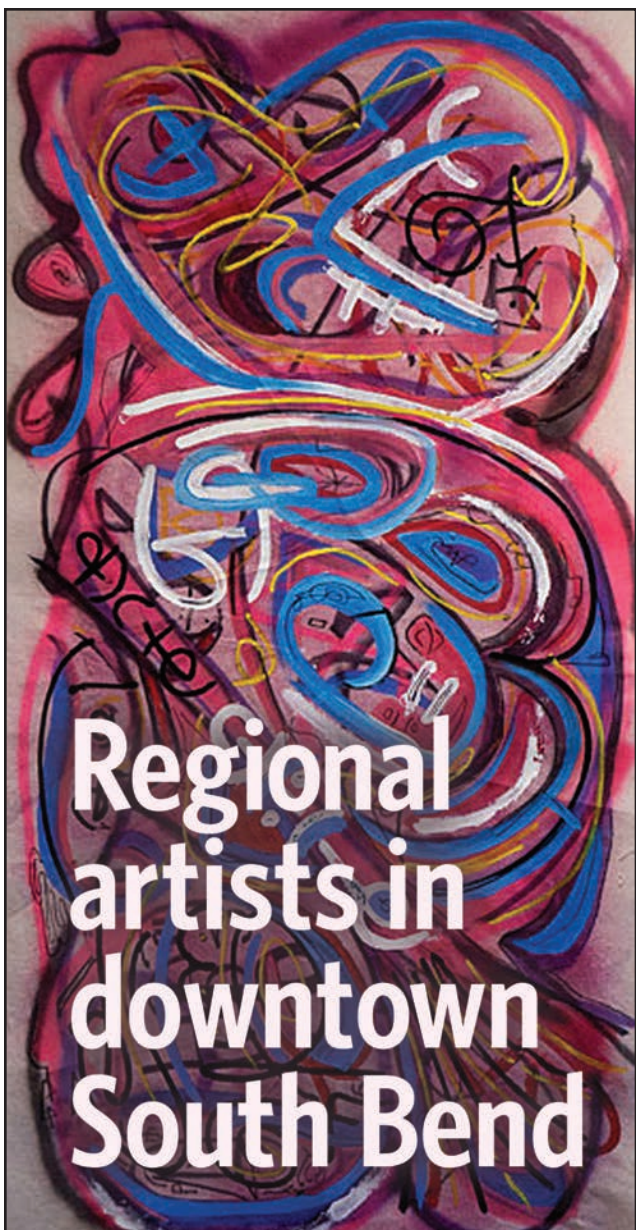


Photo courtesy of coolspotters.com
Actor Leonardo DiCaprio sports a Notre Dame hat at a Lakers game in 2010.



Photo courtesy of cajunradio.net
TV personality Regis Philbin ('53) is an ardent Notre Dame fan.

Contact Brandy Cerne at bcerne1@nd.edu



By BRIGID MANGANO
Scene Writer

Most students at the University of Notre Dame have never set foot in downtown South Bend's art galleries. If they feel an urge to experience art, they might pay a visit to the Snite Museum on a non-football weekend or stroll through the Isis Gallery in O'Shaughnessy Hall between classes. Although that's certainly time well spent, students are nonetheless missing out on the vibrant arts community only a few miles south of campus.

A perfect example is "Undiluted: Paintings by Julian Alcantar and James Palmore," a show currently on view at Artpost Gallery featuring the work of two regional artists. The title is somewhat misleading, because although Alcantar is represented by a series of large-scale, abstract paintings, Palmore contributed a number of mixed-media works that incorporate both found objects and common building materials.

Most of Alcantar's paintings are untitled, giving viewers little hint as to how one might interpret these bold exercises in color. Sometimes his brushstrokes seem haphazard and uncontrolled, while at others they seem much more intentional, creating organic shapes that are pleasing to the eye. In one particular painting, shades of bubblegum pink and baby blue predominate, and the viewer can discern a shape resembling a long-necked stringed instrument.

"Katz," one of the only paintings Alcantar chose to name, is also the artist's personal favorite. When asked about the significance of this mysterious title, he acknowledged that the word is his own coined term, which he formulated letter-by-letter. The square canvas is filled with swooping curves, the largest of which calls to mind a yin-yang, and pseudo-alphabetic characters scrawled in every direction. Although Alcantar intended for these symbols to evoke a system of writing, they also serve the practical function of filling up space.

A diverse sample of Palmore's work is on display at Artpost. Many of his abstract paintings bear playful titles such as "Wasn't Me" and "You Can See It Too." These phrases inevitably arouse the curiosity of the viewer, who wonders what wrongdoing is being shirked or what object he should be seeing. One of Palmore's favorite motifs is a series of dots, usually in a single band of color. Sometimes the dots seem as though they might lead somewhere, but

often they are purely decorative.

Easily the most eye-catching piece by Palmore is a monumental painting of someone's right hand, set against a midnight blue background. At first glance, the hand conjures up mental images of the humanoids Cuban artist Tomas Esson is wont to paint. Below the canvas are three plates, covered with uncooked rice, rusty nails and lentils, respectively. The hand and nails are meant to suggest mankind's incredible capacity to build and create, while the oxidation of the metal reminds us of the need to rebuild and begin anew. The rice and legumes signify the sustenance mankind depends on.

Several of Palmore's mixed-media works draw upon traditional Christian iconography. "Redeemed Innocence" consists of a red apple laid atop a miniature altar and set within a roofed, wooden platform adorned with a vegetal frieze. Nails of varying dimensions point toward the fruit, an age-old symbol of Eve.

This spring, students should venture beyond the campus perimeter and explore the colorful arts scene in downtown South Bend. A good place to start would be "Undiluted" at Artpost, which will remain on view until April 29.

Contact Brigid Mangano at bmangano@nd.edu

In The Bend

What: "Undiluted: Paintings by Julian Alcantar and James Palmore"

Where: Artpost Gallery (216 West Madison Street)

When: Now through April 29

How Much: Free

Learn More: www.artpostblog.com

'Breakfast'
is good but
not wholly
satisfying



By KEVIN NOONAN
Associate Scene Editor

Chidera "Chiddy" Anamege and Noah "Xaphoon Jones" Beresin, better known as the rap duo Chiddy Bang, dropped their debut studio album, "Breakfast," February 22. The debut came after months of delays and eight months after the release of the album's first single, "Mind Your Manners."

The album, while far from perfect, was worth the wait. At times it displays the limitations of both Chiddy as a lyricist and Xaphoon as a producer, but the bright spots are exciting and promising enough to make it a success.

Fans of Chiddy Bang know their music is often light-hearted and fun, with a sense of childhood innocence informing their sound. While the album suffers from a lack of focus at times, the general theme revolves around the two artists coming into the realization that they're currently living out their childhood dream. It is this concept that gives the duo their success.

A few artists (i.e. Wiz Khalifa) have recently broken into the mainstream after years on the indie radar, only to lose their indie spirit and devolve into talking about how much they party and the drugs they smoke.

Chiddy Bang, however, manages to sound more legitimate than a mixtape band while maintaining their fun-loving spirit and focusing on things other than the

party life.

The songs "Mind Your Manners," "Ray Charles," "Handclaps and Guitars" and "Happening" will sound familiar to long-time fans of the group, and epitomize the spirit of the album. Chiddy's lyrics are fun but slightly introspective on closer listen, while Xaphoon is at his best producing songs that ooze laid-back fun.

These songs, in addition to being among the best on the album, mix the celebratory emotions the artists feel with a bit of the uncertainty they face not knowing what's next.

It's when the duo drifts away from this core theme that they stumble. Their other songs deal with a sort of frustrated love that speaks to their punk-rock influences. Xaphoon says he was both a hip-hop and an alternative music fan growing up.

"When I was 15 years old, they closed the local Tower Records and turned off all the metal detectors, so my friends and me stole every CD in the rap section," said Jones in an interview with The Daily Beast. "I remember putting The Roots' 'The Tipping Point' on my Walkman and listening to the opening tracks. I had grown up on punk, and when I heard that it was mind-blowing."

But their attempts to delve into the genre are shaky at best. Jones shows why he is criticized for being occasionally repetitive and unoriginal, as some of the beats sound similar at best and indistinctive at worst.

Chiddy's fun-loving lyrics, which work perfectly in less serious songs, sound borderline childish and betray the songs' more serious ideas.

On the whole, the album is fun and has a happy-go-lucky sense about it that the hip-hop world seems to be lacking. It's not the album of the year by any stretch of the imagination, but for the debut album of two young and promising artists, this is a solid entry.

Contact Kevin Noonan at knoonan2@nd.edu

"Breakfast" Chiddy Bang

Label: I.R.S Records and Virgin Records

Top Tracks: "Mind Your Manners," "Ray Charles," "Handclaps and Guitars" and "Happening"



SPORTS AUTHORITY

Entering a bracket pool is distraction from fun

The approach of March Madness brings the assurance of something new, something unseen or unpredictable. New Cinderellas wear the glass slipper, freshman phenoms enjoy college basketball's biggest stage before heading to play for the Charlotte Bobcats. Crafty veterans lead their teams deep into the tournament and, ultimately, a new champion wears the crown.



Joseph Monardo
Sports Writer

Even in the midst of all the flux, at least one thing remains constant. Every single year, my failing bracket disrupts what would otherwise be a perfectly enjoyable event.

Perhaps giddy with the coming of spring, anxious for the start of baseball or deluded by something else, I eagerly accept a friend's invitation to join a bracket pool. Before I even pay the entry fee, I am already planning how to spend my winnings. Yeah, I make picks after maybe a half hour of research and have not even seen some of the teams play during the season, but why wouldn't I win? How hard could it be? Right?

It is simple, really. Pick the Big East over everybody else, pick against the SEC (a small rebellion against my Georgia heritage, I guess), pick at least one five-12 upset, have a Final Four composed of mostly top seeds with maybe a two-seed sneaking in from one region and, of course, have Notre Dame making the Elite Eight.

Gut decisions? Great. Can't name one player on either team? Fine. No justification is needed for anything.

Although I make many picks with limited knowledge, or even in opposition to known trends and facts, I figure I have as good a chance as anybody else in the field. It is March Madness, after all.

Eventually, after my accuracy dips below .500, the majority of my Elite Eight teams go down or my Sweet 16 sleepers stumble in the second round, I give up on the bracket that I had only

several days earlier forged with such hope. Rather than torture myself by calculating possible points left as my bracket slides down the group standings, I abandon the choices that were supposed to deliver to me the Pick'em title.

Last year, I was spot on for 21 percent of possible points, good enough for ninth out of 10 in a small pool. In 2009, I managed just 21 percent. 2008 must have been a miracle year, because I picked correctly enough to collect 56 percent of the points and finish 221st out of 500 entrants.

Due to my repeated failure, my annual entrance into a bracket pool predates only by a week or so my annual declaration to never create a bracket again. "What is the point?" I ask. I concern myself so completely with my picks that I am unable to enjoy the results as they unfold. Rather than being able to enjoy the amazing individual performances, the buzzer beaters and the jaw-dropping upsets, I am instead engrossed by how my big upset pick barely missed, how the likeable mid-major just bounced my Final Four team and how generally awful my bracket is.

"Next year, I will save my money and skip the whole process," I vow. No baseless picks, no finger-crossing and no stressing. I will be able to simply watch the basketball.

What could be better?

And yet, every year, there I am filling out a bracket, reciting the refrain of "This year is the year, and even if it isn't, I am only paying

a few bucks." As much as I complain about the intrusion of my printout's failure on my enjoyment of the hardcourt's action, I cannot not make a bracket. To avoid brackets would be to avoid an integral part of the insanity of the season. It is, after all, March Madness, a time when the whole sports world revolves around dancing.

Contact Joseph Monardo at jmonardo@nd.edu

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

Every single year, my failing bracket disrupts what would otherwise be a perfectly enjoyable event.

NBA

Kings closer to arena agreement

Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — The Sacramento City Council has begun a critical meeting that will decide the future of the Sacramento Kings.

A year after the team almost moved to Anaheim, Sacramento's plan to help finance a new \$391 million arena was a vote away from approval Tuesday night. The non-binding term sheet, signed off by the Kings and the NBA last week, would keep the team in Sacramento for at least another 30 years.

Under the agreement, the city would contribute \$255.5 million to the project, mostly by leasing out parking garages around the facility. The Kings have agreed to pay \$73.25 million and arena operator AEG would contribute \$58.75 million. The remaining gap would be covered by a ticket surcharge, advertising around the facility, the sale of public lands and a sponsorship campaign to sell bricks and plaques around the complex, which would open for the 2015-16 season in the downtown rail yards.

The meeting began just after 6 p.m. local time in Sacramento.

City Manager John Shirey told the council that the decision would be "one of the toughest votes of your career" and implored members to approve the plan for the economic benefit, job creation and untold notoriety of remaining a major professional sports city, saying "there are only 30 of those (NBA) franchises in all the world and we happen to have one of them."

"The status quo is not really an option before you this evening," Shirey said.

"If we do nothing, the Kings will likely leave Sacramento."

Kings co-owner Gavin Maloof walked into the jam-packed chamber just before the meeting to a light standing ovation. A line of residents snaked around City Hall and seemingly every TV truck and radio station in the Central Valley were broadcasting outside.

One fan wore an old Phoenix Suns jersey of Sacramento



Sacramento Mayor Kevin Johnson speaks during a news conference regarding the King's potential stadium agreement Feb. 22.

Mayor Kevin Johnson — a former NBA All-Star — among the scores of Kings signs and jerseys in the crowd. A group of about 120 supporters of the plan wore white T-shirts with black letters that read "5 Votes," signifying the amount needed for approval from the nine-member council.

"This is bigger than basketball," said Michael Tavares, one of the leaders of the group called (h a s h) Fans, which stands for Fund the Arena Now Sacramento. "It's about making Sacramento a destination."

Those who opposed the arena plan seemed to be in the extreme minority.

One man, who asked

not to be named, stood outside with a sign that read "Don't Let The Mayor Loot The City." A few dozen other opponents were sprinkled in the crowd of hundreds that swarmed downtown.

"We're on the verge of doing something very special," Johnson said before the meeting, later shaking hands with all those waiting to get inside. "We're finally at the point where we have one single vote,

one moment in time to totally transform the downtown community and Sacramento for generations."

What a turnaround for town that once seemed assured of losing its only major professional sports team.

The Kings seemed determined to move to Anaheim last year before Johnson convinced the NBA to give the city one last chance to help finance an arena. At one point, Johnson even called the process a "slow death" and compared the city's efforts to keep the Kings a "Hail Mary."

All of it worked.

Johnson made a desperate pitch to the NBA Board of Governors last April, promising league owners the city would find a way to help finance a new arena to replace the team's current outdated suburban facility. He also bought time by presenting more than \$10 million in commitments for new advertising, ticket purchases and other financial support from regional businesses for this season.

The NBA's relocation committee, headed by Oklahoma City owner Clay Bennett, who moved the team now known as the Thunder from Seattle in 2008, recommended that the league give the city a shot to follow through and handed down a March 1 deadline to come up with a plan to help finance an arena. Johnson delivered the agreement last Thursday — on March 1, no less — to send the plan to the City Council.

CLASSIFIEDS

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

PERSONAL

UNPLANNED PREGNANCY? Don't go it alone. Notre Dame has many resources in place to assist you. If you or someone you love needs confidential support or assistance, please call Sr. Sue Dunn at 1-7819 or Ann Firth at 1-2685. For more information, visit ND's website at:

<http://pregnancysupport@nd.edu>

Big East NCAA Tournament Bids in 2011:

- Marquette
- Villanova
- St. John's
- West Virginia
- Georgetown
- Cincinnati
- Connecticut
- Louisville
- Syracuse
- Notre Dame
- Pittsburgh Panthers

Big East Teams that reached the Sweet Sixteen in 2011:

- Connecticut
- Marquette

Big East Tournament Bids in 2010:

- Louisville
- Marquette
- Notre Dame
- Georgetown
- Pittsburgh
- West Virginia
- Villanova
- Syracuse

Big East Teams that reached the Sweet Sixteen in 2010:

- Syracuse
- West Virginia

Big East Tournament Bids in 2009

- West Virginia
- Marquette
- Villanova
- Connecticut
- Louisville
- Syracuse
- Pittsburgh

Big East Teams that reached the Sweet Sixteen in 2009:

- Syracuse
- Villanova
- Pittsburgh
- Louisville
- Connecticut

Notre Dame Tournament Facts
All-time NCAA Tournament bids:

31

All-time NCAA Tournament wins:

30

History of Notre Dame's finishes in NCAA tournament:

- 2011 - Second Round
- 2010 - First Round
- 2008 - Second Round
- 2007 - First Round
- 2003 - Sweet Sixteen
- 2002 - Second Round
- 2001 - Second Round
- 1990 - First Round
- 1989 - Second Round
- 1988 - First Round
- 1987 - Sweet Sixteen

NCAA MEN'S BASKETBALL

UConn starts title defense with win over DePaul

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Connecticut's start to the 2012 Big East tournament looked a lot like the way the Huskies began last year's incredible run that ended with a conference title and a national championship.

Coach Jim Calhoun was on the sideline again, just eight days after undergoing back surgery. The Huskies, again the tournament's ninth seed, had a guard leading the way, but this time it was Jeremy Lamb, not Kemba Walker, who led UConn against 16th-seeded DePaul.

Lamb scored 25 points and Ryan Boatright added 19 to lead Connecticut to an 81-67 victory over the Blue Demons on Tuesday in the opening round of the Big East tournament.

Calhoun missed eight games last in the season after being diagnosed with spinal stenosis, and the Huskies won only three of those.

He looked like his old self Tuesday, getting up and down from his seat often and making his way on the court at a whistle to make sure Boatright understood what he wanted him to do in running the offense.

"It's been a different kind of season. But through it all, somewhat by separation, I realized how much I care about these kids," Calhoun said. "The pain is a different kind of pain, it's a muscular pain and I'm not walking with a cane anymore. I couldn't walk with a cane on the sidelines because the officials might have been hit. There was always the fear of pain of some sort but to alleviate that pain was incredible."

It was Calhoun's 34th career

win the Big East tournament, passing Georgetown's John Thompson for sole possession of second place behind the 46 of Syracuse's Jim Boeheim.

The ninth-seeded Huskies (19-12) will play eighth-seeded West Virginia in the second round on Wednesday at Madison Square Garden.

Cleveland Melvin and Moses Morgan both had 19 points for the 16th-seeded Blue Demons (12-19), who closed the season losing 10 of their last 11.

"I'm disappointed it's over," DePaul coach Oliver Purnell said, "but we lost to a better team today."

The Huskies started shooting like a team destined to again do big things in the postseason. They made their first seven 3-point attempts and were 7 of 9 from beyond the arc in taking a 46-33 lead.

A 15-4 run to start the second half, capped by a 3 by Roscoe Smith, gave Connecticut a 61-37 lead with 14:47 to play.

"I think today we moved the ball well," Lamb said when asked about the 3-point shooting success for a team that entered the game 11th in the conference at 32.4 percent. "Early I had a couple open shots. I tried to set my man up and our big men had great screens so I was able to knock a couple down."

Unlike last year when the Huskies went on to a 97-71 win, the Blue Demons found a way to make a game of it. An 11-0 run got DePaul within 63-51 with 11:09 to play and the Blue Demons were able to get within 70-61 on a 3 by Morgan with 7:15 to play.

"I really admired our guys' fighting spirit to get back into



Connecticut center Alex Oriaki dunks the ball during the Huskies' 81-67 win over DePaul during the first round of the Big East tournament Tuesday in Madison Square Garden.

the game in the second half," Purnell said, "but we couldn't keep them off the offensive boards in the second half and they just got enough in transition."

Lamb had four points in a 6-0 run that got the Huskies straightened out and the Blue Demons were never closer than 12 points the rest of the way.

Lamb wouldn't get caught up in comparisons to Walker.

"I'm not trying to be Kemba," Lamb said. "Of course every-

body wants to lead their team to championships but I'm just trying to do what's best for this team. The whole team knows we've got five great players, so it's a great team effort."

As good as Connecticut was from behind the 3-point line (8 of 13) it was terrible from the free throw line, making 11 of 24, including an 0-for-6 effort by freshman center Andre Drummond.

The Huskies, who came in fourth in the country with

6.7 blocks per game, blocked 10 shots against DePaul with Drummond and Oriaki getting four each. DePaul shot just 32.4 percent from the field (23 of 71), the 12th time in the last 21 games an opponent didn't shoot 40 percent against the Huskies.

Lamb finished 10 of 18 from the field, including 3 of 6 on 3s, and Boatright was 5 of 9 overall and made his two 3-point attempts. Boatright matched his career high with seven assists.

NBA

Heat roll past Nets in Bosh's return to lineup

Associated Press

MIAMI — LeBron James scored 21 points and capped his night by banking in a half-court shot, Chris Bosh added 20 points and the Miami Heat snapped a two-game slide by rolling past the New Jersey Nets 108-78 on Tuesday night.

The win came with a cost: Dwyane Wade turned his right ankle late in the first half and did not return, finishing with 13 points. Wade missed six games earlier this season after spraining the same ankle, though the team said he could have returned to this one if needed.

The Heat made 12 of their first 15 shots on the way to a 10th straight home win. James finished 9 for 11, adding nine rebounds and six assists, and the 78 points allowed matched Miami's season-best.

Deron Williams, who was coming off an NBA season-high 57 points in a win over Charlotte, scored 16 for the Nets. MarShon Brooks scored 12 and Johan Petro added 11 for New Jersey, which lost to the Heat for the ninth straight time.

Miami's lead was 64-37 at the half, the Heat having shot a season-best 66 percent in the first three quarters.

New Jersey was without Brook Lopez, who's expected to miss the next three weeks with a sprained right ankle. His replacement, Shelden Williams, went scoreless in 17 minutes.

Miami's "Big Three" of James, Bosh and Wade combined for 54 points on 24 of 33 shooting. All 12 Heat players either scored or logged double-figure minutes and even little-used center Eddy Curry got into the act, getting into his 10th game of the season and playing the final 5:59.

Bosh had missed Miami's last three games while dealing with the death of his grandmother, and had a message written to her on his game sneakers.

"She wouldn't have it any other way," Bosh said. "She'd tell me, 'Go back to work. Work hard.' She lives on in our minds, so I came back to work."

With the win, Miami (29-9) pulled within two games of the Chicago Bulls (32-8) for the top spot in the Eastern Conference. And the Heat are apparently getting into scoreboard-watching mode, with coach Erik Spoelstra spending part of the team's shootaround Tuesday morning going over the latest standings and where Miami matches up among the other NBA elite.

NHL

Blue Jackets quiet Coyotes

Associated Press

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Jack Johnson scored his first goal for Columbus, Steve Mason made 38 saves and the Blue Jackets beat the Phoenix Coyotes 3-2 on Tuesday night for their first three-game winning streak in more than a year.

Mason, who struggled all season until recently, has allowed just four goals in two wins over Phoenix and one over Colorado in the last six days.

R.J. Umberger and Derek MacKenzie also scored for the Blue Jackets. Johnson, acquired in the deal that sent Jeff Carter to Los Angeles just before the trade deadline, added an assist.

Antoine Vermette and Keith Yandle had goals for Phoenix, which has lost four in a row in regulation, its longest such skid of the season.

The Coyotes have been outscored 14-7 during their slide, which has knocked them out of the lead in the Pacific Division. They started the night in seventh place in Western Conference standings, their margin for error reduced by their recent losses.

Mason had 30 saves in a 5-2 win at Phoenix on Saturday night.

Columbus last won three in



Blue Jackets center Derik Brassard, left, carries the puck into the zone during Columbus's 3-2 win Tuesday in Columbus.

a row against Chicago, Nashville and Phoenix from Feb. 18-25, 2011.

The Blue Jackets took their second two-goal lead of the game when MacKenzie converted a wrist from a hard angle early in the second period to make it 3-1.

The Coyotes countered on Yandle's laser beam of a shot from the top of the left circle, tucking the drive just inside the far post and past Mason's outstretched glove.

There were no goals in the third period, but plenty of

action. The Coyotes had 20 seconds of 5 on 3 as the Blue Jackets killed all five penalties.

Oliver Ekman-Larsson was stymied on a hard shot gloved by Mason while the Coyotes were short-handed with 7:35 left. Phoenix's Radim Vrbata's chest-high shot stunned Mason in the final seconds, but Columbus defenseman James Wisniewski cleared the puck from the crease.

Mason also made big saves on Shane Doan and Ray Whitney early in the final period.

NFL

Foster signs \$43.5 million contract with Houston

Associated Press

HOUSTON — Arian Foster's mother finally got her fruit basket.

The Texans star running back fulfilled a childhood promise to her on Tuesday after signing a five-year, \$43.5 million to stay in Houston.

When Foster was growing up in Albuquerque, N.M., the big-dreaming kid told each family member what he was going to get them when he hit the salary jackpot in pro football.

"I was, like, 7 years old," Foster said at a news conference. "I was going to buy a house, I was going to buy a car."

He had a specific gift in mind for each family member, and told his mother, Bernadette Sizemore, that he'd get her a fruit basket. It became a running gag in the family for years, with relatives always asking Arian when he would make good.

On Tuesday, Sizemore got the fruit basket delivered to her office in Albuquerque, where she's an administrative assistant for African-American students at the University of New Mexico.

"I was just really floored," Sizemore said in a phone interview. "It's funny, it's a joke. But it's also so profound in so many ways."

Foster held back tears as he recalled hardships that

his family made when he was young. At one point, Sizemore pawned her wedding ring to buy food.

"I just told myself that I wanted to do something with my life," Foster said before stepping away from a podium to gather his emotions. "I just wanted to do something with my life to make sure that when I have a kid, she never had to worry about the lights being on, she never had to worry about any of that. I didn't care if I had to work three jobs, whatever."

Foster has a 2-year-old daughter, Zeniah, and thanks to the Texans, all the financial security he and his family will ever need.

"It's overwhelming," Sizemore said. "There were a lot of hard times along the way."

The contract also further validates the two-time Pro Bowl selection as one of the NFL's elite running backs.

An undrafted free agent in 2009, Foster made only \$525,000 last season, even after leading the league in rushing in 2010 (1,616 yards). His agent, Mike McCartney, said Monday that the Texans told Foster that they needed to see him have another productive year before they talked about an extension.

Foster never considered holding out before the season, and never seemed upset by

his contract situation during it. Bothered by a hamstring injury early in the season, he still ran for 1,224 yards and 10 touchdowns. Since becoming a full-time starter in 2010, Foster has led the NFL in rushing yards per game (97.9), rushing touchdowns (26) and yards from scrimmage (4,061).

"I'm an extreme believer in karma, for the most part," Foster said. "If you take care of this game, it will take care of you. Even if it didn't, something else in my life, I was going to be OK somewhat. I just believe that. I think belief is 90 percent of the battle."

Foster will make \$18 million in base salary next season, and the deal includes \$20.75 million guaranteed. He acknowledged that the negotiation was "nerve-racking," but says now the pressure is off.

"It's tough for an athlete to go out and play knowing a pending contract is there," he said. "I think playing with that weight off of your shoulders and not having to worry about a long-term contract, you get to play free and you just get to play ball. I'm excited. I can't wait to get back on the field and do what I do best."

The team's next major order of business is deciding the fate of outside linebacker Mario Williams, who will become an unrestricted free agent next



Texans running back Arian Foster carries the ball during a Dec. 22 loss to the Colts. Foster signed a five-year deal with Houston on Tuesday.

week.

Another key unrestricted free agent is center Chris Myers, part of the offensive line that helped Houston finish second in rushing (153 yards per game) and set a franchise

record for yards on the ground (2,448).

Myers, who just finished his fourth year in Houston, says he's hopeful that he and the Texans will get a satisfactory deal done.

NHL

Crosby returns to practice following medical clearance

Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — Sidney Crosby's head is clear. The superstar's return, however, remains murky.

The Pittsburgh Penguins captain participated in his first full practice since concussion-like symptoms resurfaced in December and there is growing optimism he'll be back before the playoffs begin next month.

The ever-cautious Crosby insists there still is no timetable on when he'll be cleared to play in a game, but he looked crisp while spending more than an hour on the Consol Energy Center ice.

"It's a good step," Crosby said. "Hopefully, I can keep the momentum and get out there soon."

Though the headaches and motion issues that have bothered him intermittently since a loss to Boston on Dec. 5 have subsided, Crosby has been through this drill too often over the last 14 months to get too excited.

The 24-year-old former MVP was spectacular in his return from a 10-month layoff in November, scoring twice in his season debut against the New

York Islanders and collecting 12 points in eight games before he woke up with an all-too familiar feeling on Dec. 6.

During that initial comeback he was cleared for contact in early October and had to wait about six weeks before getting the OK to suit up for a game.

It may not take that long this time.

"I'm going to give myself days, for sure, of contact," Crosby said. "If you look at our schedule, we have two more practices, I think, this week. No sooner than Sunday I would

say but I'm not going to sit here and put a date on it. It would be total guesswork."

C o a c h Dan Bylsma echoed Crosby's sentiments, but made sure Crosby got b o u n c e d around during a lively practice session.

"It was man-on-man type stuff, some puck battles," Bylsma said. "We had him get through today, we'll see where we progress on day three, four, five and six."

Crosby called the lineup "a dangerous place to be" and felt he "was getting a lot of bumps out there."

It was a welcome feeling after three anxious months in



Sidney Crosby skates during a Penguins practice on Feb. 7. On Tuesday, Crosby participated fully in practice for the first time since early December, but no timetable for his return exists.

which Crosby crisscrossed the country visiting specialists in hopes of getting a better handle on his health.

Tests conducted out in California in late January discovered a previously undiagnosed soft tissue injury in his neck that mimics a concussion. He took a shot as part of the treatment and claims the results have been largely positive.

"It's nice to be symptom free, but it's not as fulfilling until you get out there," Crosby said. "I just want to make sure that I take the right steps here and get back out there soon."

The Penguins have surged

over the last two months even with Crosby watching from a suite well above the ice. Pittsburgh has a six-game winning streak going into Wednesday's game against Toronto behind the play of MVP-candidate Evgeni Malkin and wingers Chris Kunitz and James Neal.

Kunitz has typically teamed with Crosby since arriving in Pittsburgh in 2009, but Crosby doesn't expect Bylsma to break up arguably the league's hottest line whenever he's cleared to play.

"They have a perfect mix of guys there to create every shift," Crosby said.

Crosby has been pushing himself during non-contact drills in recent weeks and enjoyed getting knocked around on Tuesday. Yet he knows nothing can replicate game action. All he can do is get prepared. After that, it's up to chance.

Either way, he's feeling better both on and off the ice. Considering what he's gone through the last 14 months, that's good news.

"It's just one of those things where you get used to having things for so long you forget what normal is," he said. "I feel like normal has been a lot more regularly."

NFL

Colts expected to release Manning after 14 seasons

Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — The Peyton Manning era in Indianapolis is expected to end Wednesday, according to a report.

Citing anonymous sources, ESPN reported Tuesday that the Colts plan to hold a news conference to announce the long-expected decision. Manning and team owner Jim Irsay are expected to attend, the network said.

Colts spokesman Avis Roper said he could not confirm the decision — or that a news conference would be held Wednesday — because Irsay was out of town and could not be reached for comment. Neither Irsay nor Manning's agent, Tom Condon, responded immediately to messages left by The Associated Press.

Manning has said in the past that all he wanted to do was finish his career in a Colts uniform, but an injured neck forced him to miss all of the 2011 season.

"I can't tell you what an honor it is to go start-to-finish with the same organization here in Indianapolis. That is something I have always wanted to do as a rookie coming out," Manning said after signing a five-year, \$90 million contract in July. "Of course, you never know if that is possible, but after yesterday it is official that I will be an Indianapolis Colt for my entire career. I will not play for another team. My last down of football will be with the Colts, which means a great deal to me."

But things have changed since last summer. Now it looks like the NFL's only four-time MVP, and a former Super Bowl champion, won't be wearing No. 18 for Indy.

With a \$28 million bonus payment due Thursday to Manning, his neck problems, and the fact that the Colts own the No. 1 pick in April's draft, the Colts seem to have deemed it too risky — and too pricey — to keep the longtime franchise quarterback, who will turn 36 later this month.

The twists and turns of a public debate between Manning and Irsay, who have been friends for more than a decade, created the sense the two had been fighting. Irsay twice issued statements to deny a rift.

Still, with the Colts in full rebuilding mode, Irsay has been expected by many to play for the future and let Manning try to chase a second Super Bowl ring somewhere else.

The Colts are expected to take Stanford quarterback Andrew Luck with the first pick in April's draft.

Manning's impending departure marks the end of a remarkably successful era that included the 2006 league title.

He started every meaningful game for 13 seasons in Indy, 227 straight including the playoffs, and took the Colts from perennial also-ran to one of the NFL's model franchises.

In the two decades pre-dating his arrival, the Colts won 116 games, one division title and made the playoffs three times. With Manning taking the snaps, the Colts have won 150 games, eight division titles, two AFC championships and the franchise's first Super Bowl since moving from Baltimore in 1984.

Indy broke the league record for most regular-season wins in a decade (115), tied Dallas' league record for most consecutive playoff appearances (nine) and the success changed Indy



Peyton Manning walks off the field following the Colts' 20-3 victory over the Baltimore Ravens in an AFC Divisional Playoff game on Jan. 16, 2010. ESPN reported Tuesday that the Colts will release Manning.

from a basketball town to an NFL town.

Manning is one of four players with more than 50,000 yards passing, one of three with more than 350 touchdown passes and one of two quarterbacks with more than 200 consecutive starts. The only non-active quarterback with a rating higher than Manning's 94.9 is Hall of Famer Steve Young (96.8). He broke all of the franchise's major career passing records, previously held by Hall of Fame quarterback John Unitas, and he may not be finished.

In 2009, the star QB had the Colts on the cusp of history with a 14-0 start.

It's been mostly bad news

ever since. The Colts pulled their starters against the New York Jets and lost the final two games that season. Indy then wound up losing to New Orleans in the Super Bowl. During the offseason, Manning had the first of his neck surgeries.

Then, after making an early playoff exit in the 2010 season, Manning underwent another neck surgery to repair a damaged nerve that was causing weakness in his throwing arm.

But when the nerve did not heal as quickly as anticipated, Manning had two vertebrae fused together in September, a surgery that forced him to miss the first game of his career.

There are still questions about

how strong Manning's arm is. Yet he has repeatedly insisted he plans to play football again next season.

"My plan hasn't changed," Manning said during Super Bowl week. "I'm on track with what the doctors have told me to do, and I'm doing that. I'm rehabbing hard."

The question is where might Manning land if he is no longer a Colt.

Arizona, Miami, Tennessee and the New York Jets have all been rumored as possible spots, and Manning's former longtime offensive coordinator Tom Moore did work with the Jets as a consultant less season.

It's still possible, however unlikely, that Manning could return to Indy for a lower price if he can prove he's healthy.

"This isn't an ankle, it isn't a shoulder. Often times the NFL is criticized for putting someone out there at risk, and I'm not going to do that," Irsay said in January. "I think he and I just need to see where his health is because this isn't about money or anything else. It's about his life and his long-term health."

"This isn't an ankle, it isn't a shoulder. Often times the NFL is criticized for putting someone out there at risk, and I'm not going to do that ... I think he and I just need to see where his health is because this isn't about money or anything else. It's about his life and his long-term health."

Jim Irsay
Colts owner

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NBA

Hawks capture third straight win

Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — The Atlanta Hawks are back on track, and Josh Smith is a big reason.

Smith had 27 points and nine rebounds, leading the Hawks to their third straight victory, 101-96 over the Indiana Pacers on Tuesday night.

"Josh has been on a roll as of late," coach Larry Drew said. "We've been going through him offensively and defensively. He's been an anchor for us. Tonight I felt he played another phenomenal ball game. He was just solid."

Smith scored 13 points in the first quarter, 11 in the third, and fell three points shy of his season high. He passed the credit onto his teammates.

"It's great when your teammates lift you up," Smith said. "That really helped in the third and fourth quarter. We're coming together and figuring out a way to win ball games."

Jannero Pargo had 16 points, while Marvin Williams and Zaza Pachulia each scored 12 for the Hawks.

David West scored a season-high 24 points for the Pacers, who have lost two straight. Danny Granger had 19 points and eight rebounds, and George Hill



Hawks forward Josh Smith dives for a loose ball during an Atlanta win Feb. 8. Tuesday, Smith led the Hawks with 27 points in a win.

scored 15 points off the bench for Indiana.

"They kept us off balance with good ball movement and we couldn't seem to adjust to their schemes," West said. "We just weren't able to figure them out in the time to stop them."

The Hawks led by as much as 16 points in the first half, but Granger's 3-pointer tied it at 62.

West's basket gave Indiana its last lead at 71-69 before Williams answered with a 3-pointer.

The Hawks outrebounded the Pacers 45-37 and grabbed 14 offensive rebounds.

The Pacers returned home after losing Monday to the Chicago Bulls on the road, 92-72, snapping a season-best, six-game winning streak.

"We didn't defend the 3 well and didn't do a good enough job on the defensive glass," Pacers coach Frank Vogel said. "It cost us the game. I don't think we were ourselves the last two games."

NBA

Stuckey leads Pistons in OT win over Lakers

Associated Press

AUBURN HILLS, Mich. — Rodney Stuckey scored 34 points, and the Detroit Pistons overcame a tying shot by Kobe Bryant at the end of regulation Tuesday night, beating the Los Angeles Lakers 88-85 in overtime.

Bryant's basket at the buzzer forced the extra session, but he missed from 3-point range in the final seconds of overtime. Metta World Peace came up with the ball and dribbled back toward the top of the key, but his last-ditch turnaround missed as well.

Andrew Bynum had 30 points and 14 rebounds for the Lakers.

Bryant finished with 22 points on 8-of-26 shooting. He started the game with black mask protecting his injured nose but switched to a clear one while struggling through the first half.

In front of a rare sellout at The Palace — with Gladys Knight performing at halftime — the Pistons won despite scoring only nine points in the third quarter. Down 74-71 in the fourth, Stuckey shook free of Bryant with a nifty crossover dribble, stepping back to make a shot from near the free throw line. He then put the Pistons ahead with a driving layup.

World Peace stole the ball near midcourt and went the other way for a layup to put

the Lakers ahead 76-75, but Stuckey's 3-pointer with 9.8 seconds left gave the Pistons a two-point lead.

As the clock ticked down, Bryant calmly dribbled to his right and sank a shot from about 17 feet over Tayshaun Prince to force overtime.

Neither team led by more than three in the extra session, and the Pistons won by forcing the Lakers to take bad shots from the perimeter late. With the Pistons up 86-85, World Peace forced a 3-pointer with the shot clock running down. After that miss, Stuckey drove hard to the basket and drew a foul, sinking both free throws with 36.8 seconds remaining.

Bryant missed a quick 3-pointer from the top, but the shot clock was still on for the Pistons, who had to settle for a perimeter shot by Jason Maxiell that missed badly. The Lakers rebounded and called a timeout.

The Pistons had a foul to give and used it immediately on Bryant. When the Lakers inbounded again, Bryant — perhaps anticipating another foul — tossed up a quick shot that missed. Although World Peace had time for another try, it missed as well.

Bryant took the floor wearing a black-rimmed mask to protect the nose he broke in the All-Star game. As missed shots piled up in the first half, he switched to a clear mask that looked more similar to what he wore in a win over the Miami Heat on Sunday.

SMC TENNIS

Belles get sweep in home opener

By ISAAC LORTON
Sports Writer

Starting its home campaign with a strong showing, Saint Mary's dominated Indiana Tech in a 9-0 victory. The Belles (2-1) won in five straight sets and gained a forfeit over the Warriors (0-4) in their single matches. They took doubles 8-1, 8-1 and earned another forfeit. The Warriors only fielded a five-person roster, giving the Belles an early, uncontested 2-0 lead.

"It's definitely nice to have a start like (that) right away," coach Dale Campbell said.

Although young, Campbell claimed the Belles are learning to close games and avoid giving up sets to easier opponents.

"I think it shows maturity to take care of business and finish in two sets," Campbell said. "In the Olivet match we gave up a few second sets that we shouldn't have and had to win some tie breakers — we even lost one. It is a good sign that we are starting to shut down the games when we need to and not give the other team a chance."

Campbell said the Belles have gained invaluable confidence from the past three matches, especially this one. The past two matches, he said, have al-

lowed the Belles to work out the issues they faced.

"Now they have seen it all," Campbell said. "We have gone against a tough ranked team and two easier teams, and gained a lot of experience. It is good for them to get a couple of wins under their belts and get through some early season nerves."

"They know what it takes to come back from a loss and, more importantly, what it takes to win."

Campbell gave a nod to Saint Mary's No. 2 player, freshman Kayle Sexton, as well the Belles' No. 4 player, freshman Jackie Kjolhede.

"Kayle played a solid opponent who had some weapons, but she showed that she had a lot of strength, stepped up and won convincingly," Campbell said.

Coming off a foot injury, Kjolhede moved back to her normal No. 4 spot after playing in the No. 5 spot against Olivet.

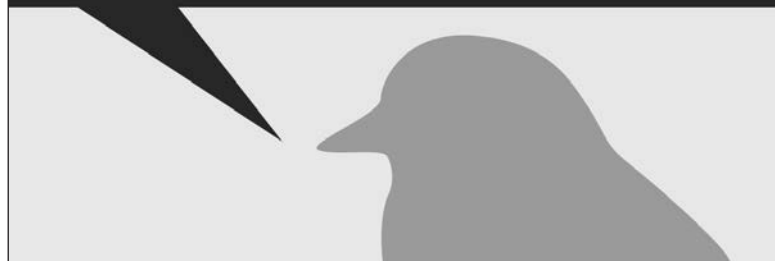
"[Kjolhede] had a dominant match," Campbell said. "She had been fighting a nagging injury and she won in straight sets. It was good to see that."

With this newly gained confidence, the Belles are looking to heat up play in Orlando, Fla., for

their annual spring break trip.

Contact Isaac Lorton at
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SARAH O'CONNOR/The Observer

Irish coach Mik Aoki directs preseason practice in the Loftus Sports Complex on Jan. 27. In his second season with the Irish, Aoki has the Irish off to a 5-4 start.

Aoki

continued from page 20

have caused a little consternation, especially in the minds of the players. I hope, anyway, that that sort of thing is water under the bridge."

Aoki said he has sensed a change in the team atmosphere since he took over, which he thinks will translate into wins.

"I think that that's inevitable with any coaching change, because any coach has their own ideas of the way things need to get done and has their own expectation for the way that play-

ers should practice or prepare and play and all of that," Aoki said. "In my eyes that change is positive — I guess you have to ask the players as to whether or not that's true. I think I've really changed the way this group has gone about its work, and I think they're doing a good job."

Although Aoki said the Irish won't be able to overpower their opponents with superior talent, he still has big plans for them. Notre Dame sped off to a 5-1 record in the first two weekends of the season before suffering a three-game sweep at the hands of Texas State last weekend.

"I would hope that we would have a number of more wins, [I] hope that we can be above .500," Aoki said. "I hope that we can really compete to be in the upper-half of the Big East and potentially get into a regional. I think we have a long way to go to achieve that level of play, but I certainly feel like it's within the realm of what this team is capable of doing."

The Irish face Michigan in Baton Rouge, La., in their first game of the LSU Baseball Tournament at 2 p.m. on Saturday.

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Platt

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er of the Week on Feb. 15 after going 4-0 at Notre Dame's opening event, Platt's early success, combined with the play of his teammates, has the Irish excited about the prospects of the young season.

"I felt great about our first event," Platt said. "The biggest thing is that it's a team effort. We had guys making comebacks all over the place. I think we're set up really well going into spring break."

As the Irish travel to Georgia for the break, Platt, a Southern California native, is relishing the opportunity to return to regular play outdoors, a luxury taken for granted in the Golden State.

"It's tough to keep your game sharp the whole time when you're playing indoors," Platt said. "In California we would practice every day, but here we just have windows at either end of the school year. It's hard to avoid rust."

Even though Platt has been cooped up inside the Rolfs Family Varsity Golf Facility at the Warren Golf Course for much of the spring semester, Kubinski credits Platt's work ethic for much of his early success.

"The kid is a hard worker, one of the hardest I've ever coached," Kubinski said. "He'll tell you that one of the areas of his game he has to work on is his short game, and he's one of the best putters I've ever seen in college. He says that because his standards are so high."

Not just a short-game specialist, Platt has executed his irons game with laser-like precision this spring. At one point, the sophomore hit 25-of-29 greens, a rate Kubinski says is above the PGA average.

"His ball striking has really improved," Kubinski said. "He really has an all-around game. Lots of professionals don't put up the numbers that he did a few weeks ago at the Match Play."

With three seniors in the starting lineup set to graduate in May, Platt will soon be out of the shadows and in the spotlight. Until then, Kubinski says Platt is content to play an understated but essential role on this Irish squad.

"He's a great kid, a great young man," Kubinski said. "He's a Barry Sanders-type golfer. If he were to score a touchdown, he would just calmly hand the ball to the referee."

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McBride

continued from page 20

of attacking it," McBride said. "I think we kind of got complacent a little bit, and just weren't in our attack mode that we're usually in. They were just boxing out and rebounding."

The Irish took a 10-6 lead early on before Connecticut's freshman forward Kaleena Mosqueda-Lewis took over for a 15-3 Huskies run. Mosqueda-Lewis scored 19 points on the day. Connecticut sophomore guard Bria Hartley contributed 18 points to the win.

Irish junior guard Kaila Turner sunk a 3-pointer to narrow the Irish deficit to 31-30 at the half. The Irish took the lead right out of the break 36-33, but gave it up as Hartley and Mosqueda-Lewis paired up for a 10-1 run. The Huskies never let go of the lead again.

"I think we'll respond well

[to the loss]," McGraw said. "I think we have responded well after losses. We haven't had a lot of practice, but I think they don't like to lose. So they'll be ready to go. It could be a good thing."

The Irish will head home to prepare for the NCAA tournament, which begins March 18. The first two rounds of the tournament will be played at Purcell Pavilion.

"We're only guaranteed one game," Diggins said. "This is a great game going into the tournament. This is a Final Four team, a championship-caliber team. It's great for us to play in the Big East and play these competitive games going into the tournament. We'll learn from it when we get in the gym tomorrow and throughout the week, and we have to practice hard and get ready for that first tournament game."

Contact Molly Sammon at msammon@nd.edu



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The Observer.





ASHLEY DACY/The Observer

Irish center Riley Sheahan battles for a puck during a 4-2 loss to Michigan State on Feb. 25 in the Compton Family Ice Arena.

Sheahan

continued from page 20

Sheahan is not necessarily the one that garners the most attention.

Sheahan sits among the top four on the team in goals, assists, points and shots, but his most noticeable contributions may come on special teams. Irish coach Jeff Jackson relied heavily on the Ontario native this past weekend, double-shifting him whenever Notre Dame was shorthanded. Sheahan and his fellow penalty killers proved up to the challenge, allowing the Buckeyes just one goal on 10 powerplays.

For Sheahan, it was the little things that made the difference shorthanded.

“One thing I like to take pride in is having a good stick,” he said. “Reading where the players are trying to pass the puck and getting my stick in that lane and deflecting it out of the zone, or deflecting it to one of my teammates so we can get a clear, and little things like knowing when to pressure and not to pressure are what I try to bring. I think we’ve got a good group of guys for penalty killing.”

In addition to playing a role in killing penalties, Sheahan is a key part of the Irish powerplay. His powerplay unit, featuring the physicality of sophomore left wing Jeff Costello and sophomore defenseman Stephen Johns, operates by shooting the puck and getting traffic in front of goal. As such, Sheahan leads the team in powerplay shots.

“Our unit, I think, has more of a grind it out and get pucks to the net and use our big bodies in front approach,” Sheahan said. “We’ve all got good shots out there.”

Sheahan does indeed have a solid shot, as he is among Notre Dame’s leaders in both powerplay and shorthanded goals. That scoring ability, combined with his defensive prowess and youth (at 20, Sheahan is younger than most of the team’s freshmen), inspired the Detroit Red Wings to take Sheahan with the 21st overall pick in the 2010 NHL Draft. But while professional scouts may see him as the total package, the young center said he still has places he needs to improve to break into the next level.

“I don’t see any NHL teams taking someone they think is going to be a one-sided player,” he said. “In today’s game, there’s so

many skillful players around the league that you’ve got to have a strong two-way game. It’s something I take pride in, but I still have to work on my offensive game, and work on little things when it comes to scoring.”

And while Sheahan is excited about fulfilling his lifelong dreams with the Red Wings in a few years, he’s focused on a more immediate challenge: Michigan and the CCHA semifinals.

The eighth-seeded Irish will travel to the famed Yost Ice Arena on Friday to take on the No. 2 Wolverines in what will be a heated, hard-fought rivalry weekend. Taking two of three on enemy ice will be a tough challenge for Notre Dame. Sheahan said the series will hinge on playing hard, smart hockey.

“There’s going to be a lot of distractions,” he said. “They have a pretty good student section and a pretty good fanbase up in Michigan, so we can’t get distracted by that. We need to play our game.”

“They’re a skilled team and we are too, so I think we’re just going to have to outgrit them, play them a little more intense and be ready for their style of play.”

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Sullivan

continued from page 20

speaking your language.”

In addition to facing top international competition, Sullivan also had to battle for playing time with her teammates. Many of them now play lacrosse at top Division I schools. Sullivan said she gained valuable experience competing with her teammates, particularly freshman goalie Allie Murray. Like Sullivan, she would be moving to South Bend shortly after playing in Germany to join Notre Dame’s team.

“Allie and I were actually roommates in Germany for two and a half weeks, so we became really close there,” Sullivan said. “Just being able to play with her behind me before we got to college made the transition into college much easier.”

Although her college career is still young, Sullivan has made her transition to college look seamless.

She has started all three games this season for the Irish and been a strong force on defense, recovering five ground balls and forcing four turnovers. Finding playing time in the experienced Irish defensive front, which includes seniors Jordy Shoemaker, Megan Sullivan and Kate Newall, is not an easy task. But Sullivan said that the senior leaders have been more than willing to make her feel part of the fabric of the team.

“They’re three great leaders, and to come in and play with them has been a really awesome experience,” Sullivan said. “We’re really close on and off the field, which helps a lot because they’ve taught me so much. I’ve learned a lot from just following the little things they do and the way they communicate with the coaches and each other.”

With the Irish off to a hot

start, Sullivan said she looks forward to continuing to contribute to the team and help it reach its potential, a potential she sees as very promising.

This team is capable of so much,” Sullivan said. “We were underrated going into the season, and I think we’re starting to prove ourselves. As long as we play the way our coaches want us to play, I think we can go real far, off to the NCAAs and maybe even the Final Four.”

than trying to improve every day at the game she truly loves. A distinguished three-sport athlete in her native Garden City, N.Y., Sullivan also had opportunities to play soccer and basketball on the collegiate level, but said she could not be happier with her decision to pursue lacrosse. “I think the game of lacrosse itself is progressing at such a high rate, and it offers many opportunities,” Sullivan said. “I loved playing soccer and basketball, but I definitely made the right decision in sticking to lacrosse.”

Sullivan and her teammates will travel to Boston, Mass., on Saturday to face Boston University.

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few personal goals, other

“I think the game of lacrosse itself is progressing at such a high rate, and it offers many opportunities.”

Barbara Sullivan
Irish defender

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ND WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Unlucky number seven

Irish fall to UConn in tournament final

By MOLLY SAMMON
Sports Writer

Notre Dame fell short of winning its first-ever Big East tournament as it suffered a 63-54 loss Tuesday to Connecticut at the XL Center in Hartford, Conn. It was the program's seventh berth in the title game, and all seven times the Huskies have defeated the Irish.

"I thought it was a hard fought battle and a really good game," Irish coach Muffet McGraw said. "I thought in the first half we were only down one without having [senior guard] Natalie Novosel in the game for a big chunk in the half. I thought we'd be better in the second half, and we just didn't shoot it well.

"We shot better from the 3-point line than 2-point [shots], and couldn't even make a free throw. I think we really did some things that didn't help us, but they came out and really won the game. It was a great game. They just played better."

Though the No. 3 Irish beat the No. 4 Huskies in the three games prior to Tuesday's, once in the last year's Final Four and twice during the regular season this year, Connecticut ended the streak and earned its fifth consecutive conference tournament championship and 18th in program history.



Connecticut senior guard Tiffany Hayes shoots over Irish senior guard Natalie Novosel during the Huskies' 63-54 victory in the Big East tournament title game Tuesday, their fifth straight title.

"It's tough to beat a good team three times," McGraw said. "We won here Monday, so I don't really think that we have to do anything different. I don't think there was more pressure on us ... I just think they outplayed us."

Huskies coach Geno Auriemma notched the 800th win of his distinguished career with

the victory. He became the sixth coach in NCAA women's basketball to reach that number, doing so in the shortest amount of games.

Junior guard Skylar Diggins led the Irish in scoring with 16 points on the evening, but made only 7-of-19 shot attempts.

With 8:46 left in the game, a 3-pointer from sophomore

guard Kayla McBride set-up the Irish for a potential comeback, but the Connecticut defense did not let the Irish score from the field for the next five minutes.

"I think they knew our offense, and they were just kind of keeping us out of it instead

see McBRIDE/page 17

MEN'S GOLF

Freshman stands out in spring

By CONOR KELLY
Sports Writer

With senior Max Scodro scorching the competition and the rest of the team struggling to meet its own lofty expectations, it was easy to overlook the performance of reigning Big East Freshman of the Year Niall Platt during the fall season. But as the spring season approaches, Platt's play has become impossible to ignore.

"[Platt] has definitely played in the shadow of our three seniors, and they deserve all the accolades they get," Irish coach Jim Kubinski said. "But many people don't realize that he was just a shade under Max Scodro's team-leading average last spring."

Platt is quick to recognize the play of his teammates, especially the senior trio of Scodro, Tom Usher and Chris Walker.

"Our main goal is to win as a team," Platt said. "Max is a great player. They're all great players, and I love to see when we all play well."

Named the Big East Golf-

see PLATT/page 17

BASEBALL

Aoki expects continued improvement in year two

By VICKY JACOBSEN
Sports Writer

When Irish coach Mik Aoki replaced former coach Dave Schrage after the 2010 season, he inherited a team with a 22-32 record, a pitching staff that had given up nearly six earned runs per game and a squad that had missed the Big East tournament for the first time in 15 years.

Aoki also did not inherit was an offensive juggernaut, as four of the five best Irish hitters from the 2010 squad graduated after that season.

But in Aoki's first season, the Irish found their way back to the Big East tournament with a 13-13 conference record. Notre Dame also finished the season with a slightly improved overall record of 23-29-1.

Aoki said his expectations for the squad have risen significantly in his second season.

"No doubt, I think that this team is capable of doing more than last year's team did," Aoki said. "I'd be disappointed if we didn't."

Aoki, who coached at Boston

College before coming to Notre Dame, said he felt he had a good handle on his new team in his first season with the Irish, but the intervening year has shown him what it's like to coach at Notre Dame.

"What I learned along the way is that there's a way that Notre Dame does things versus how other schools do things, and there's a pressure that a Notre Dame student is under," Aoki said. "My last stop was at Boston College, so I think that there are differences in the way that the kids are [there]. I think I have a little better feel for that."

Aoki also said he expects the team to run more smoothly now that he and the players are more familiar with each other.

"I think I have a little more of an understanding of each kid, and more than anything I think the players are much more comfortable with me than they were a year ago," Aoki said. "I think they know what to expect: how I'm going to manage a game, or the way that I'm going to react to the games. I think that might

see AOKI/page 17

WOMEN'S LACROSSE

Sullivan makes early impact

By BRIAN HARTNETT
Sports Writer

With no current representation in the Olympics, women's lacrosse players vie for one of 12 team spots every summer in the Women's Lacrosse World Championship. Thousands of athletes pine for the opportunity to represent their nation in the global challenge, but few are

afforded the opportunity.

Last summer, freshman defender Barbara Sullivan got the chance to travel to Germany and compete with the United States U-19 squad.

Sullivan and her teammates made the most of their long journey overseas, going undefeated in the championship and defeating Australia 14-11 to take home gold. Sullivan made her mark on the team by helping anchor

a tough defensive unit that allowed only 5.38 goals per game.

Competing in the championships, Sullivan said, would rank as one of the top moments in her lacrosse career.

"It was an awesome experience," Sullivan said. "It was so neat to be able to travel to Germany, meet new people and play against teams who were not

see SULLIVAN/page 18

HOCKEY

Sheahan focuses on improving

By JACK HEFFERON
Sports Writer

With a number of players that stand out to even the most seasoned hockey fan, Notre Dame is a team that definitely does not lack speed, size or excitement on the ice. Despite being one of the team's most complete players and its only first-round NHL draft pick, junior center Riley



SARAH O'CONNOR/The Observer

Irish center Riley Sheahan takes a faceoff against Bowling Green during Notre Dame's 3-2 home loss on Feb. 4.

see SHEAHAN/page 18