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Faculty Senate passes LGBTQ resolution

By SAM STRYKER
News Editor

In a push for improved inclusion of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning (LGBTQ) members of the Notre Dame community, the Faculty Senate passed two resolutions Tuesday, one supporting a gay-straight alliance and the other proposing adding sexual orientation to the University's non-discrimination clause.

Student Senate passed similar resolutions earlier this semester.

Faculty Senate chair Morten Eskildsen said the group decided to address the two resolutions due to outside support of the measures.

"We have received from a number of sides emails encouraging us to look into this issue and the Senate Executive Committee agreed this is something we would want to look at and discuss," he said. "And we did."

During Tuesday's meeting, Eskildsen said there was a "clear majority" in favor of passing the resolutions. He said there seems

to be strong support among Notre Dame faculty for advancing LGBTQ rights on campus.

"The documents brought forward show really that this was the right thing to do. Overall, people felt that gays and lesbians who were feeling sort of left out or marginalized, there was a desire to try and improve their situation," he said. "That was the main sentiment of those arguing in favor of the resolutions."

Eskildsen said this was the first time the issues were formally discussed within Faculty

Senate, but he speculated a GSA and the non-discrimination clause were the topic of "many conversations" amongst faculty.

"I'm sure a lot of people have discussed this across campus," he said. "It's just my impression."

Eskildsen said a number of questions regarding the resolutions, including legal issues, arose during the debate of the resolutions. As such, he said he expects discussion to continue through the next academic school year.

"I think the Senate felt it

would be nice to see some of those questions addressed by for instance legal counsel or offices of the University," he said. "While we passed those resolutions, I would also say there is a sentiment to look further into this issue."

Student body president Pat McCormick said he appreciates the efforts of the Faculty Senate to pass the resolutions at Tuesday's meeting.

"We're grateful to the faculty

see FACULTY/page 5

Students look forward to traveling over spring break

ND students to escape school stress, relax during week off

By DAN BROMBACH
News Writer

After a hectic midterms week filled with study sessions, late nights and too much caffeine, most Notre Dame students are eagerly looking forward to spring break.

Senior Christopher Stare said he will spend his spring break on a five-day cruise in the Bahamas, where he hopes to relax and forget about the concerns of school life.

"I'm looking forward to getting away from the stressors of everyday life and getting back to the things that really matter: fun,

see BREAK/page 5



SAM STRYKER/The Observer

Students spend last year's spring break on a service trip to Appalachia. During this year's spring break, some students will go on relaxing vacations while others will take class trips.

Students to leave SMC for trips in U.S., Europe

By SARAH SWIDERSKI
News Writer

As Saint Mary's students wrap up a week full of tests, quizzes and paper, they also prepare to head off campus for spring break to locations across the country and world.

Junior Mariah Niedbalski will head to the sunny southwest in Albuquerque, N.M. to be reunited with her older sister.

"We're going camping. I'm really excited, but I am afraid of bears, so I am also nervous," Niedbalski said. "We

see SPRING/page 4

Super Tuesday results help Romney campaign

By KRISTEN DURBIN
News Writer

In the wake of the Super Tuesday presidential primaries and caucuses, former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney's close Ohio Republican primary win saved him from potential "disaster," former political columnist for the South Bend Tribune and journalism professor Jack Colwell said.

"Ohio, of course, was the big prize, and early on it looked as though [former Pennsylvania Sen. Rick] Santorum had a real shot at winning," Colwell said. "If he had won, it could have been a disaster for Romney ... because

see SUPER/page 5

Grab 'n Go undergoes reform

By TORI ROECK
News Writer

Seven points will go a lot further at Grab 'n Go after spring break when additional items become available at both the North Dining Hall and South Dining Hall locations.

Sophomore Nimmy Thomas, a member of student government's Constituent Services Committee, said after spring break, Grab 'n Go options will be standardized at North Dining Hall and South Dining Hall locations.

"Currently there is a discrepancy in the type of food served at both the North

see GRAB 'N GO/page 5

Grab 'n Go

changes to be implemented after spring break

New to South Dining Hall:

- ▶ Pop-tarts
- ▶ Pita chips and hummus
- ▶ Goldfish crackers
- ▶ Animal crackers

New to North Dining Hall:

- ▶ Granola bars
- ▶ Cereal bars
- ▶ Apple slices



ELISA DE CASTRO | Observer Graphic

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The news is reported as accurately and objectively as possible. Unsigned editorials represent the opinion of the majority of the Editor-in-Chief, Managing Editor, Assistant Managing Editors and department editors. Commentaries, letters and columns present the views of the authors and not necessarily those of The Observer.

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

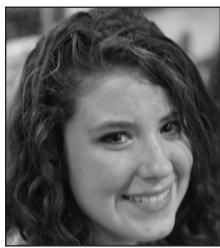
QUESTION OF THE DAY: WHAT IS SOMETHING THAT REALLY ANNOYS YOU?



Elizabeth Owers

sophomore Walsh

"People who don't know the difference between it's and its."



Maggie Walsh

sophomore Walsh

"People who hate on wanksters."



Mary Clare Rigali

sophomore Farley

"People who haven't registered for the Holy Half."



Nicholas Schilling

sophomore Keough

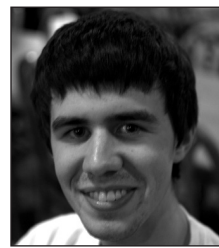
"SAO."



Patrick Riordon

sophomore O'Neill

"When peoples' responses to the question of the day suck."



Steven Feczko

sophomore O'Neill

"Couples who sit on the same side of the table."

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



LAUREN FRITZ / The Observer

Junior tennis player Blas Moros prepares to return an opponent's serve during his match against Maryland on March 4. The No. 26 Irish went on to defeat Maryland in a 5-2 thriller.

OFFBEAT

Pig found running around in hotel lobby

HONOLULU — Guests at a hotel near Honolulu's airport found a suckling pig in the lobby, but it wasn't on the menu of the luau.

The Hawaiian Humane Society was called to the hotel last week, when an injured 5-week-old female pig was found running around the lobby. It was unclear how the piglet ended up there.

Humane society spokeswoman Tasha Tanimoto says the pig has been named Pukalani and will be available for adoption once she's a little older. Tanimoto says the piglet is being bottle-fed by a volunteer.

Humane society officials

aren't sure of the pig's breed, but a veterinarian suspects she will grow to be quite large.

Pukalani has been getting attention on the humane society's Facebook page, where a duck is also advertised for adoption.

Officer probed for moving mattresses with patrol car

MIAMI — A veteran Miami police officer caught using her patrol car to haul mattresses has been relieved of duty with pay while the department investigates.

Several Miami television stations aired viewers' video or photos of the marked patrol car with mattresses fastened to the top on Mon-

day.

Officer Sandra Lyles' vehicle, gun and badge have been taken. The 32-year veteran of the Miami-Dade Police Department is set to retire Monday, but a police spokeswoman said the investigation wouldn't affect her retirement.

Major Nancy Perez, the department spokeswoman, says Lyles violated department policy and embarrassed herself.

Personnel records show that Lyles has received merit increases since she was hired in 1980, but she's also been disciplined more than a dozen times.

Information compiled from the Associated Press.

IN BRIEF

Elton Skendaj will give a lecture titled, "Trade-offs between State Building and Democracy Building: The Influence of International Actors on Peacebuilding in Kosovo," at 12:30 p.m. today in Room C103 of the Hesburgh Center for International Studies.

The Black Student Association is sponsoring a March Madness Basketball Arcade at 5 p.m. today in the Sorin Room of the LaFortune Student Center. The top 16 scorers will earn the opportunity to play at the end of March for cash prizes.

There will be a screening of the film, "Margaret," at 7 p.m. tonight in the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center. Directed by Kenneth Lonergan, the film follows a Manhattan teenager as her life slowly unravels after she witnesses a bus accident.

Laura Mulvey will give a lecture titled, "Hitchcock's Blondes, Feminism and Psychoanalytic Film Theory," at 7 p.m. tonight in the Eck Visitors' Center Auditorium. In this lecture, Mulvey will bring together Freud and Hitchcock in order to discuss the importance of the iconic "Hitchcock blonde" for the development of feminist psychoanalytic film theory.

There will be a joint Keenan and Stanford Mass at 10 p.m. tonight in Keenan as part of the Howard Hall Chapel Crawl.

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



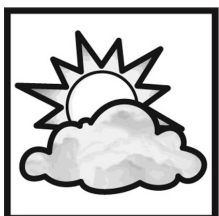
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LOW 40

TONIGHT



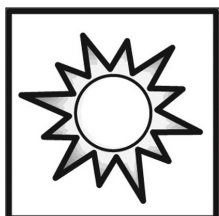
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FRIDAY



HIGH 38
LOW 27

SATURDAY



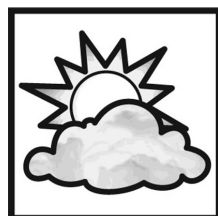
HIGH 52
LOW 38

SUNDAY



HIGH 49
LOW 44

MONDAY



HIGH 61
LOW 49

SENATE

Group appoints new officers



PAT COVENEY/The Observer

Student body president Pat McCormick, right, and sophomore class president Nicholas Schilling discuss campus issues at a Student Senate meeting Feb 2.

By MARISA IATI
News Writer

Student Senate approved six students for positions on Student Union Board (SUB) and one student for a position on Judicial Council at its meeting Wednesday.

The group also made the position of student body athletics representative official and discussed the proposed renovations to the first floor of the Hesburgh Library.

Freshman Andrea Romeros will serve as director of finance for SUB. Sophomore Sarah Lattal will be the director of operations. Sophomore Brittany Backstrand will be the art director.

Juniors Joe Caparros, Jamie Murray and Bradley Schroeder will be the co-directors of programming.

Junior Michael Thomas will

serve as president of Judicial Council. Appointed students will assume their positions on April 1.

Jessica Kayongo, associate librarian for Hesburgh Libraries, discussed plans to renovate the first floor study area.

“By graduation we hope to transform the space into something that will attract people to the library — students, faculty, donors,” she said.

Kayongo said the room will have a gray and green color scheme. She said it will feature writable surfaces, group seating and a video wall of 56-inch television monitors.

“Most of the time we’re probably going to have a non-distracting display on [the monitors], but we want the option for it to be interactive,” Kayongo said. “We could bring in people to do lectures, do visualization, what-

ever we think.”

The room will have a section of comfortable seating and another section of traditional, wooden tables for studying, Kayongo said. She said there will also be booth seating, bean bag chairs and a flat-panel television without sound that can stream news or sports.

“The whole concept of the whole room is that we’re experimenting with all the different things that the library could be,” she said.

Kayongo said the library staff plans to replace the current light bulbs in the first-floor study area with more efficient ones and will purchase energy-saving television screens. She also said the library plans to eventually be open 24 hours a day.

Contact Marisa Iati at miami@nd.edu

NDFS, student gov. to host Circus Lunch

By LEILA GREEN
News Writer

Today, Notre Dame Food Services and student government will bring back the “Circus Lunch,” a famed dining hall special event of the 1980s and 1990s.

During lunch in both North Dining Hall and South Dining Hall, students will find various circus-themed food and decorations.

The event was coordinated by the Circus Lunch Committee of student government’s Department of Constituent Services.

Sophomore Mary Tomasi, head of the Circus Lunch Committee, and sophomore Heather Eaton, director of Constituent Services, helped coordinate the event.

“We thought it would be a fun event for students, especially during midterms,” Eaton said. “I love cotton candy just as much as the next person.”

Constituent Services went forward with the idea to hold a circus lunch after an administrator from the Student Activities Office (SAO) helped convince them to bring back the traditional event.

Basic circus foods like hot dogs, cotton candy, cracker jacks and popcorn will be served in both dining halls. North Dining Hall will also have snow cones and elephant

ears.

The Circus Lunch was one of the most popular dining hall special events of the 1980s and 1990s, Eaton said, because back then the dining hall did not serve the large variety of food that it does today.

“Circus lunch was a way to give variety,” she said.

When the dining halls added more foods to the menu in subsequent years, the circus lunch was no longer necessary and occurred less often, she said.

The circus lunch will not interfere with the regular lunch menu and will last for the regular lunch period — 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The Circus Lunch Committee decorated both dining halls Wednesday night. Along with food, there will also be balloon animals, face paint and circus-themed temporary tattoos. Lollipops will be provided next to the mints at the exits.

Eaton said the Circus Lunch Committee met with dining hall managers and they agreed to assist with the event. If the feedback is positive, Eaton said student government hopes to hold more circus lunches in the future.

“We’ve put in the work to make sure that it could be a yearly event,” she said.

Contact Leila Green at lgreen2@nd.edu

SGA

Association continues to hold board elections

By KRISTEN RICE
News Writer

Saint Mary’s Student Government Association (SGA) will continue holding elections today.

The Saint Mary’s student body will be participating in elections for the Class Boards, Student Diversity Board (SDB), Student Activities Board (SAB) and Residence Hall Association (RHA).

Student Body president Nicole Gans said last week’s election was successful since student participation nearly doubled from previous elections.

“There was a big impact to students and faculty,” she said. “We should feel really proud of ourselves.”

One of SGA’s goals this year, student body vice president Jackie Zupancic said, has been to bring about more participation in elections. She said using emails and stationing booths around different parts of campus to promote elections was effective.

SGA faced a challenge this week, however, when the Saint Mary’s email system Zimbra went down. Since Zimbra is still not working at full capacity this week, SGA had to decide on an alternative way of holding student elections.

Typically, students are sent a link in their email accounts allowing them to vote online to make the calculation process significantly easier.

SGA had two alternative op-

tions to choose from — initiating a paper ballot vote for the election or postponing elections for two weeks.

Student Diversity Board president Kelly Reidenbach said she believed using paper ballots was the better choice.

“Do the paper ballots tomorrow, because there is a lot going on when we come back from break,” she said Wednesday. “Many people are going to be busy.”

Various members of SGA expressed their concerns and suggestions, but SGA ultimately decided it would be in the best interest of the candidates and the student body if a paper ballot was taken today.

SGA spent a majority of the meeting working out the logistics of the paper ballot, particularly how they would be able to keep track of students who have voted.

The voting booth will be located in the atrium of the Student Center. Elections will begin today at 9 a.m. and close at 8 p.m.

There will be paper ballots for each class and each ballot will also contain the name of candidates running for SAB, SDB and RHA.

“If anyone votes for more than one class president, their vote will be nullified,” Gans said. “We have to have the same enthusiasm we had for last week’s election.”

Contact Kristen Rice at krice01@saintmarys.edu

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Preparing people to lead extraordinary lives

DormDrinks to start delivering to SMC

By CAILIN CROWE
News Writer

DormDrinks, a company founded and staffed by Notre Dame students, has officially expanded their services to Saint Mary's College.

DormDrinks sells food and beverages and delivers to students on campus, according to its website.

Co-owner and senior Chase Kelly said DormDrinks has been a popular choice for Notre Dame students for the past five years because of its convenience and low prices.

Co-owner and senior Norbert McMahon said DormDrinks helps students who do not have cars by delivering products straight to their doors.

"One of the primary reasons that DormDrinks was founded is because a lot of students don't have of cars and can't pick up food or drinks at their own convenience," he said.

Unlike on-campus convenience stores, DormDrinks provides items in bulk at discounted prices, McMahon said.

"Although you can buy food and drinks from Notre Dame's Huddle or Saint Mary's Cyber Café, the prices there are dramatically inflated and expensive," he said. "We make things convenient and keep you from spending a lot of money."

DormDrink's primary distributor is Sam's Club, Kelly said.

"We have a good relationship with them because we've been working them from the start five years ago," he said.

Not only does DormDrinks help quench students' thirst and hunger, it also gives students job opportunities.

DormDrinks services should be well-received by Saint Mary's students because about 70 percent of their current customers are female, McMahon said.

McMahon said students can set up a personal account with DormDrinks.

"Either your parents can make an order directly for you or they can put money on your dorm

drink account and use those dollars to buy whatever you chose," he said.

As a special promotion, DormDrinks is offering Saint Mary's students a 25 percent discount off all Nestle Pure Life Water, Kelly said.

DormDrinks has also added new items to their list of provided items including workout supplements, cups, pitchers, batteries, cleaning and laundry supplies, McMahon said.

"This semester we have expanded our services to try and include everything you might need in the dorms," he said.

Contact Cailin Crowe at
ccrowe01@saintmarys.edu

"We make things convenient and keep you from spending a lot of money."

Chase Kelly
co-owner
DormDrinks

Spring

continued from page 1

are also going to see a Goya exhibit. Being an Art History major, [that] makes me really excited."

Although many students are headed to warmer destinations to escape the dreary Indiana weather, some have less typical plans.

Junior Caitlyn Paulsen is staying in the United States to spend time with her boyfriend, who lives in Ireland, but will visit over break.

"My boyfriend that I met in Ireland is from Spain [and he] is coming to visit me and we are going to do some traveling," Paulsen said.

The couple will visit Chicago, Boston and Newport, R.I., where Paulsen has family.

"I haven't seen [him] in five months," she said. "He's going to meet my family for the first time."

While Paulsen's boyfriend is arriving from Europe, juniors Erin Coen and Katie Schultheis are headed there.

"We studied abroad [in Ireland] spring semester of our sophomore year and are going back to visit friends," Coen said.

Coen and Schultheis said they loved Europe so much that they are headed back there for a full week. The two Saint Mary's juniors said they

plan to visit Dublin and Maynooth, places where they studied.

"[We have] no plans but to hang out with [Irish] friends," Schultheis said.

"I wouldn't mind being stuck in Ireland. I wouldn't be too torn up about it."

Schultheis said she is most looking forward to "just being back and seeing everyone again."

Many other students this break will choose to go home for the week. Sophomore Colette Curtis will return to her home in Marshall, Mich.

"I'm really looking forward to seeing my dog and my family," Curtis said, "I miss my family."

ing my dog and my family," Curtis said, "I miss my family."

Contact Sarah Swiderski at
sswide01@saintmarys.edu

"[We have] no plans but to hang out with [Irish] friends. I wouldn't mind being stuck in Ireland. I wouldn't be too torn up about it."

Katie Schultheis
junior

"I'm really looking forward to seeing my dog and my family."

Colette Curtis
sophomore

Students to travel to South Africa

By ANNA BOARINI
News Writer

One group of graphic design students will spend spring break helping South African refugees understand their rights through the "together +" anti-xenophobia campaign.

Seven Notre Dame graphic and industrial design students will travel to South Africa over break. The educational and promotional campaign is supported by Notre Dame's Center for Social Concerns, the Kellogg Institute for International Studies and CUSE.

Junior Lynn Yeom said what started out as a project in her graphic design class took on much greater meaning — becoming a project to combat discrimination and violence against refugees.

"We are trying to solve [a problem] in a graphic design way ... an educational way," she said.

Yeom said there is great tension between the black South African community and refugees coming from other countries in Africa.

"[Black] South Africans are blaming refugees, saying they are taking all the jobs and that [black South Africans] are not living better because of the refugees," she said.

To try and help ease this tension, students will use design as a means of promoting diversity, creating a variety of materials from informational booklets for refugees to a children's book, Yeom said.

Senior Cassandra Randazzo's group is working on educating the refugees about healthcare.

"Many refugees are not fully aware that the country guarantees them the same rights as native South Africans to fair and



BRANDON KEELEAN/The Observer

Senior Alison Tourville, left, and student body president Pat McCormick silkscreen shirts to bring to South Africa.

equal care," she said. "We've designed materials that explicitly state what they are entitled to and have translated it into a variety of languages to ensure that the message reaches its audience."

Design professor Robert Sedlack and alumna Andrea Pellegrino visited Johannesburg, South Africa in October and began a relationship with the Kgosi Neighborhood Foundation, (KNF) which seeks to bring educational light into the lives of vulnerable children.

The pair traveled to South Africa to conduct preliminary research and identify challenges faced by refugees that could be addressed by Notre Dame graphic and industrial design students.

The group of graphic design students will be working on four different projects with the KNF.

Yeom's group is working on creating a booklet for refugees.

"Newcomers [to South Africa] can get it," Yeom said. "The booklet talks about shelters, places to go for help and how to get identification and housing documents."

Other groups are creating a children's book to help the younger generation learn that refugees are not much different than they are, Yeom said.

Each of the student groups will visit specific areas in South Africa to help them better understand the audiences they are trying to reach with their designs.

"We are traveling to Johannesburg and ... around the Pretoria region so we can identify the way the refugees go about getting identification documents," Yeom said.

Randazzo said she and her group will visit hospitals, such as the Baragwanath Hospital in the Soweto area of Johannesburg, to learn more about how refugees deal with healthcare.

While the students are working on separate projects in their respective groups, toward the end of the week they will all come together to paint a mural.

"We will bring the community together and paint a mural that indicates harmony and togetherness," Yeom said.

Contact Anna Boarini at
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summer nu

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Break

continued from page 1

friends and more fun," Stare said. Other students, such as sophomore Marissa Bulso, will travel across the pond to Europe. Bulso is taking a trip with her college seminar class to Chartres, France, where the group will study and create a presentation on the Chartres Cathedral.

"Chartres Cathedral is one of my favorite examples of Gothic architecture," Bulso said. "Having the chance to study it and then see it in person is an amazing opportunity ¾ exactly the kind of opportunity you associate with studying at this University."

Sophomore Katie Carter will escape South Bend for a week of Florida sunshine. Carter said she is road-tripping with her roommates to Santa Rosa Beach.

She said the vacation will be worth the long commute.

"Even though the drive is sure to be extremely long, I'm really excited for a week of warm relaxation, especially after this busy week of midterms," she said.

Sophomore Benjamin Redgrave has more unconventional plans for his spring vacation.

He will first road trip to New York and Maryland with six of his close friends, and then will spend the rest of break on a college seminar class field trip to Twin Oaks, a utopian community in Virginia.

"While the long drive with friends is sure to be fun, I'm really looking forward to sight-seeing in New York and visiting an actual utopian community," Redgrave said.

Other students, such as sophomore Ronnie Seman, will return home over break, using the time to reunite with friends and family.

Seman said he is especially excited to celebrate Saint Patrick's Day with his friends at the University of Pittsburgh.

"I'm really looking forward to bringing the 'Irish spirit' to UPitt," Seman said.

Others plan to remain at Notre Dame over spring break. Junior Alex Bowman, who is remaining on campus, said he is optimistic about a week of warm weather.

"The weather promises to be a balmy 45 most of the week, so maybe if I turn the radiator up high enough it'll feel like I'm in Florida," he said.

Although excited to take time off, students leaving campus said they will miss aspects of their life at Notre Dame, even in just the brief week away.

"I will, of course, miss my several close friends that I have made while here at Notre Dame," Bulso said. "I will also miss seeing the Golden Dome. I feel like Mary greets me everyday on the way to class, reminding me to keep everything in perspective."

Contact Dan Brombach at dbrombac@nd.edu

Super

continued from page 1

a pretty good night for him," Colwell said. "He ended up being a big winner, getting more delegates from a big state. A few thousand votes changed things."

Though Romney's victory in Ohio earned him a significant number of delegates to cushion his current lead, the win "didn't clinch anything" due to Santorum's primary wins in Oklahoma and Tennessee, Colwell said.

Santorum gained additional momentum in leading the North Dakota caucuses with 40 percent of the vote, but Colwell said he faces a challenge in catching up to Romney.

"[Santorum] picked up some delegates in North Dakota, but one of the problems for him now is that delegates are at stake in all these races," Colwell said. "As of this afternoon, he had 169 delegates to Romney's 429, but you need 1,144 delegates to win, so it's not over yet."

Of the seven Super Tuesday primaries, Romney won in his home state of Massachusetts, Vermont, Ohio and Virginia, according to CNN.com results. Santorum took Oklahoma and

Tennessee, and former Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich captured his home state of Georgia.

Colwell said Santorum supporters might interpret Gingrich's Georgia victory as a lost opportunity.

"Santorum's people are trying to pressure Gingrich to drop out of the race because they think Santorum might have won if Gingrich had not run in Georgia," he said. "Romney is not popular in the South, and with Mississippi and Alabama [primaries] coming up, Gingrich could win one of those, taking away delegates Santorum would probably have gotten without Gingrich."

Despite Gingrich's win in Georgia, Colwell said his 118 delegates are not enough to consider him a legitimate candidate.

"Gingrich basically has no chance now ... He hasn't had the organization of other candidates," Colwell said. "He has a big ego, so he might want to stay in and not drop out because of that."

The fourth candidate in the Republican presidential race, Texas congressman Ron Paul, is likely continuing his campaign to make a statement about his platform, Colwell said.

"He has yet to win any primary and has very few delegates, so nobody thinks he has a chance for the nomination," he said. "I think he will stay in the race because he wants to have a platform and express his ideas."

Although the May 8 Indiana presidential primary is nearly two months away, Colwell said its results could have an impact on the race for the Republican nomination.

"[The primary] usually means nothing because it's so late," he said. "But four years ago, [Hillary] Clinton and [President Barack] Obama had a real battle in Indiana, so with Santorum on the ballot, he and Romney could still be going at it in a battle for the second time in a row."

"Romney's win turned the whole thing around."

Jack Colwell professor

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Faculty

continued from page 1

for their support of this effort to create a group for both gay and straight students to come together for mutual support and service to the broader community," he said.

McCormick said members of student government anticipate working with Faculty Senate and others in the Notre Dame community to further the progress achieved this semester.

"We look forward to partnering in whatever way we can with faculty and members of the administration and of course student advocates to continue to explore ways we might be able to further expand inclusion in the Notre Dame community," he said.

University spokesman Dennis

Brown declined comment on the resolutions until the parties involved present such material to Notre Dame

"We are aware of the Faculty and Student Senate resolutions, but we'll refrain from any specific observations until we've had a chance to thoroughly review material forwarded to us by a group of concerned students," he said.

Brown said Notre Dame continues to promote acceptance of LGBTQ students on campus.

"We want to make it clear that, as articulated in the Spirit of Inclusion, we welcome and value all members of our community, we condemn discriminatory harassment of any kind, and our policy explicitly precludes harassment based on sexual orientation," he said.

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Grab 'n Go

continued from page 1

and South Dining Hall Grab 'n Go's," Thomas said.

South's Grab 'n Go will offer Pop Tarts, pita chips and hummus, Goldfish crackers and animal crackers, all of which were previously exclusive to North.

North Dining Hall's Grab 'n Go will have granola bars, cereal bars and apple slices, which were only in the South location before, she said.

Mark Poklinkowski, general manager of South Dining Hall, said its Grab 'n Go began adding Pop Tarts, Goldfish and pita and hummus this week with much demand from students.

"The hummus and chips ... have been going like crazy," he said. "We tried to warn our supplier on the Pop-Tarts that we were going to be needing a lot, and it looks like they're already going to run us out by the end of this week."

In addition to these changes, Thomas said gluten-free options will be available to students who need them.

"There will be Chewy bars and crispy rice, and those will be two Grab 'n Go points," Thomas said. "They have to be specially requested, and you have to have the marker on your ID that says you need a gluten-free diet."

Thomas said the Constituent Services Committee chose to focus on Grab 'n Go reform because of student feedback on Whine Wednesday surveys.

"We asked students, 'Would you like Grab 'n Go reform to go through?' and 66 percent of the student body who responded stated that Grab 'n Go needed to be changed," she said.

But Thomas said some of the changes students suggested were not feasible.

"Some of the changes that we wanted to bring initially included having a hot meal served, but the idea of our university is that communal meals

are preferred because they encourage community-building," Thomas said. "All those ideas were changed to fit the ideals of the University."

Students also requested a salad bar with more vegetarian options, but Thomas said the Grab 'n Go facilities could not accommodate that.

Once the Constituent Services Committee drafted a proposal for changes to Grab 'n Go, Thomas said Food Services was open to the ideas presented.

"Within about two weeks [after submitting the proposal to Food Services] they told us everything will be changed over spring break," she said. "They were very receptive to our ideas."

Poklinkowski said Food Services easily agreed to the changes because students had requested them in the past.

"It really made sense with what we've heard," he said.

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Parties vie for female voters

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Is the 2012 election shaping up to be all about women?

President Barack Obama is working hard to woo this pivotal constituency in his re-election race. His Democratic allies are even accusing the GOP of launching a “war against women” after the Republicans reignited a new national debate over cultural issues, including birth control.

But now the Republicans — including Ann Romney and Alaska Sen. Lisa Murkowski — are striking back with a promise: Their party will win women by focusing on the real No. 1 issue, the economy.

Not that Obama is ready to give up that issue.

“I believe that the Democrats have a better story to tell to women about how we’re going to solidify the middle class and grow this economy, make sure everybody has a fair shot, everybody’s doing their fair share, and we got a fair set of rules of the road that everybody has to follow,” Obama said Tuesday as Republican presidential contenders competed in Super Tuesday primaries.

Hours later, Romney — the wife of GOP front-runner Mitt Romney — answered him.

“Do you know what women care about? Women care about jobs,” she declared on national television, as her husband waited nearby to speak. “They’re angry, and they’re furious about the entitlement debt that we’re leaving for our children.”

“I’m right along with Ann Romney,” Murkowski said on Wednesday. The Alaska Republican has been critical of her party’s focus on birth control policy when people remain worried about economic stability. In a telephone interview, Murkowski added: “There is clearly a direction that we can take as Republicans that gives confidence and assurance that we are focused on the issues that matter to women.”



Ann Romney, wife of Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney, addresses a crowd in Atlanta on March 1.

Eight months before Election Day, women have become arguably the most sought-after voting group in an election year where the presidency and control of Congress are at stake. Females comprise a majority of voters in a typical presidential election year.

Women are a crucial voting group for Obama, particularly in the suburbs of big cities like Denver and Detroit. He would not be president today had he not beaten Republican John McCain by 13 points among women four years ago. The importance of winning the women’s vote may be magnified this year given that the fragile economy may weigh down the support of other groups that supported Obama strongly in 2008, such as Latinos and college-age voters.

Recent polling suggests Obama is gaining among women. An Associated Press-GfK poll conducted last month showed his approval rating had risen 10 percentage points among women since December. The poll also showed that women ap-

prove more strongly of the way the president is handling the economy.

For Republicans, conservative women represent a loyal sector of the party’s base, and female independents offer an opportunity to eat into Obama’s support. Independent women broke for Obama by a 10-point margin four years ago, according to exit polling, while among independent men he managed just a 5-point edge.

Both parties have viewed the furor over Obama’s policy on access to contraception as an opportunity to curry favor with women. Republicans protested Obama’s mandate that birth control be covered by insurance, even for employers whose faiths forbid contraception. The policy, Republicans insisted, was a violation of the Constitution’s guarantee of religious freedom, and they forced a vote on it in the Senate. The GOP measure to overturn Obama’s policy lost, 51-48, with one Republican, Sen. Olympia Snowe, helping Democrats kill it.

Study finds employers need to increase hiring

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — U.S. companies will have to keep hiring steadily to meet their customers’ rising demand.

That’s the message that emerged from a report Wednesday that employers are finding it harder to squeeze more output from their existing staff. It also helps explain why ADP, a payroll provider, estimated Wednesday that companies added 216,000 workers last month.

Those findings reinforced confidence that 2012 will mark a turning point for the long-suffering job market and the economy. Applications for unemployment benefits have tumbled. Consumer confidence is at its highest point in a year. And the stock market has been on a tear since the year began.

Feeding on themselves, those trends tend to fuel further economic growth.

The brighter signs come two days before the government will issue the February employment report. It’s expected to show a third straight month of strong hiring.

Business executives are sensing the shift. A survey released Wednesday by Duke University’s Fuqua School of Business found that confidence among U.S. chief financial officers has risen to its highest point in a year. As a result, the survey found that companies expect to increase hiring for full-time jobs by 2.1 percent over the next year, up from 1.5 percent in a survey in December.

“This rebound is encouraging because increases in chief financial officer optimism have historically preceded improvements in the overall economy,” said John Graham, a finance professor who directed the survey.

The survey was released the same day that the government reported a paltry gain in worker productivity at the end of last year. The 0.9 percent annualized increase was half the growth rate from the July-September quarter. Similarly, for the year, U.S. worker productivity grew at its slowest pace in nearly a quarter of century.

Productivity measures output per hour of work. Slower productivity can squeeze corporate profits. But it can lead to more jobs if it shows that companies can’t derive more production from their workers. That often means they must hire to meet customer demand.

After the recession, productivity soared. After laying off staffers, companies managed to make their leaner staffs more efficient. Such productivity growth tends to slow eventually.

“The typical bounce in productivity that we usually see coming out of a recession has run its course,” said Troy Davig, an economist at Barclays Capital. “Firms will likely need to rely increasingly on adding to payrolls to increase their output, rather than squeeze existing resources.”

Overworking employees can also dull creativity and lead to less innovation, said Mike FitzGibbon, co-founder of 3Cinteractive, which builds applications for smartphones.

The company has 12 open positions and plans to add up to 60 jobs this year, on top of its work force of 120, FitzGibbon said. It is analyzing the needs of specific departments to avoid overloading any single employees and determine where hiring is most needed.

“The last thing we want to do is have a software developer completely burned out,” he said.

Taco Bell introduces Doritos taco at 800 restaurants

Associated Press

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — Taco Bell hopes to turn orange Doritos cheese powder into green — as in cash from its latest invention.

The Mexican-style chain plans to roll out Doritos Locos Tacos at midnight on Wednesday at its nearly 5,600 restaurants nationwide. The fast-food chain, a unit of Yum Brands Inc., calls the tacos that use shells made out of Nacho Cheese Doritos the biggest product launch in its 50-year history. It plans to introduce a Doritos Cool Ranch taco shell this fall.

Taco Bell said it plans to spend up to \$75 million to advertise the new tacos — about three times more than it typically spends to promote new menu rollouts.

The new tacos come as Taco Bell attempts to rebound from the bad publicity generated by a lawsuit a year ago that alleged the meat filling served at its restaurants didn’t have enough beef to be called that. Taco Bell denounced the claim as false and spent millions to

defend its filling and shore up its image. The suit was dropped about three months after it was filed by an Alabama-based law firm, but the chain’s sales have struggled.

The Doritos tacos are the latest in a string of things Taco Bell has been doing to improve its menu — and boost its image. The chain is testing a Cantina Bell line of more upscale foods created by celebrity chef Lorena Garcia. Taco Bell also recently rolled out a breakfast menu in about 800 restaurants, with plans to roll out its breakfast burritos and hash browns nationwide by 2014.

The latest rollout comes after Taco Bell tested the tacos a year in Bakersfield and Fresno in California and Toledo, Ohio. Taco Bell said one out of every three purchases at those stores included Doritos Locos Tacos — about twice the typical number of purchases of a test product.

“It’s kind of like the brand has its mojo back,” said Brian Niccol, Taco Bell’s chief marketing and innovation officer who declined to give details on the company’s deal with

PepsiCo Inc.’s Frito-Lay snack unit, which makes Doritos. “We’re doing what we really do best, which is first innovation.”

Taco Bell, which is based in California, certainly could use a boost. Sales at stores open at least a year — an indicator of a restaurant chain’s health — were down 2 percent for the year and 2 percent for the fourth quarter. Taco Bell accounts for about 60 percent of U.S. profit for Louisville-based Yum Brands, which also has struggled with slumping sales in the U.S., but posted a 1 percent gain in revenue from existing restaurants in the final three months of 2011.

Mark Kalinowski, an analyst at Janney Capital Markets, predicts a turnaround for Taco Bell in a recent note to investors. “We believe that the new product pipeline combined with time that has passed since the lawsuit should set Taco Bell up for a very strong year,” he wrote.

He also was upbeat Wednesday about prospects for the new taco, predicting it



Taco Bell debuted the Doritos taco this week. The company spent \$75 million on advertising for the new product.

will be “a rather big hit.”

But Laura Ries, president of Ries & Ries, a marketing strategy firm based in Atlanta, said while a splashy product rollout can help consumers forget about a publicity setback, Taco Bell has a bigger problem of how to

improve its product so that it stacks up against competitors like Chipotle Mexican Grill.

“Certainly people love Doritos, but putting them onto a shell doesn’t necessarily make it a more authentic Mexican restaurant,” Ries said.

U.S. dominates world cheese championships

Associated Press

MADISON, Wis. — Watching 40 judges in white lab coats nibble on cheese and then spit the samples into garbage cans might not sound like the most elegant evening. But hundreds of cheese lovers have paid \$25 each for a close-up view of Wednesday's World Championship Cheese Contest finals.

This is the first year the international contest has charged admission to its finals, which historically have been low-key affairs, drawing just a handful of spectators and reporters. As a growing number of foodies try to outdo one another in their pursuit of local, sustainable, organic and handcrafted fare, the artisan cheese competition has become a hot ticket for those looking to get their gouda on.

The sold-out contest, held every two years in Madison, typically draws more than 2,000 entries from nearly two-dozen nations. Usually, only the judges taste the cheese, but this year's 400 ticketholders will be able to sample 15 of the top entries while they mingle with Wisconsin cheesemakers and the international panel of judges.

"In the past, unless you were a super cheese geek, this is not something you went to," said Jeanne Carpenter, executive director of Wisconsin Cheese Originals, an organization of

artisan cheese fans. "But getting to try 15 different cheeses from 15 different countries, plus meeting the best of Wisconsin's cheesemakers, people love that."

Experts compare specialty cheeses to wines: Both have subtle variations based on their region of origin, year of creation and the techniques employed by master craftsmen.

Judging in cheese and wine contests is similar as well. Judges roll entries in their mouths, search for nuanced characteristics and then discard the samples. Some cheese judges wipe their tongues with napkins between tastings.

One of the paid spectators was Steve Ceder, a painting contractor from Madison.

"This is Wisconsin," he said, as he nibbled on a few samples. "I enjoy cheese a lot, and to have a chance to try so many different cheeses is just such a wonderful experience."

The three-day contest began Monday, with judges grading 2,500 entries in 82 cheese and butter classes on flavor, texture, body and color. The winner in each class advanced to the semifinals, where the top 16 were chosen for Wednesday night's finals.

As expected, cheesemakers from the U.S. and Switzerland came out strong. Seven finalists are from the U.S.

Apple unveils new iPad model

Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — Apple gave the new iPad a bunch of new features but no new name.

When it goes on sale next week in the U.S. and several other countries, it will be "the iPad" or perhaps "the new iPad" — not "iPad 3" or "iPad HD," as some had speculated.

The new iPad unveiled Wednesday comes with improvements that may not be readily apparent to the casual observer. It has, as expected, a sharper screen, driven by a faster processing chip that acts as the "brains" of the device. What was more surprising was that the new features mean the tablet computer will be slightly thicker and heavier than the iPad 2, because it needs a larger battery to power the high-resolution screen.

Prices aren't changing from the previous models. They will start at \$499. Versions capable of accessing cellular networks will cost \$629 to \$829.

Apple is keeping the basic model of the iPad 2 in production and dropping the price to \$399. That could help Apple regain some market share from cheaper tablets like Amazon.com Inc.'s \$199 Kindle Fire. Samsung Electronics and other makers of full-size tablets have cut their prices to below \$500.

The battery life of the new model remains the same: about 10 hours of use. Apple says the battery capacity is 70 percent higher than for the old model, which suggests that it could have kept the old screen and extended the battery life to 17 hours instead of upgrading the screen resolution.

Apple said the new display will be sharper than the average high-definition television set. In a hands-on demonstration for an Associated Press



Apple CEO Tim Cook talks about the features of the newest iPad model in San Francisco on Wednesday.

reporter, text shown on the screen was noticeably crisper. The higher resolution won't make a difference, however, for most Web images, which are of low resolution. The new screen should be able to show all the detail in high-definition movies, which the iPad 2 does not.

The new screen can also show deeper and more vibrant colors than previous models, Apple said.

"We are taking it to a whole new level and are redefining the category that Apple created with the original iPad," said Apple Inc. CEO Tim Cook at the launch event in San Francisco.

Cook spoke of a "post-PC" era dominated by the iPad and other Apple products.

The new iPad will go on sale March 16 in the U.S., Canada and 10 other countries. A week later, it will go on sale in 25 more countries.

The lack of a new name could cause confusion for buyers, par-

ticularly since the older model, the "iPad 2," will still be sold. But the naming practice is consistent with Apple's practices for the iPod. New models have been simply called "iPod." Consumers are left to figure out which generation of the product they are looking for.

Compared with the iPad 2, the new model features a higher-resolution camera on the back, similar to the one in the iPhone 4S.

The new iPad will be 9.4 millimeters thick, or 0.37 inches. That compares with 8.8 millimeters, or 0.34 inches, for the iPad 2. The weight is going up from 1.33 pounds to 1.44 pounds for the Wi-Fi-only model. The original iPad weighed 1.5 pounds.

Apple also confirmed that the new model will come in a version that can use Verizon Wireless' and AT&T Inc.'s "LTE" wireless broadband networks. They offer speeds that are faster than the "3G" networks used by previous iPads, and current iPhones.

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Solar storm heads toward Earth

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Earth's magnetic field is about to be shaken like a snow globe by the largest solar storm in five years.

After hurtling through space for a day and a half, a massive cloud of charged particles is due to arrive early Thursday and could disrupt utility grids, airline flights, satellite networks and GPS services, especially in northern areas. But the same blast could also paint colorful auroras farther from the poles than normal.

Scientists say the storm, which started with a massive solar flare earlier in the week, is growing as it races outward from the sun, expanding like a giant soap bubble. When it strikes early Thursday, the particles will be moving at 4 million mph.

"It's hitting us right in the nose," said Joe Kunches, a scientist for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration in Boulder, Colo.

Astronomers say the sun has been relatively quiet for some time. And this storm, while strong, may seem fiercer because Earth has been lulled by several years of weak solar activity.

The storm is part of the sun's normal 11-year cycle,

which is supposed to reach peak storminess next year. Solar storms don't harm people, but they do disrupt technology. And during the last peak around 2002, experts learned that GPS was vulnerable to solar outbursts.

Because new technology has flourished since then, scientists could discover that some new systems are also at risk, said Jeffrey Hughes, director of the Center for Integrated Space Weather Modeling at Boston University.

A decade ago, this type of solar storm happened a couple of times a year, Hughes said.

"This is a good-size event, but not the extreme type," said Bill Murtagh, program coordinator for the federal government's Space Weather Prediction Center.

The sun erupted Tuesday evening, and the most noticeable effects should arrive here between 1 a.m. and 5 a.m. EST Thursday, according to forecasters at the space weather center. The effects could linger through Friday morning.

The region of the sun that erupted can still send more blasts our way, Kunches said. He said another set of active sunspots is ready to aim at Earth right after this.

"This is a big sun spot group, particularly nasty," NASA so-

lar physicist David Hathaway said. "Things are really twisted up and mixed up. It keeps flaring."

Storms like this start with sun spots, Hathaway said.

Then comes an initial solar flare of subatomic particles that resemble a filament coming out of the sun. That part already hit Earth only minutes after the initial burst, bringing radio and radiation disturbances.

After that comes the coronal mass ejection, which looks like a growing bubble and takes a couple days to reach Earth. It's that ejection that could cause magnetic disruptions Thursday.

"It could give us a bit of a jolt," NASA solar physicist Alex Young said.

The storm follows an earlier, weaker solar eruption that happened Sunday, Kunches said.

For North America, the good part of a solar storm — the one that creates more noticeable auroras or Northern Lights — will peak Thursday evening. Auroras could dip as far south as the Great Lakes states or lower, Kunches said, but a full moon will make them harder to see.

Auroras are "probably the treat we get when the sun erupts," Kunches said.

INSIDE COLUMN

No-sleep ninjas

To the night owls out there: Hello from one of your own. I'm writing at our prime time: Those wee hours of the morning after parietals and the closure of the library, when we congregate in those few campus locations still open, when it's a struggle to decide whether or not it's tomorrow yet.

Nicole Michels
News Writer

During exam week, when everyone else moans and groans about all the work they have to do and how late they stay up to finish it, we smile snidely. We laugh at the uninitiated, the twice-a-semester library-goers who appear out of the woodwork exactly like those Catholics who go to Mass only on Christmas and Easter. We're used to it — late nights merging into mornings are nothing new for us.

But still, we do need to sleep occasionally. Last week, however, I completed one of college's rites of passage: My first all-nighter. Even for the night owls, this is no mean feat, but I persevered. Facilitated by a continuous stream of Diet Coke and two 20-minute naps, I finished writing an essay that had slipped through the cracks earlier that week.

Pulling the information that I needed from the readings was a time-consuming process, as was editing the paper to fit the repressively small page limit.

Accompanying me on my journey was a sampling of the usual assortment of late-night study crowd. Procrastinators, no-sleep ninjas, students sleeping in uncomfortable positions, students working at their jobs and other students in various stages of panic about their work.

This Mecca of late night activity is within our very own LaFortune Student Center, specifically the building's East Lounge. The perfect place for a late night of studying because of the close proximity to caffeine and sugar, the East Lounge manages to be close to yet removed from the building's general ruckus.

As the night progressed, the room emptied out slightly. The regular crowd went home to crawl into bed, but while exhausted, a few of us soldiered on. Of my companions, I was most confused by the uncomfortable sleepers. If you're going to sleep, why not go to your own bed? There were three of them over the course of the night who curled up in equally weird positions to catch some shut-eye. One of them slept for four hours stretched in between two chairs. He woke up eventually, only to sit down and work for about 20 minutes before leaving. You, sir, probably should have gone home long before that.

Eventually, I finished my essay. Overjoyed, I printed it out and was shocked to see the same 10 students who had been in the computer lab 12 hours earlier. While I was yawning like crazy, these no-sleep ninjas appeared not to need sleep. They barely looked up as I passed, hammering away on their keyboards like they had just gotten a full ten hours of rest.

Later that day, I passed one of the people who had been working in the East Lounge with me the night before. Eyes bleary, we awkwardly smiled at each other while we trudged to class, an unspoken acknowledgment of the solidarity between those who needed to work late.

Now that it's midterms week, other people pop up in our sanctuaries, frantically finishing assignments next to the late night veterans. Newbies, good luck. Maybe if you ask nicely we'll share our secret study spots with you.

Contact Nicole Michels at nmichels@nd.edu

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

A new foreign policy

President Obama has not followed any formula or precedent ever established before by a U.S. president to wage war, which is causing America to lose strategic advantage and U.S. soldiers to fight an enemy with no goals for victory.

Mark Easley

Elephant in the Room

First off let's explain what is America's role in the world. The United States is the most powerful nation and empire human history has ever known. Power, in this case, refers to military might. While the role of a modern republic no longer involves physically taking territories and absorbing them into our own, it still involves military intervention in other nations to protect our allies and economic interests and to establish free governments that reflect our own democratic principles and promote free market capitalism. This is a natural evolution of human governance that is proven to work and gives most people a fair stake in a better future. We owe it to our fellow man to spread freedom and liberate as much of the world from oppression as we can.

There is a large camp of Americans who foolishly think our unique form of government can somehow propagate itself naturally throughout the world without applying effort. Unfortunately, freedom is not free, but won, and without the help of a powerful foreign nation, liberation against tyranny is mathematically impossible. Our own revolution was a prime example of that.

An even more foolish camp of Americans, we will call them liberals, believe that the world doesn't even need to be free and we should let others continue

to live under unfair systems that marginalize and oppress citizens and keep people poor and ignorant.

U.S. foreign policy has never been built on spreading the greater good. It is built to protect the welfare of our citizenry. Although we have the resources to change the world, the will has never been there. Whether it's indifference by the American public or the fear of our image in the world, it is hard to summon the momentum to do the right thing.

Our nation's policy has always been responsive as opposed to aggressive. We have required a trigger to change the world. 9/11 allowed us to make monumental changes in the Middle East. Pearl Harbor triggered the effort to wipe out totalitarianism. The invasion of allies gave us an excuse in the past to go in and clean up the worst parts of the world. This is the wrong way to approach it. We should be proactive in rooting out the enemies of freedom.

President Obama has had plenty of excuses to make positive changes in the world through military intervention during his presidency. The Arab Spring was a great opportunity for America to take out terrible dictators that killed their own citizens to retain power.

Obama has proved one thing during his term: The president can bomb anyone he likes and no one is going to say anything. So why doesn't he? Although Obama was right to intervene in Libya, he was quite late and did not put boots on the ground to secure democratic values. Egypt would have turned out much better had Obama stationed U.S. and international military advisers in the country.

Obama failed again by not remov-

ing Syria's Assad regime from power in a similar fashion. Same goes for the paper tiger of Iran, and hostile governments in Asia, Africa and Latin America. The fact is we can wipe the floor with these puny regimes and free millions of people from fear. Instead, we commit resources to prolonged wars that have no achievable mission and put our soldiers in harm's way.

Our new foreign policy should be to strike often and leave quickly. Nation building is proven for long term stability, but it is an expensive enterprise, especially in areas with sparse economic prospects. It would be better to do more with less, and properly engage our military without getting bogged down in unfriendly regions.

As in the days of the Roman Empire, there is no such thing as peace, there is only security for the homeland and our allies as we constantly engage the Barbarians that surround us. America is at perpetual war with terrorists, hostile regimes and radical militias, yet these black ops never make it to the front page of major news sources.

It is time to recognize that the days of peace are over for us and step up to the plate as the champions of what is right in this world. America isn't perfect, but we certainly are on a track that might get there someday, and we should help the world get on it, too.

One day the world will see the end of authoritarianism, but only if we fight it now.

Mark Easley is a senior computer science major. He can be contacted at measley@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

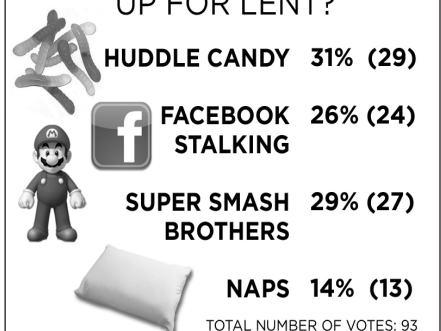
"Men occasionally stumble over the truth, but most of them pick themselves up and hurry off as if nothing ever happened."

Sir Winston Churchill
British politician

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the Editor

Email obsviewpoint@gmail.com

WHAT ARE YOU GIVING UP FOR LENT?



A lesson on education reform

There may be no public policy issue more important or pressing than American education. Saying that our education system is “mediocre” may be too generous. Amongst 30 developed countries, American students rank 25th in math and 21st in science. Roughly 1.2 million students fail to finish high school on time every year, and a third of first year college students need to take a remedial course in math, science or reading. The famous 1983 study on the plight of American education, titled “A Nation at Risk,” suggested, “If an unfriendly foreign power had attempted to impose on America the mediocre educational performance that exists today, we might well have viewed it as an act of war.”

Adam Newman

*Scientia
Potentia Est*

There are many arguments meant to explain the poor performance of American education: A lack of education funding, class sizes that are too big, a lack of teachers with advanced degrees, a need for more experienced teachers and that disadvantaged children (usually minorities) can never be expected to achieve at high levels.

However, none of these reasons explains why American education is so bad. Numbers produced by respected Stanford education expert Eric Hanushek show that since 1960, per-student spending on education has tripled (adjusted for infla-

tion.) The adult-student ratio has dropped from roughly 25 students for every adult to 15.5 students for every adult. The percentage of teachers with advanced degrees has skyrocketed from 23.5 to 48 percent and the experience of the average teacher has risen from 11 to 13 years. Even with these changes, the National Assessment of Education Progress (commonly known as the “Nation’s Report Card”) shows that test scores in reading and math have remained flat since 1971.

Moreover, just because students high on the socioeconomic ladder tend to do better in school than students low on the socioeconomic ladder does not mean that disadvantaged students cannot succeed. There are many examples of successful charter schools located in disadvantaged neighborhoods, such as KIPP, SEED, the Harlem Success Academies or the Harlem Children’s Zone, where proficiency in math and reading and college readiness rivals those of suburban schools, proving that demography is not destiny.

Not surprisingly, the factor that matters the most in a child’s education (by far) is the quality of the teacher. Even if a student enters a classroom below grade level, a great teacher can lead to huge academic gains. According to Hanushek, if every low-income student had a teacher good enough to be currently in the top 15 percent of quality for four years in a row, the achievement gap between low-income students and their peers would be virtu-

ally eliminated. Moreover, if teachers in the bottom ten percent of quality were led out of teaching and replaced with average teachers, American education could shoot up to the level of other top education countries, like Finland and South Korea.

There is no reform more needed in American education than to identify and reward the best teachers, help improve those who are mediocre with better evaluation systems and fire the worst performers. Unfortunately, all three are largely not done in American education.

Due to “lock-step pay” (paying all teachers with the same years of experience the same salary regardless of effectiveness) and a refusal to embrace merit pay, great teachers go unrewarded and potentially great teachers are lost (40 percent of new teachers quit within their first five years.) Due to a refusal to evaluate teachers based on test score data and performance evaluations from their students, administrators and fellow teachers, average teachers have no meaningful way to improve their individual performance. And due to tenure, the provision in American education that makes it impossible to fire teachers for performance, bad teachers cannot be weeded out.

One of the most depressing examples connected to the school districts’ difficulty with firing bad teachers belongs to the L.A. school district. Over the past decade, the district attempted to fire just seven of its 33,000 teachers for poor performance.

Each case cost on average \$500,000 in legal fees and lasted five years.

Even with these efforts, the L.A. school district could only manage to fire four of the teachers.

The premier charter schools that have produced great results, even with disadvantaged students from the inner cities, have the flexibility to reward good teachers, help improve average teachers and fire not just poor, but mediocre teachers as well. This begs the question: If these practices can improve education outcomes, why don’t we do them everywhere?

In an increasingly globalized, technologically advanced and competitive world, a top-notch education system is imperative. This makes the plight of American education not just a tragedy, but also an invitation to national decline.

While many work to reform education, many more protect a perverted system that places the interests of adults ahead of those of children. The political challenges to reforming education are vast, but must be overcome, because if we cannot get education right in America, then nothing else matters.

Adam Newman is a junior finance major. He can be reached at anewman3@nd.edu

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A call to all

I have considered myself part of the Notre Dame family for my entire life. I was born and raised in South Bend, and some of my earliest memories are of my parents taking me to dinner in South Dining and of visiting the football locker room.

But this past Monday, while listening to my fellow students speak at the “A Call to Action” town hall meeting, my conception of Notre Dame was turned upside down. Over 30 students, some of whom I knew from classes or dorm parties, shared personal, harrowing stories of how they had been subjected to very real discrimination on campus — from professors, from administrators and staff, from fellow students. Hearing them speak, I felt like I no longer really knew my own family.

In the coming weeks, I am sure that many will call upon the administration, the faculty and student government to foster greater awareness of this critical issue. I myself call upon Student Affairs to undertake a systematic survey of discrimination across the University, to publish these results for all to see and to use the collected data to propose a detailed set of policy changes for implementation in the coming months and years.

But calling upon the administration is not enough. Calling upon the faculty is not enough. Calling upon student government is not enough.

To truly bring about change, our plan of action must involve the student body as a whole. This is not an issue solely for students who have endured discrimination and harassment. This is not a problem to be tackled only by members of student government and the campus cultural clubs. This is a crisis for all of us who claim to be part of the Notre Dame family.

We ourselves must be agents of change: in our dorms and in our classrooms, through what we say and how we say it, by speaking up when others are torn down. We must all unite in order to build a university free of discrimination, a university truly worthy of Our Lady’s name.

Paul Baranay
senior
Alumni Hall
Mar. 7

Reflecting LGBTQ diversity

Editor’s note: One of the authors of this letter, Jason G’Sell, was interviewed for the original article, which ran in Wednesday’s Observer.

In response to “LGBTQ students discuss campus relationships” (Mar. 7.) we, as LGBTQ members of the Notre Dame community feel that the article does not sufficiently or accurately describe the experience of the community as a whole. The article fails to consider the perspectives of students whose experiences do not align with those of the three students quoted, demonstrating a lack of attention to the sensitive nature of such issues.

In our experience, a majority of LGBTQ students would not be comfortable publicly outing themselves in The Observer. By only including interviews from students who are publicly out, Mervosh ignores many LGBTQ students who live with the difficulties of the closet on a daily basis. Moreover, the article’s portrayal of the gay community as a whole suggests a culture that is concerned primarily with sexual pursuits. Not all students, however, choose to engage in such activities.

Many LGBTQ students desire, yet struggle, to form lasting and meaningful relationships due to fear of being outed or rejected by their peers. We believe that the creation of a gay-straight alliance would facilitate the formation of friendships among LGBTQ individuals and allies and lead to a stronger, more unified Notre Dame community.

If approved, a GSA would not serve as a venue for LGBTQ students to hook up. If anything, this article demonstrates that students who are interested in pursuing hookups will find other means of doing so. The underground hookup culture is one of the many negative consequences of a lack of university-sanctioned support networks for LGBTQ students to pursue mature, adult friendships.

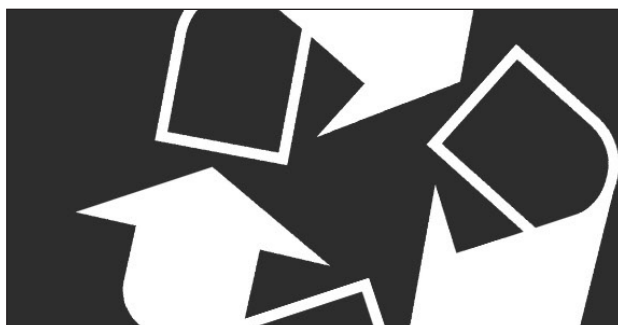
We believe The Observer should be more sensitive to realities LGBTQ students face at Notre Dame. Providing such a narrow perspective on the LGBTQ community only serves to reinforce negative stereotypes that do not represent many LGBTQ students’ experiences.

While we appreciate The Observer’s attempt to create dialogue about LGBTQ issues, this series of articles should serve simply as a starting point for future discussions surrounding the diversity of experiences of LGBTQ students and allies at Notre Dame.

Jason G’Sell
senior
Duncan Hall
Mar. 7

Cody Gaffney
senior
Keough Hall
Mar. 7

Tom Lienhoop
sophomore
Dillon Hall
Mar. 7



Please recycle The Observer.

Scene Staff Report

Spending spring break in South Bend? There's plenty in and around South Bend to keep you busy during your week off. Take advantage of some free time and (hopefully) nicer weather to explore Michiana and find some of the hidden gems just around the corner.

Sugar Camp Days — Bendix Woods

This annual tradition celebrates the end of winter with a whole lot of maple syrup. Over the course of two days, you can visit St. Joseph County's Bendix Woods to see sap cook into maple syrup, enjoy pancakes, tour a sugar bush (where the sap comes from) and buy home-made baked goods, all made with pure maple syrup. There will be other activities throughout the two days, including live music and Rent-A-Sap Bucket, which you can rent for maple syrup treats to bring home.

Fiddler's Hearth

Fiddler's Hearth, a local Irish pub, is the perfect way to celebrate the end of midterms and a week off of school. The pub has an extensive menu of Irish-inspired food, such as fish and chips and boxties, and a tap to go along with it for those of age. The atmosphere is charming and friendly — with a host of large tables, you may even make new friends with the people sitting near you. Fiddler's offers an excellent variety of live music every night at 9 p.m. Their traditional Irish music and pub songs are not to be missed. Fiddler's is a hidden gem of South Bend, but for a new night out, it can't be beat.

Movies at DPAC

For those staying on campus, Spring Break can be a time of relaxing and catching up on TV shows and movies that manage to escape our time during busy school days. Squeeze a few intellectually challenging films into your rotation, as DPAC is screening several of the most recent popular and acclaimed in-

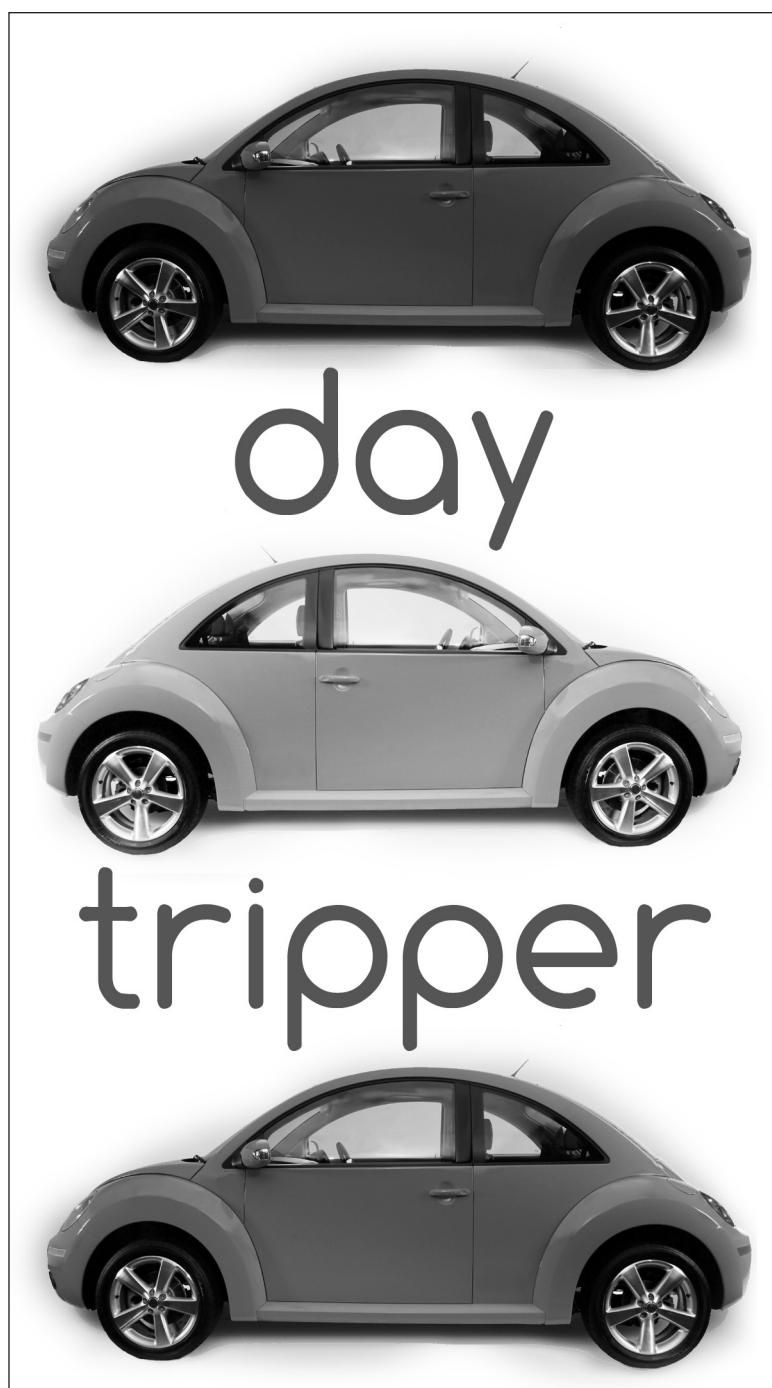
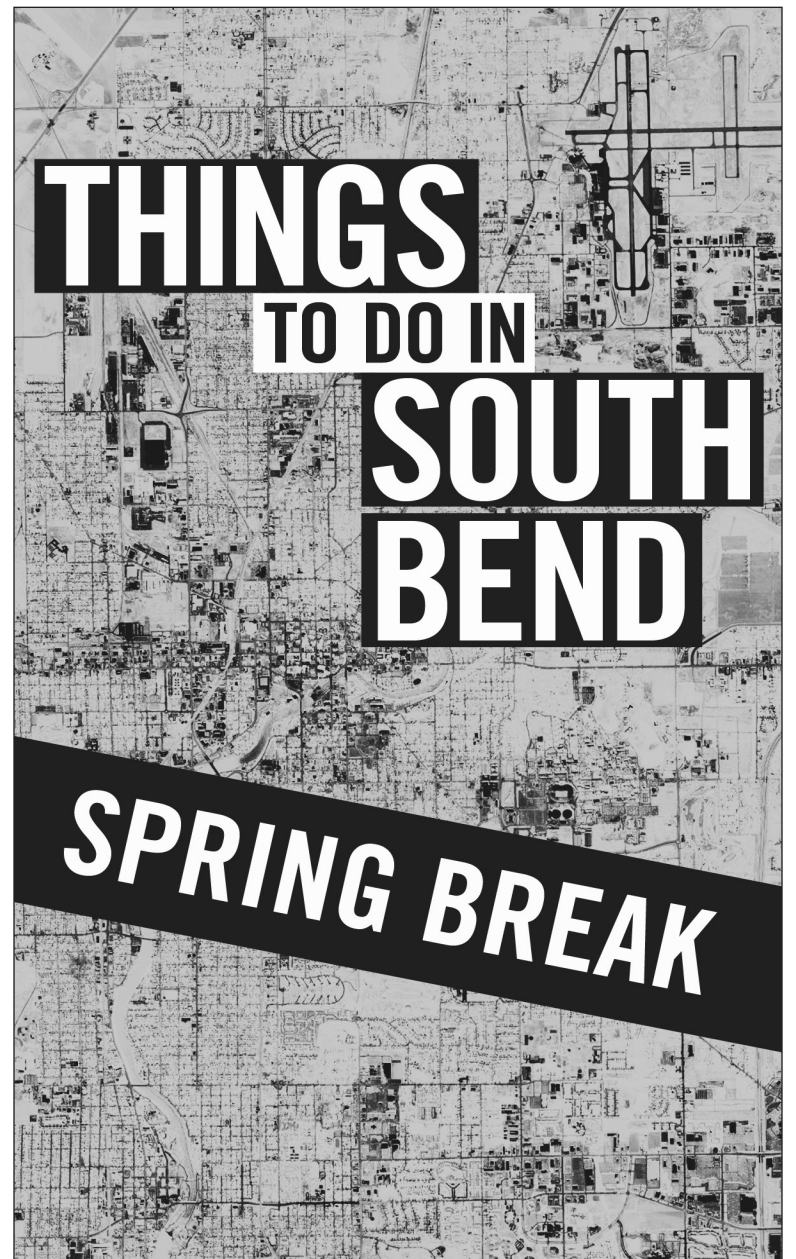
die films. On the first weekend, it is showing "Margaret," starring Matt Damon and a pre-Sookie Anna Paquin, which was shot in 2005 and released last year. "Take Shelter" features a performance by Michael Shannon that was widely considered to be a major Oscar snub. 2011 breakout actress Jessica Chastain plays his wife in the psychological thriller. The second weekend of break panders to Michael Fassbender fans, who can see both his emotionally and physically revealing sex addict in "Shame" and his portrayal of Carl Jung in "A Dangerous Method" with Keira Knightley and Viggo Mortensen.

St. Patrick's Day Festivities

If you are looking for a fun way to celebrate St. Patrick's Day while on campus, the city of South Bend has organized number of activities for the whole community to enjoy and participate in. This year, festivities will begin early with a "St. Paddy's Tent Party and Pub Tour" on Friday from from 5 to 11 p.m. at 350 South Michigan Street downtown. For those of you 21 or older, this is an event you won't want to miss. On the holiday itself, the annual St. Patrick's Day Parade will take place. It will begin at 11 a.m. in Jefferson and Francis streets and end at Washington Street. The "Greening of the East Race," sponsored by Fiddler's Hearth, will immediately follow the parade and the festivities will continue there with live music until 1 a.m.

Chippewa Bowl

Bowling is fun for everyone, whether you're a seasoned pro or a frequent bumper-user. A trip to the lanes is a great way to relax and hang out with friends while enjoying a little friendly competition. Chippewa Bowl provides a wonderful location for these activities. And they frequently have cosmic bowling, to add a little excitement to your experience. Just to sweeten the pot, they have \$5 unlimited bowling from 9 p.m. to close on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday.



ELISA DE CASTRO | Observer Graphic

Scene Staff Report

Day trips are a perfect way to get away from school during your week off. With easy access to Chicago, Michigan and of course the rest of Indiana, the possibilities for exploration are endless. Borrow a friend's car or find trains and buses to get out and see something new.

Indiana University

Our friends to the south are lucky to call Bloomington, Ind. home. This town, seamlessly integrated with the IU campus, is full of restaurants, shops, bars and cafes for a real college town atmosphere. It should be a little warmer down in Southern Indiana and the IU campus is simply beautiful to walk around. If you don't know someone who goes there, one of your friends most likely does, so carpool down for a change of scenery.

Wineries

Yes, there are wineries in Indiana and surprisingly quite a few that are close by. You may not be in Napa Valley or the Italian countryside, but visiting a winery for a day can offer a quick but sophisticated vacation from South Bend. Most offer tours and tastings that are less than \$20. One of the closest is Fruit Hills Winery & Orchard in the heart of Amish country. Shady Creek Winery in Michigan City offers wine pairing plates with decadent foods such as brie, chocolate truffles and marinated olives. Anderson's Vineyard & Winery offers a wagon ride through its rolling hills in Valparaiso. Grab your over-21 friends and head to a close winery that will be sure to make your break a little more luxe. Find more wineries at indianawines.org

Michigan Breweries

It may seem like Michigan doesn't have much to offer, but for those over 21, the Lower Peninsula features over 20 micro-breweries, featuring beers like the Pickaxe Blonder, Red Tulip and Ring of Fire. Dewey Cannon Winery & Brewery is the closest to South Bend in Three Oaks, Mich. They pair their artisan beers with delicious food native to the area. Featured beers include Captain Easy, an Irish-American Pale Ale, Dewey Cannon

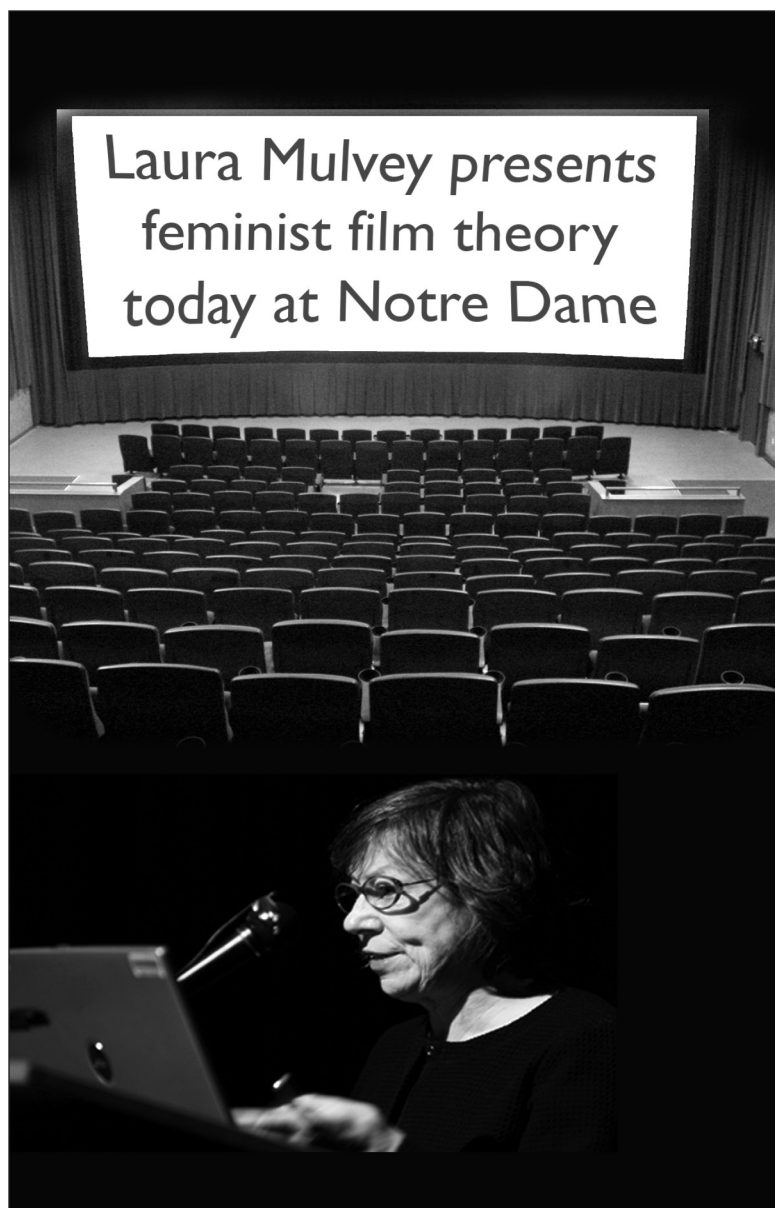
IPA, "Chucker" Brown Ale and Dublin Porter. Check out michigan.org for a full listing of other breweries that are worth checking out.

St. Patrick's Day Parade in Chicago

Will you be at Notre Dame for Spring Break? Would you like to feel a little more Irish than even campus will allow? Then plan a trip to Chicago for St. Patty's Day. Chicago's annual festivities begin at 10 a.m. Saturday, March 17 with the dyeing of the Chicago River. Each year, the Chicago River is dyed a bright shade of Kelly green to commemorate St. Patrick's Day. This tradition began over 40 years ago when Chicago's plumbers were using a green dye to detect leaks in the river's waste system. Since then, the Chicago Journeyman Plumbers Local Union has upheld this tradition. If you'd like to see the river dyeing, head to the intersection of Michigan Avenue, Wacker Drive and the river. Following the river dyeing, the St. Patrick's Day Parade steps off at 12 p.m. Saturday. The parade starts at the intersection of Balbo Drive and Columbus Drive and heads north. The viewing station is located at Buckingham Fountain in Grant Park. If you are taking the South Shore Line from South Bend to the Van Buren Street stop, Grant Park is about a six-minute walk away. More information on Chicago's parade festivities can be found at chicagostpatsparade.com

Art Institute of Chicago

The Art Institute is less than a five-minute walk from the Van Buren stop on the train from South Bend to Chicago. Holding one of the best collections of Impressionist art in the country, the Art Institute has extensive rooms of European, East Asian, and American art. The displays are informative and visually stunning, and the museum is located right on Michigan Avenue. Take an early train in to beat the museum rush and grab a light breakfast at Corner Bakery Cafe. They serve paninis, eggs and unlimited coffee that's actually good. After taking some time at the museum, walk down to Giordano's for a late lunch and enjoy the rest of Millennium Park. Taking an early train back is preferable, since you still have to get back to campus from South Bend Station.



By MAIJA GUSTIN
Scene Editor

Today is your chance to see a true film icon as she lectures in her area of expertise. Laura Mulvey, author of the seminal feminist essay, "Visual Pleasure and Narrative Cinema," will visit Notre Dame to give a talk entitled, "Hitchcock's Blondes, Feminism and Psychoanalytic Film Theory."

When Mulvey published "Visual Pleasure" in 1975, she changed the face of both film scholarship and the medium itself. Her work attacked the imposing patriarchy of film production at the time. This essay began a new branch of film scholarship that took a feminist perspective. It is widely read in most film theory classes today, including those taught at Notre Dame. Mulvey pioneered the theory of the "male gaze" in this essay, focusing intently on Alfred Hitchcock's "Rear Window," which could likely be a point of discussion in tonight's talk.

Mulvey's most recent book is "Death Twenty-four Times a Second: Stillness and the Moving Image," published in 2006. It studies the ways new media technologies affect the experiences of watching and understanding films. The book ultimately analyzes how new media and technology can shape an understanding of film history in general.

Mulvey is also a noted filmmaker, particularly known for "Riddles of the Sphinx" (1977), often considered her most influential film. The film utilizes psychoanalysis to study the role of women in society.

Mulvey worked at the British Film Institute for many years before taking up her current post as a professor of film and media studies at Birkbeck College at the University of London.

The lecture this evening will focus on Hitchcock's iconic blondes and bridge Freudian psychoanalysis to study these important figures in the director's films. Most of his

films cast blonde actresses in the lead female role, and they have become a popular topic of critical discussion and writing concerning his work.

Mulvey will specifically argue the way Hitchcock incorporates blonde actresses and characters into his films simultaneously analyzes and exploits the idea of woman as spectacle.

For film scholars, psychologists and movie fans alike, Mulvey's talk is sure to be a highlight of Notre Dame's 2012 lecture season. She has a long history studying film — particularly Hitchcock — from unique perspectives, challenging popular assumptions and changing the way audiences and scholars view films.

She is a true pioneer in the field of film and media study and will surely have new insights to add to popular conceptions of Hitchcock and his blonde stars tonight.

Contact Maija Gustin at mgustin@nd.edu

On campus

What: Laura Mulvey

Where: 7 to 9 p.m.

When: Eck Visitor's Center

Auditorium

How Much: Free and open to the public

Learn More: ftt.nd.edu

By MARY CLAIRE O'DONNELL
Scene Writer

"The Lorax" is a hit with music and Seussian charm.

It's hard to adapt Dr. Seuss to the big screen. Jim Carrey's 2000 film "How the Grinch Stole Christmas" taught us that. But Universal's "The Lorax" does not follow in that mold. It is funny and engaging, with all of Dr. Seuss's wit. It's even a musical, to boot.

The film's plot adds another storyline to Seuss's book. Ted Wiggins (Zac Efron) is a young boy living in Thneed-Ville desperate to impress Audrey (Taylor Swift), whose life dream is to see a real tree. Thneed-Ville is a walled city, made entirely of plastic. Even their air is manufactured, but Audrey has seen pictures of Truffula Trees and now she wants to see the real thing.

Lovestruck, Ted heads outside the city limits to visit the Once-ler (Ed Helms), who his grandma says has answers about the trees. Over the course of a few visits, the Once-ler tells Ted the story of the Lorax (Danny DeVito) and the disappearance of all the Truffula Trees, for which he is responsible.

Ted must sneak out of Thneed-Ville each time he wants to visit the Once-ler, though. The mayor, Mr. O'Hare (Rob Riggle), does not approve of Ted's adventures and he threatens Ted to stop, even sending his large security guards against the young boy. But none of this deters Ted on his mission to find a Truffula Tree for Audrey.

The Once-ler ends his story

to Ted with the inspirational moral left by the Lorax: "Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing's going to get better. It's not." Ted then takes the last Truffula Seed, and he brings it to Thneed-Ville so that he can plant it and bring the trees back.

Despite Mr. O'Hare's best attempts, Ted is successful. Truffula Trees return, and he wins the girl.

The story is predictable, and not just because it is based off a beloved children's book. But that doesn't make the film any less engaging and enjoyable. There is a new plotline to explore and the musical numbers take the film to another level. The animation captures the original heart and soul of Seuss's characters.

Danny DeVito as the Lorax is spot-on casting. It's easy to imagine actually playing the role, rocking a huge mustache. He is grumpy, plays tricks on the Once-ler and makes ridiculous comments, but his actions have a point, to speak for the forest and save the trees. He and his adorable woodland friends tug at the audience's heartstrings as they see the forest they love destroyed around them.

But the best part of the movie is the music. The trailers gave no indication of the fantastic numbers, so they come as a bit of a surprise. However, they kept the magic and spirit of Seuss's book alive. For this reason, Helms is perfect for the role of the Once-ler, as he has proven on "The Office" he has musical chops.

But the best song in the

movie actually does not feature Helms. Efron and Swift take the reins on "Let It Grow," using music to convince the inhabitants of Thneed-Ville to get behind Ted's Truffula Tree plan. According to Audrey, Thneed-Ville needs to "let it grow, let it grow, you can't reap what you can't sow. Plant a seed inside the earth, just one way to know what it is worth." Even 3-year-old Marie gets in on the song, making for a touching moment.

And while the movie obviously has a message about the environment, it doesn't smack you over the head repeatedly, making you feel like you're being preached at. There's more to the story and you will leave the theater moved, not annoyed.

This film is worth the trip to theaters, even if you only want to relive your childhood love of Seuss. You'll remember why you memorized the story as a child and want to head right back into the next showing.

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

"The Lorax"

Directed by: Chris Renaud
Starring: Danny DeVito, Zac Efron, Taylor Swift, Ed Helms, Rob Riggle, Betty White, Jenny Slate



SPORTS AUTHORITY

Cheating in sports is just part of the game

If you were a professional athlete, what would you do to win a championship? Most would probably say they would do anything. It's the reason we have seen the steroids era in the MLB, match-fixing in European soccer and recruiting scandals across college football and basketball.

And almost every week we see a new story about taking an illegal, extra-

competitive advantage. Don't think so? Check out the latest Syracuse cover-up where the program let players who tested positive for drugs continue playing even though they were ineligible.

And even in a time when football has been over for a month, the NFL still manages to grab all the attention in sports with its latest scandal.

But now we are past the reactionary period of the Saints bounty ordeal. It's been a week, and, frankly, I'm tired of hearing shallow reactions. It's easy to sit back from a couch and say how wrong it was for the Saints' defense to institute this bounty program. Jeff Van Gundy may be one of the most annoying voices in sports, but he made a great point on Sunday. It's easy to make analysis after the fact. Anyone can do it, and at this point it seems to all be recycled chatter.

But in typical ESPN fashion, NFL Live put on a "Bounty Roundtable" with former NFL players where the loudest person won. At one point Tedy Bruschi's face was redder than a throwback Patriots jersey while Trey Wingo looked scared as if he would have been tackled if he tried to mediate.

The dust has fallen, so now let's put it this in perspective.

Cheating is a part of sports. It happens when someone blurs the line separating the desire to win and acting within the integrity of the game. And if not stopped immediately, it evolves and can contaminate a sport for years to come.

When gambling was a problem in baseball, Major League Baseball banned "Shoeless" Joe Jackson to set a precedent, regardless of whether it was right or not. The same thing happened with Pete Rose. But the NBA didn't tailor Michael Jordan or Charles Barkley's gambling problem (because the problem didn't involve basketball), and years later the NBA found it-

self engulfed in a betting scandal with one of its own referees.

Precedents are set to stop the inevitable evolution of a terrible occurrence. We may not agree with the precedents, but they have a purpose.

Could you imagine if Bud Selig had immediately suspended (or even banned) a Sammy Sosa or Barry Bonds? It surely would have stung at the time for baseball fans everywhere, but would baseball still be sloshing its way through the end of steroid era today? Probably not, because it would have shown that there is an immediate price to pay, even if the steroid issue had its roots in the minor league system.

The NFL should learn from its friends.

NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell ended the Spygate era before it starting rolling downhill with huge fines thrown at the Patriots. But now there is a new issue, one which has occurred in locker rooms and behind closed doors for years.

The only people who really could have stopped the bounty program in New Orleans were coach Sean Payton, general manager Mickey Loomis and the program's instigator, defensive coordinator Gregg Williams. Don't put all the blame on the players. Yes, they made the wrong choice in taking part in the program, but don't try to say that a third-string cornerback was going to stand up to the guy who determines his playing time and paycheck. But the captains maybe could have. Instead, captain Jonathan Vilma offers 10-grand to anyone who knocks Brett Favre out of his Wrangler jeans.

Meanwhile, Payton and Loomis could have immediately stopped it with a quick, resolute response. Instead, they turned away from the situation and won a Super Bowl.

If Goodell wants to stop the growth of this situation across the league, he will come down hard on the Saints organization, Williams and Vilma. Williams' role may even garner a year-long or lifetime ban, while Payton's and Vilma's should include a suspension and heavy fines, at least.

Sure, it'll be a black eye, but it will go away with some ice and rest. To borrow a popular phrase used in the bounty program by Gregg Williams: "If you cut the snake's head off, the body will die."

Contact Andrew Gastelum at agastel1@nd.edu.

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



Andrew Gastelum

Sports Writer

NFL

Indianapolis releases Manning

Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — Now that Peyton Manning's 14-year run with the Indianapolis Colts is over, the only four-time MVP in NFL history will turn his attention to finding a new team.

Manning and the Colts ended their successful partnership with a tearful goodbye Wednesday, when team owner Jim Irsay released the star quarterback rather than pay a whopping \$28 million bonus while there are lingering questions about his health.

"We all know that nothing lasts forever," Manning said. "Times change, circumstances change, and that's the reality of playing in the NFL."

Another reality: Manning is sure to command plenty of offers on the open market as one of the most coveted free agents in league history — assuming he shows he is fine after a series of neck operations that forced him to miss all of last season.

Arizona, Miami, Seattle, Tennessee, Washington and the New York Jets all have been rumored as possible destinations; Manning's former offensive coordinator in Indianapolis, Tom Moore, worked for the Jets as a consultant last season.

"I'm throwing it pretty well. I've still got some work to do; I've got some progress to make," Manning said. "But I've come a long way. I've really worked hard. I can't tell you the hours and the time I've put in."

He turns 36 this month, but his importance to the Colts' success was never more apparent than in 2011, when their record plummeted to 2-14 without him.

"Peyton is on the mend to try to resume his career," Irsay noted.

Manning and Irsay each paused frequently, fighting tears and their voices shaking, as they appeared together at a news conference at the Colts' team complex. It was an unusual and awkward scene, two men whose NFL lives have been so closely intertwined, standing side-by-side in jackets and ties as they told the world they were splitting up.

"This has not been easy for Jim," Manning said, "and this has certainly not been easy for me."

A few hours after the news conference, the Colts issued a statement giving the official news. The stark first sentence: "The Indianapolis Colts today released quarterback Peyton Manning."

Indianapolis needed to cut Manning this week to avoid paying him a bonus from the \$90 million, five-year contract he signed in July, although both



Former Colts quarterback Peyton Manning looks on as team owner Jim Irsay announces his release at a press conference Wednesday.

owner and player insisted the decision was not really about money. The Colts are widely expected to begin moving on by taking Stanford quarterback Andrew Luck with the No. 1 overall pick in April's draft.

Irsay repeatedly used the word "rebuilding" and acknowledged: "We're definitely a few years away."

Manning won't retire and hopes to be playing in the NFL at the start of next season.

Still, he said Wednesday: "I'll always be a Colt. I always will be. That'll never change."

The announcement was made in a room at the Colts' complex normally reserved for celebratory news conferences, such as the hiring of a new coach or general manager — two other major steps Irsay took recently. The room is lined with banners honoring some of the team's greatest stars, including, of course, Manning himself, flanked by Pro Football Hall of Famer members Eric Dickerson and John Mackey.

Clearly, this was not an easy goodbye for Manning. He even got choked up while discussing all of the Colts employees he'll no longer be around, pausing to collect himself while noting: "We've got the greatest equipment guys in the world."

"I think about those type of relationships — not necessarily always on the field, and the touchdown throw to win the game. It's the behind the scenes. The laughs. The stories. The times spent together. Those are the memories. Those aren't going away. Those will be with me for the rest of my life."

Manning forever will be thought of around these parts as No. 18, the quarterback who led the Colts to an NFL championship, barking out signals while waving his arms at the line of scrimmage to change a play after reading the defense — something he did as well as any QB.

He'll be remembered, too, for his record four MVP awards, his

50,000 yards passing and his 200 consecutive starts. Most of all, Manning will be the guy in the horseshoe helmet who turned around a franchise and transformed a basketball-loving city into a football hotbed that hosted the Super Bowl a month ago.

And during that Super Bowl week, the hottest topic of conversation was Peyton Manning, not his younger brother Eli, who wound up leading the New York Giants to the title.

"There will be no other Peyton Manning," Irsay said, adding that he hoped Wednesday's joint appearance would serve to "honor incredible memories and incredible things that he's done for the franchise, for the city, for the state."

This marks the end of a strong marriage between a player and team.

After being a No. 1 draft pick himself, Manning started every meaningful game for 13 seasons in Indianapolis — 227 in a row, including the playoffs — and took the Colts from perennial also-ran to one of the NFL's model franchises and the 2007 Super Bowl title.

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

Indianapolis broke the NFL record for most regular-season wins in a decade (115), and tied Dallas' mark for most consecutive playoff appearances (nine).

Manning is one of just four players to reach 50,000 yards passing, one of three with more than 350 TD tosses, and one of two quarterbacks with more than 200 starts in a row. He broke all of the franchise's major career passing records, previously held by Hall of Fame quarterback John Unitas.

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PERSONAL

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FERRIS BUELLER'S DAY OFF (1986)

Ferris: Hey, Cameron. You realize if we played by the rules right now we'd be in gym?

[a baseball game is on television]
Ed Rooney: What's the score?
Pizza Joint Owner: Nothin' nothin'.
Ed Rooney: [not really listening]
Who's winning?
Pizza Joint Owner: The Bears.

Ferris: If you're not over here in fifteen minutes, you can find a new best friend.

Cameron: You've been saying that since the fifth grade.

Cameron: [singing] When Cameron was in Egypt's land... let my Cameron go!

Ferris: Hi. Do you speak English?
Garage Attendant: Uh, what country do you think this is?

Cameron: Okay Ferris, can we just let it go, please?

Sloane: Ferris, please. You've gone too far. We're going to get busted.
Ferris: A: You can never go too far. B: If I'm gonna get busted, it is "not" gonna be by a guy like "that".

Ferris: [describing Cameron's house] The place is like a museum. It's very beautiful and very cold, and you're not allowed to touch anything.

Economics Teacher: Bueller? Bueller? Bueller?

Simone: Um, he's sick. My best friend's sister's boyfriend's brother's girlfriend heard from this guy who knows this kid who's going with the girl who saw Ferris pass out at 31 Flavors last night. I guess it's pretty serious.

Economics Teacher: Thank you, Simone.
Simone: No problem whatsoever.

Ferris: Not that I condone fascism, or any -ism for that matter. -ism's in my opinion are not good.

A person should not believe in an -ism, he should believe in himself.

I quote John Lennon, "I don't believe in Beatles, I just believe in me." Good point there. After all, he was the walrus. I could be the walrus. I'd still have to bum rides off people.

OLYMPICS

London Assembly demands answers about tickets

Associated Press

LONDON — The London Assembly pounced on Olympics chief Sebastian Coe on Wednesday, demanding answers to whether the public had a fair shot at tickets to the men's 100-meter final and other popular events.

The heated exchanges also hit at many of the big British gripes about the event — from traffic to sponsorships — forcing the smooth-talking games chief into an uncharacteristically defensive stance. The unlikely forum for the sparring was the assembly, an elected watchdog group charged with being a check on the power of London Mayor Boris Johnson.

Tickets proved the flashpoint. Critics of the Olympics believe a disproportionate number of tickets have been sold in higher price brackets, excluding those who can't afford to pay for the most popular events.

Assembly members have been demanding an accounting of how many have been sold so far and at what price. Organizers say it is too difficult, as well as commercially

sensitive, to give up the data now.

Dee Doocey, the chair of the assembly committee that examined the ticketing process, did not bother to hide her frustration after Coe again refused a request for the data.

"You are the least transparent organization I have ever come across in the eight years I have been on at the London Assembly!" she said, her voice rising.

Coe kept trying to defend himself, but it didn't end there. The meeting devolved into a roll call of every major problem faced by the London organizing committee, known as LOCOG.

First and foremost, there's the issue over whether organizers

should continue to associate themselves with Dow Chemical Co. because of its links to the 1984 Bhopal gas leak. Dow bought Union Carbide 16 years after the 1984 accident in the central Indian city of Bhopal that killed an estimated 15,000 people. Dow maintains it was not responsible for the catastrophe, but the company's critics argue



Head of the London Olympic Games Sebastian Coe, left, assists former Namibian athlete Frank Fredericks in laying the final turf in London's Olympic Stadium on March 29, 2011.

its purchase of Union Carbide made the U.S.-based company responsible for groundwater contamination and other issues that linger in India.

After Dow, the assembly moved on to other sponsors. Were McDonald's food offerings in line with the goal of making food at the Olympics sustainable? Would Coca-Cola offer a broad range of beverages and prices, given that no liquids would be allowed through security and into the

park?

Coe and games Chief Executive Officer Paul Deighton found themselves constantly being interrupted and at times they weren't even able to complete sentences.

But it was on the question of ticketing that the two leaders are most vulnerable. London's Olympic ticketing process has been slowed by intractable computer problems and huge demand. Organizers first drew outrage by establishing a complicated lottery system in which people blindly registered for tickets and handed over credit card details before they knew what tickets they might get.

The system will lead to full stadiums, even for less popular events. But people were frustrated and the process added to grumbling about huge public expenditures. Britain is paying 9.3 billion pounds (\$14.6 billion) for the games at a time of national economic

hardship.

The inability of many people to attend has contributed to a souring of the national mood about the whole endeavor.

Coe has said two-thirds of Olympic tickets are being sold for less than 50 pounds (\$79). A remaining 4 million tickets will be sold in April.

Organizers have promised a full accounting once it is all done.

But Doocey wasn't having it, saying a breakdown "should be available at the hit of a button."

But Coe would not budge.

"I am not going to divert the attention of my team who still have 4 million tickets and revenue targets

to meet because that is how we fund the games," he said. "I am not going to take them off focus to work on every single client group for every single session. We are talking about 1,000 sessions. I am sorry but we are being entirely transparent here."

"I am not going to divert the attention of my team who still have 4 million tickets and revenue targets to meet because this is how we fund the games."

Sebastian Coe
Olympics chief

"I am not going to take [my team] off focus to work on every single client group for every single session. We are talking about 1,000 sessions. I am sorry but we are being entirely transparent here."

Sebastian Coe
Olympics chief

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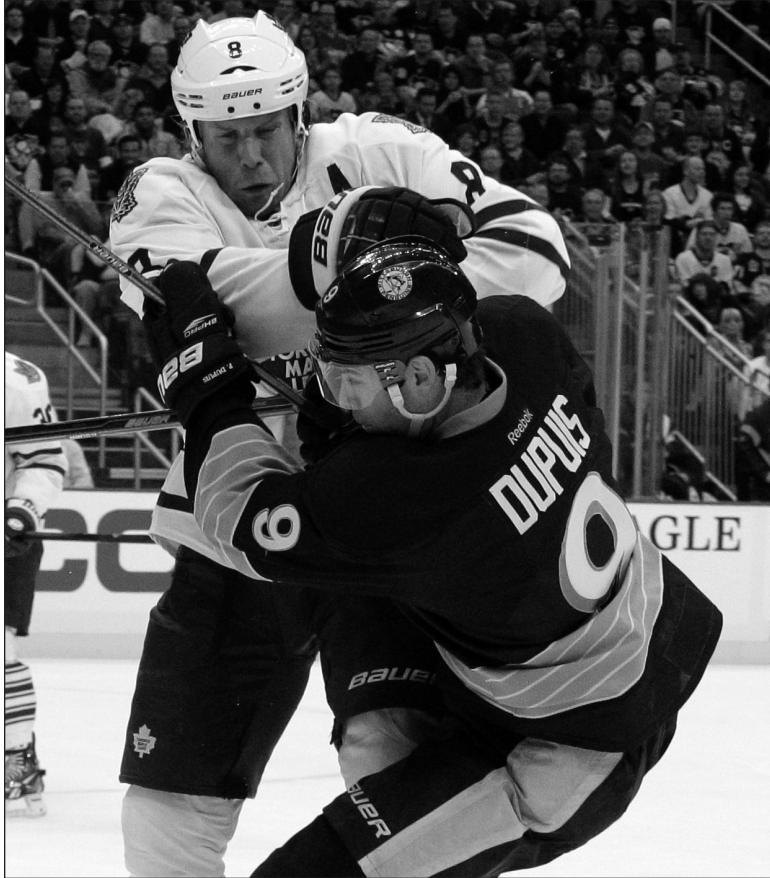
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NHL

Penguins notch seventh straight win, beat Toronto



Maple Leafs defenseman Mike Komisarek checks Penguins forward Pascal Dupuis during Pittsburgh's 3-2 win Wednesday.

Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — Pascal Dupuis scored twice and had an assist, and the Pittsburgh Penguins rallied to beat the slumping Toronto Maple Leafs 3-2 on Wednesday night for their seventh straight victory.

Jordan Staal added a goal and an assist to extend his points streak to a career-best six games and rookie Brad Thiessen stopped 22 shots.

The Penguins started the day by unveiling a statue honoring Hall of Famer Mario Lemieux outside Consol Energy Center. The three-time MVP, now the team owner, watched from his box as Pittsburgh won for the 11th time in its last 12 home games to strengthen its hold on fourth-place in the Eastern Conference.

Phil Kessel and Carl Gunnarsson scored for Toronto. The Maple Leafs let an early two-goal lead slip away while falling to 1-2 since Randy Carlyle took over as coach following Ron Wilson's firing.

Carlyle's hiring was supposed to rejuvenate a team that has fallen to the fringe of the playoff picture over the last month. Toronto beat Montreal on Saturday night in his first game behind the bench, but there has been no bounce. The Maple Leafs have lost six of seven and are five points behind eighth-place Winnipeg in the playoff race.

Pittsburgh has no such worries, riding goalie Marc-Andre Fleury and the line of Evgeni Malkin, James Neal and Chris Kunitz to the inside track for home ice in the opening round of the playoffs.

Fleury received an unexpected night off and while the Maple Leafs kept Malkin — tied for the NHL scoring lead with Tampa Bay's Steven Stamkos — in check, the trio of Dupuis, Staal and Matt Cooke filled in capably.

Thiessen wasn't bad either, another promising sign as the

Penguins search for a reliable backup. Veteran Brent Johnson has struggled all season and is dealing with an undisclosed injury. Enter Thiessen, who was solid in his NHL debut against Columbus on Feb. 26, stopping 22 shots to pick up his first career victory, though he was quick to credit Pittsburgh's defense after beating the woeful Blue Jackets.

While the Penguins again limited the number of chances Thiessen faced, he was stellar during the third period, making a series of saves on a late Toronto power play to extend the NHL's longest active winning streak.

The Maple Leafs managed just three shots in the first period but still took the lead a minute in the second period during a chippy sequence that ended with Kessel's 34th goal of the season. Toronto's Tyler Bozak won a puck battle in the corner and fed Jake Gardiner in the slot. Bozak then headed to the net where he got knocked into Thiessen. The two lay sprawled on the ice while Gardiner hit Kessel standing wide open at the far post to give the Maple Leafs the lead.

Gunnarsson made it 2-0 with a nifty deflection on a shot by Mikhail Grabovski, but just like Toronto's last visit to Consol Energy Center, it wouldn't hold up. Pittsburgh roared back from a 4-1 third-period deficit to win in a shootout on Jan. 31, with Malkin tying the game with a deflection off his shoulder in the final seconds of regulation.

Dupuis put Pittsburgh on the board less than 2 minutes after Gunnarsson's goal, redirecting a shot from the point by Matt Kiskanen past Toronto's Jonas Gustavsson.

Staal tied it 1:34 into the third period with a similar play off a shot by Brooks Orpik. Dupuis put Pittsburgh in front less than 3 minutes later for his first multiple-goal game since he scored twice against New Jersey last April.

NBA

Heat extend streak at home

Associated Press

MIAMI — LeBron James had 31 points and 11 rebounds, Dwyane Wade added 18 points and set up Udonis Haslem for an alley-oop dunk with 12 seconds left, and the Miami Heat rallied to beat the Atlanta Hawks 89-86 on Wednesday night.

Miami won its 11th straight at home and had to come from 10 points down in the third quarter to extend the streak. Another Heat streak ended — it was Miami's first time since April 6, 2006, without making a 3-pointer, a span that included 455 regular-season games and 60 more in the playoffs.

The Heat were 0 for 10 from beyond the arc.

Josh Smith scored 23 for the Hawks, who were without Joe Johnson and Tracy McGrady, among others. Jannero Pargo had a look at a potential game-tying 3-pointer at the buzzer, but it hit the rim and bounced away.

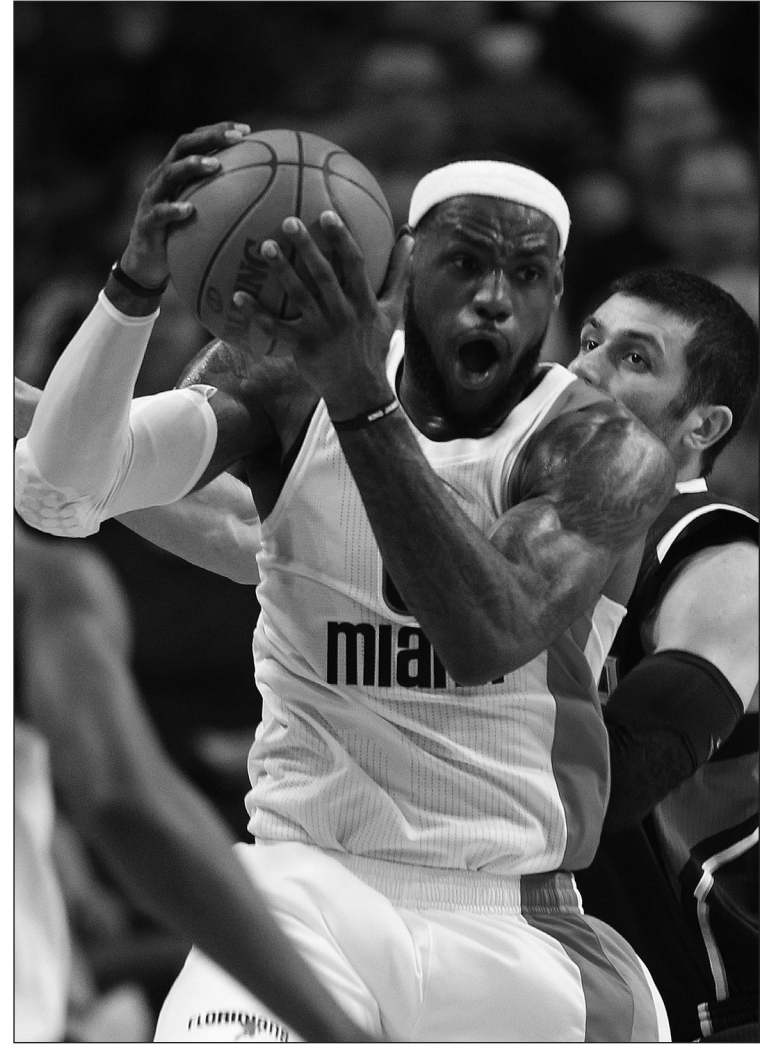
Jeff Teague scored 16 and Jerry Stackhouse added 10 for the Hawks. The Heat only had two players in double figures, with Chris Bosh managing only nine points on a 3 for 14 shooting night.

Pargo's three-point play with 30.5 seconds left got the Hawks within 85-84, but on the next Miami possession, Wade found Haslem at the rim to push the lead back to three. A layup by Vladimir Radmanovic with 4 seconds left got Atlanta within one, but Wade — who also had nine rebounds and six assists — made a pair of free throws with 2.7 seconds left.

The Hawks twice led by 10 points in the third quarter, the first coming on a 3-pointer by Kirk Hinrich, the other when Smith made a pair of free throws with 4 minutes left to give Atlanta a 65-55 edge.

Then things got heated. And the Heat needed the boost.

Miami went on top after a 13-0 run, a spurt that really started to roll when Wade stole the ball from Teague, got a pass back from Mario Chalmers and threw down a dunk



Heat forward LeBron James reacts after grabbing a rebound during Miami's 89-86 win over Atlanta on Wednesday.

that went halfway through the net, hit his chest twice as he held on to the goal — then finally fell through the net.

Atlanta turned the ball over four straight times, and not only were the Hawks losing the ball, they were losing their cool. During one scrum, Zaza Pachulia grabbed onto James' head, earning both a personal foul and a technical foul as players from both sides got testy with one another and even Carolina Panthers quarterback Cam Newton — sitting courtside — feigned wanting to run on the court to join in the fun.

Chalmers and James combined to make two free throws, and the Heat lead was at 68-65.

Wade blocked a 3-point try by Stackhouse with 16 seconds left in the third, Shane Battier swatted away an attempt by Ivan Johnson on the final play of the quarter, and the Hawks scored only six points in a span of 10 minutes, 12 seconds stretching into the fourth quarter.

But when Atlanta snapped out of it, with Teague making two layups in a 21-second span, it was suddenly a game again, with the Heat up only 77-75. Another basket by Teague tied it, and Smith's 3-pointer with 3:29 left put the Hawks back on top.

Miami scored the next six, Haslem's jumper with just over a minute to go giving the Heat an 83-80 lead.

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ND WOMEN'S SWIMMING AND DIVING

Diving duo heads to championships

By MATT UNGER
Sports Writer

Throughout the season, the Irish diving duo of freshman Allison Casareto and junior Jenny Chiang has placed near or at the top of meets. They will look to extend their success — and seasons — at the NCAA Zone Diving championship when each will compete in the one-meter dive Thursday and the three-meter dive Friday.

"It's extremely difficult to make NAAs, especially as a diver in this particular zone because it's the most difficult zone in the nation," Casareto said. "I'm really excited to just see the competition out there and just look at everyone else and watch what they do to be inspired and motivated."

Competition at the zone meet includes Big East champion Louisville along with Michigan, Indiana and Purdue.

Casareto said the unusual length of the event could pose a challenge to the pair.

"I also have to maintain focus and make sure I last the whole three-hour meet," Casareto said. "It's not only a meet of

mentality, but also of physical endurance, which is rare for diving."

Yet, both divers have a strong chance to become the first Irish diver since Natalie Stitt in 2009 to advance to the NCAA championships, especially after their recent performances at the Big East championships.

Chiang earned the Big East title in the three-meter dive for the third consecutive year, and placed third in the one-meter. Meanwhile, Casareto placed second in the three-meter and earned All-Big East honors.

"For me to be able to go to this meet and to be able to qualify and include myself in this group of divers is such a privilege," Casareto said. "I'm trying to make the most I possibly can out of it."

The top seven finishers in each dive advance to the NCAA Swimming and Diving championships in Auburn, Ala., next weekend.

Contact Matt Unger at munger3@nd.edu

"It's extremely difficult to make NAAs, especially as a diver in this particular zone because it's the most difficult zone in the nation."

**Allison Casareto
freshman diver**

FENCING

Notre Dame advances to regionals

By MATTHEW ROBISON
Sports Writer

After the Irish narrowly fell to Ohio State in Sunday's Midwest Conference championships Sunday, they will take part in the NCAA Regional championships in Cleveland this weekend.

Despite the loss, the men earned first in the sabre and foil competitions and second place in the epee. The women claimed second in the sabre, and third in the epee and foil competitions.

"For the team, it's a stepping stone in a big, long journey we have toward a second NCAA championship," junior James Kaull said.

The Irish were a bit surprised by the strength of the Buckeyes, but were also pleased with the depth across the board for Notre Dame.

"In previous years, we've really rolled over those guys," Kaull said. "This year they're very strong. In fact, they might be the strongest team in the country."

Junior Jack Piasio echoed Kaull's sentiment, but added that Notre Dame is certainly competitive with Ohio State and is right there at the top. The final tally in the men's epee was 5-1, but every bout was close.

"If Ohio State is the No. 1 team in the country, we're just as good if not better than them," Piasio said. "Everyone's competitive from top to bottom — the whole squad. That shows a lot of depth and resilience in the performance of everyone out there."

If the Irish learned they can



ANDREW CHENG/The Observer

Irish freshman foil Madison Zeiss sets up against an opponent during the Midwest Fencing Conference championships Saturday.

compete with the best teams in the country and perhaps repeat as national champions, they also learned there is a good deal of work to be done to get ultimately achieve their goal.

"It's confirmation that we are where we want to be in some degrees and we are not where we want to be in other degrees," Kaull said. "It's an important accomplishment for our program as a whole." The window of time the Irish can make those improvements is dwindling.

"This is a great barometer.

We're going up against all these guys individually this next weekend in Regionals," Piasio said. "Seeing how they fence here, seeing how we match up to them. You can make a few tweaks to your game in a day. We can't really change anything drastically." Following the NCAA Regional championships in Cleveland, the Irish will partake in the NCAA championships 10 days later in Columbus, Ohio.

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ND WOMEN'S GOLF

Irish aim for a comeback with two tournaments

By ISAAC LORTON
Sports Writer

After taking a disappointing 13th place at the Darius Rucker Invitational in Hilton Head, S.C., Notre Dame looks to bounce back with two tournaments over break.

The tournament in South Carolina was cut a round short on Sunday due to heavy rainfall and thunderstorms at the Long Cove Golf Club. The Irish shot 24-over par and dropped from sixth to 13th place in a 15-team field following their second round. They finished with a team score of 620 after two rounds.

Coming off a 14th place showing in the last tournament, freshman Ashley Armstrong will be leading the Irish over break. In 36 holes of golf, Armstrong shot a six-over par 148 and finished 11 strokes behind the tournament winner Stephanie Meadow of Alabama.

For their second tournament of the spring season, the Irish will compete in the LSU Tiger

Classic this weekend in Baton Rouge, La., at the University Club of Baton Rouge. Following that tournament, the Irish will travel to Mesa, Ariz. for the Clover Cup on March 16 at Longbow Golf Club.

Senior Katie Allare will be making a homecoming of sorts when the team drops down in Mesa. The Longbow Golf Club in Mesa is a mere 30 minutes from Xavier Prep in Phoenix, where Allare attended high school.

However, the Irish are hoping the stormy weather predicted for Louisiana this weekend does not affect them as it did in South Carolina. In Baton Rouge, the skies do not look promising. For all three days, it is projected to rain with chances of precipitation hovering around 50 percent.

The Irish look to have a valuable spring break and come back to campus improved as they compete in the LSU Tiger Classic and the Clover Cup.

Contact Isaac Lorton at ilorton@nd.edu



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ND SOFTBALL

Irish anticipate tough competition

By KATIE HEIT
Sports Writer

The Irish will face a difficult break as they head to California to play nine games in just eight days.

Senior outfielder Alexa Maldonado said keeping focused in the warm and sunny state will be a challenge.

"We look at it as sort of a business trip," Maldonado said. "Although we are on break, the fact of the matter is that we are there to do one thing — to win games. From the time we wake up to the time the games for the day are over, we focus on the games."

Notre Dame (7-6) faces its first competition Saturday in Lakewood, Calif. when it takes on Oregon State (17-5) to open the Long Beach State Invite. The Irish will also play Charleston Southern (10-7) and UNLV (9-10) in the tournament.

Maldonado said a major draw to the difficult week is the caliber of competition that the Irish will be facing.

"I am most excited to play great competition," Maldonado said. "We play a lot of teams that are ranked nationally, so it will be great to see where our team is at."

After the Long Beach State Invite, the Irish will travel to Los Angeles for a contest



SARAH O'CONNOR/The Observer

Irish senior infielder Dani Miller swings the bat during a doubleheader against Louisville last spring in South Bend.

against Loyola Marymount (13-9) on Tuesday. Finally, the Irish will round out their weekend with five games in Fullerton, Calif. Notable competition includes Michigan (15-5) and Arizona State (21-2).

"The team goals for the break are to play the best softball every game," Maldonado

said. "We need to start getting on a roll and take it to the rest of the season."

So far this season, the Irish have struggled with consistency. Maldonado said the team focused primarily on minimizing errors during this week's practices.

Maldonado said she wants to be a leader to the younger girls on her team during the long stretch of games.

"My personal expectations are to be a great spark for this team both offensively and defensively," Maldonado said. "I want my teammates to feed off my intensity."

The Irish will begin their week Saturday in Lakewood, Calif., against Oregon State at 2 p.m.

Contact Katie Heit at kheit@nd.edu

SMC SOFTBALL

Senior captains lead Belles in season opener

By NICK BOYLE
Sports Writer

Saint Mary's will look to start their season off strong when they travel to Florida next week to take on a slew of opponents.

Taking on 10 different teams in just five days, Belles coach Erin Sullivan believes the trip will be the perfect way for the team to start the season.

"This spring trip will give us a good chance to iron out some little things we need to work on,

and should be the perfect preparation for conference play," Sullivan said. "[The trip] will give us a good chance to figure out the line-up hitting wise, as well as figure out our pitching rotation."

South Bend's winter has not been kind to the Belles, Sullivan said.

"We've only been able to get outside to practice in the last couple of days," Sullivan said. "Most of our practice has had to be indoors. The games will give us a good chance to play outside and get used to the elements again. It will be interesting to see how the players step up and deal with the diversity [of the weather.]"

Sullivan believes the spring trip could be the start of a great season for Saint Mary's, having set lofty expectations and goals

for the team to accomplish.

"We should have a very strong and competitive team this year," Sullivan said. "We're aiming to get back to our conference tournament, which means finishing in the top four of our conference. We also would like to finish with 20-plus wins, and to send our senior class out with a bang."

Sullivan believes her six seniors will play a very large role for the team this year, and will need to succeed for the team to be successful as a whole.

"Our three senior captains, Lauren Enayati, Kate Mitchell and Kristen Nelson are all great players and great leaders," Sullivan said. "They do a lot of great things off of the field and each has different strengths. We also have three other seniors on our team who are great leaders, without any of them we wouldn't win games. All are equal parts to our team."

"Everyone is really excited and expecting to do well this season. The players think they are a great team, [on which] everyone is equally important. They really feel and believe they can have a great season this year."

Saint Mary's starts off its spring trip and its season Sunday in Fort Myers, Fla.

Contact Nick Boyle at nboyle1@nd.edu

"We play a lot of teams that are ranked nationally, so it will be great to see where our team is at."

Alexa Maldonado
senior outfielder

MEN'S SWIMMING AND DIVING

Divers show their skills at national championship

By MEGAN GOLDEN
Sports Writer

Nearly one month after capturing the Big East title, the Notre Dame diving team will set out to win on a national stage. The Irish will send four divers to the NCAA Zone Diving championship this weekend in a meet featuring the toughest competition in the region.

Irish diving coach Caiming Xie was named Big East Diving Coach of the Year, while freshman Nick Nemetz earned Big East Diver of the Year honors Feb. 12.

Nemetz said all of the Big East title celebrations have ended, but he would love to be able to celebrate once more, this time in front of the top divers in the area.

"[Winning the Big East Championship] was a great feeling," he said. "It was another thing I didn't expect to do, but I felt great. I felt like I worked hard this year and learned a lot and improved."

Nemetz, junior Ryan Koter and freshmen Michael Kreft and Ted Wagner will travel to Indiana to compete for the Irish. To qualify, a diver must record a score of at least 300 on the one-meter board or a score of at least 320 on the three-meter board at any point

during the season.

Koter — who has qualified for the third time in as many years — has offered advice to the trio of Irish freshmen making the trip, Wagner said.

"We're going into zones with three freshmen, which is not that much experience, but it should be a great meet," Wagner said. "I think everyone should do pretty well."

Indiana will host competition in Zone C, which features several schools including Notre Dame and Ohio State.

Nemetz said he does not quite know what to expect in his first trip to the Zone competition.

"There's a lot of good divers at this meet," Nemetz said. "There are a bunch of Big Ten schools that have really good divers, whose best scores are a lot better than mine. I don't care what place I get. I don't have any top-placing goals or anything like that. I am looking forward to having a fun time, and I'm going to dive my best."

The Irish will begin competition in the NCAA Zone Diving championship Friday in Bloomington, Ind.

Contact Megan Golden at mgolde1@saintmarys.edu

SMC GOLF

Belles reunite for Spring Kick-off

By BRENDAN BELL
Sports Writer

After a fall season that left Saint Mary's with a shortage of golfers due to study abroad opportunities, a reunited and rejuvenated Belles team will start its spring golf season in Phoenix, Ariz., next weekend.

While many golfers are just starting to get back into a rhythm with their swings, Belles coach Kevin Hamilton said the team's main long-term goal for the season has already been set.

"By the end of May we would like to be ranked in the top 10 and have won our conference's [automatic qualifying] bid to play in the NCAA championship," Hamilton said.

Saint Mary's has made the NCAA tournament six times in its history and won four conference championships since 2002.

The Belles will spend their break differently than most students, as they open up their spring season with a trip

to play in the Spring Kick-Off at Westbrook Country Club in Arizona. While it is their first competition of the season, it is also the only chance the Belles will

have to play competitively until April. Hamilton said the team is looking forward to finally converting hard work into results.

"It has been a long time since some of our players have seen competition because of studying abroad," Hamilton said. "We need to get them and the rest of the team up to speed and implement some of the swing adjustments we have made indoors this winter."

Senior captains Natalie Mutaszak and Christine Brown came off a strong fall campaign, and Hamilton said the team will look for consistency and leadership

from those two early on.

"I expect those two to be consistently low scorers," Hamilton said. "And the rest of the team to be close behind for the support it takes to be a top 10 team in the nation."

Matuszak and Brown averaged 82.8 and 84.9 strokes per round, respectively. Another key piece to the team is sophomore Doyle O'Brien, who played in one tournament during the fall, but shot scores of 83 and 81 in her two rounds.

The Belles will start their season hoping to catch fire, as they travel to hot and sunny Phoenix, Ariz., for the Spring Kick-Off tournament starting March 16.

Contact Brendan Bell at bbell2@nd.edu



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ND WOMENS TENNIS

Notre Dame faces ranked opponents in Honolulu

By KELSEY MANNING
Sports Writer

The No. 21 Irish head to Hawaii for a week of warm weather, a transition from indoor to outdoor play and three tough matches as Notre Dame takes on No. 20 Texas Tech, No. 52 Hawaii and No. 62 Wyoming in the Aloha State over spring break.

For the Irish (9-4, 1-0 Big East), the Hawaii trip is one that occurs just once in four years. Senior co-captain and reigning Big East Player of the Week Shannon Mathews said it is particularly exciting for her and senior co-captain Kristy Frilling to experience the trip in their final year.

"We do this trip every four years, so each girl on the tennis team will go once in her four years," she said. "So it's kind of a cool experience so for Kristy and I. This is our first time and it's cool to get to do it as seniors. It should be really, really fun. Neither of us has been there before, so we're excited."

The team will depart early Saturday morning and return the following Saturday. While Irish coach Jay Louderback has mentioned some exciting jaunts like whale watching and hiking in years past, Mathews said Louderback has a few different things in the works for the team this week.

"[Coach Louderback] was saying yesterday that he's been in contact with the president of the Notre Dame club of Hawaii, so they get pretty excited," she said. "I think we're going to do a luau one of the nights, and then there is a Notre Dame alum who is a naval officer in Hawaii who may possibly give

us a private tour of Pearl Harbor. We're still in the midst of figuring out if we do that. We'll probably see Pearl Harbor anyway, but it would be really cool to have a sneak peak and tour from a Notre Dame alum as well."

This will be Notre Dame's first contest of the spring season on outdoor courts, and though it will certainly be a transition, Mathews said it is one the Irish are excited for.

"I think it's going to be tough because these will be our first matches outdoors," the senior said. "It's always an adjustment coming from playing indoors and then going on spring break and playing outside, but we always love it. We love playing outside. We get sick of cold weather and being cooped up in South Bend, so we kind of get really excited to go somewhere warm, especially Hawaii."

Aside from sightseeing and enjoying the weather, the Irish are focused on their opponents at hand. Mathews said one team in particular that will pose a challenge is No. 20 Texas Tech — the Red Raiders (9-2, 1-0 Big 12) jumped past Notre Dame in the rankings this week after beating No. 11 Baylor. Additionally, the match will have a little bit of familial competition, Mathews said.

"We know that Texas Tech has come off a good win against Baylor and are ranked one ahead of us right now so I think that will be a tough match for us," she said. "Also [sophomore Britney Sanders] has a twin sister, [sophomore Nikki Sanders], on the Texas Tech team so that will be fun for them to see each other but obviously to play against her will be a little bit unique for both of them."



ALEX PARTAK/The Observer

Irish senior captain Kristy Frilling returns the ball during Notre Dame's 6-1 loss to Duke on Saturday. The Irish next head to Honolulu, Hawaii to face three ranked opponents, including Hawaii and Texas Tech.

Also on the slate for the week are Hawaii (5-4) — where the Irish will be playing all three matches — and Wyoming (7-4).

Despite losing to No. 3 Duke last weekend, the Irish shut out Iowa and was able to claim the doubles point in both, giving them four straight doubles points. After an early spring season that saw the Irish floundering the doubles point more often than not, the consistency was what Louderback said he had expected from his team all along.

Mathews said the team is looking to build on last week-

end's success and carry it over to this week.

"Last weekend we played two good teams, both of them with three really solid doubles teams, so being able to win the doubles point against Iowa as well as Duke was a really great improvement for us," she said. "We've been working really hard on our doubles play and improving that throughout the season. It's great momentum to have going into the singles play so we're going to keep it up and keep working hard to be able to win that doubles point because it makes it so much easier only

having to win three singles matches instead of four."

Overall, Mathews said the Irish are looking forward to competition and leisure alike.

"They are going to be three tough matches for us so we're going there ready to compete, working hard throughout the week, but also enjoying Hawaii at the same time," she said.

Notre Dame will take on Texas Tech on Monday, Hawaii on Wednesday and Wyoming on Thursday, all in Honolulu.

Contact Kelsey Manning at kmanning3@nd.edu

SMC TENNIS

Belles head to Disney for spring break

By ISAAC LORTON
Sports Writer

With Mickey Mouse ears and bathing suits in tow, Saint Mary's is heading to Orlando, Fla. for its annual spring break training trip. The Belles (2-1) will compete in six matches starting March 11 and ending March 15.

"We have gone down to Orlando for the past four years to compete," Belles coach Dale Campbell said. "It has been a great trip in many aspects."

The Belles will be experiencing a different environment during this week of competition.

"We are pretty excited to go to warmer weather and get some sun," Campbell said. "It will be nice to have some outside matches since ours have only been inside so far this year."

On Saturday and Thursday, the Belles will have a day with two matches and the weather will also be a factor in their games.

"I think the heat and humidity and the two-a-days can definitely affect the girls," Campbell said. "But we are in good shape. We have worked hard on our conditioning and worked with the strength training coach putting an emphasis on our legs and agility."

Coming off two convincing victories against Olivet and Indiana Tech, the Belles look to carry

momentum into the six matches. Campbell said the team will benefit greatly from the numerous matches in a condensed timeframe.

"Playing this many matches will help us see some trends in our game which we can build off of and improve upon," Campbell said. "A lot of match play will allow this young team to be more comfortable when they come back from break."

Saint Mary's goes with a chip on its shoulder, looking to beat St. Scholastica of Duluth, Minn.

"We have fought hard against

them the past two years, but lost both times," Campbell said. "I hope this year it will turn out differently."

The Belles are not looking to make any roster changes in the matches over break, but hope to get all of the players into a few matches.

"We want some of the girls who are not in the top five to see some match play," Campbell said. "It will definitely be valuable to all of us."

The trip will not be an entirely serious one for Saint Mary's, though.

"We will be visiting Cocoa Beach one day and hopefully make it to Disney on another," Campbell said. "This will be a good way for the girls to take a break."

Campbell said he thinks the trip will help build team chemistry.

"I think spending eight days together and just hanging out will improve our team's understanding of each other and our communication," Campbell said. "The improved communication will help us — especially in doubles."

The Belles leave campus Friday and begin matches Saturday in Orlando, Fla.

Contact Isaac Lorton at ilorton@nd.edu

LSU

continued from page 20

we've been able to come and hopefully come out with a couple of wins."

After playing their second game against Michigan on Sunday, the Irish will get right back on the field for an evening showdown with the tournament hosts, No. 13 LSU. The Tigers (11-2) are a perennial powerhouse in college baseball, and this year is no different. In addition to LSU's notorious home field advantage, the Irish will also have to deal with the reigning national player of the week, junior first baseman Mason Katz.

"[LSU] is a few years removed from a national championship," Aoki said. "They have a phenomenal atmosphere in which to play...I think five or six years running now they've led the country in attendance. I think they've had a stadium which is arguably the best college baseball facility in the country, and they get really good players, and good players play really well, you know?"

After finishing up in Baton

Rouge on Monday, the Irish will head to Wolff Stadium in San Antonio, Texas to host the Irish Baseball Classic. Co-sponsored by the Notre Dame Club of San Antonio, the Classic has become an early season tradition for the Irish, who will host Houston Baptist, Kansas, Indiana State and Texas-San Antonio in this year's edition.

With a high level of competition, Aoki said it will take an impressive showing to win the Classic's championship game March 18.

"I think they're all very competitive baseball teams."

Mik Aoki
Irish coach

"I think they're all very competitive baseball teams," he said. "So I think it's one of those things where we don't have a lot of margin for error — I think we have more margin for error than we did a year ago — but the bottom line is that in order for us to have success, in order for us to win, we have to be playing at or near the top of our game in order to do it, regardless of who the opponent is."

The Irish will begin their whirlwind break Saturday against Michigan. First pitch will be thrown at 11 a.m.

Contact Jack Hefferon at jhefferon@nd.edu and Vicky Jacobsen at vjacobsen@nd.edu

Ivy

continued from page 20

and even the third game was a bus trip, which is pretty easy, honestly ... The main thing that we are going to be aware of is our focus — make sure that our girls are able to focus on us."

In their most recent outing, the Irish outscored Ohio State (5-1) by a score of 16-7 in a game that brought a career-day for junior goaltender Ellie Hilling. Hilling notched 16 saves and earned the Big East Defensive Player of the Week award on Monday.

"I think it is a total team effort," Halfpenny said. "Our defense is doing its job in front of Ellie, giving her looks that are high percentage saves, and that is important. That does not take away from some of the saves she was making at point blank range, because ... she was making some major momentum-swinging saves as well."

As they prepare to face BU (1-3), the Irish will have to figure out how to score on the Terriers' sophomore goalkeeper Christina Sheridan, who recorded two career high saves in the past week. The Terriers are a familiar opponent both for the Irish and Halfpenny, who coached against BU during her time at William and Mary.

"There is familiarity because we have played them before, which is always nice, but they are a new team," Halfpenny said. "Each team has graduated quite a bit, they certainly are very, very aggressive ...

they have athleticism in the midfield, they are very, very well coached, so we will be looking forward to a very spirited game."

Following their Saturday tilt with Boston, the Irish will face Yale (2-1) in Delray Beach, Fla., on Tuesday and Cornell (3-0) in Orlando, Fla., on March 17. Both teams already have experience this season facing ranked opponents — Yale fell to No. 9 Dartmouth 9-8 Saturday and Cornell scrimmaged No. 14 Penn State on Feb. 9.

While the Irish look forward to traveling during spring break, the players will have devote extra energy to maintaining focus come game time, Halfpenny said.

"While it is a great spring trip, it is also a business trip for us, and a very important one in this stretch, as well," she said. "Let's be present when we are there, let's really have fun when we are together and continue to improve on our game."

One area in particular that the Irish will try to improve is the draw-control game. Against Ohio State, Notre Dame corralled only nine draw-controls compared to the Buckeyes' 15.

"We have really been focusing on the draw. That is an area that we have been picking apart because ... we weren't winning that battle against our opponent and we haven't done that yet."

The Irish will begin their three-game road trip Saturday when they face off with Boston at 3 p.m.

Contact Joseph Monardo at jmonardo@nd.edu

Maday

continued from page 20

full of confidence and full of energy. Going into the second round, I just think you're going to see more of that."

Though Summerhays and junior goalie Mike Johnson have split time much of the season, the sophomore has commanded playing time with three of the last four starts, including two shutouts. Though Summerhays will face a tough test from the Wolverine attack, Irish coach Jeff Jackson said he hopes his goalie will continue his strong play.

"Steven's last three games, he's played consistently well," Jackson said. "But consistency is not just a two or three-game thing. This weekend we're going to play a goalie [Michigan senior goalie Shawn Hunwick] that plays well every night. But, Steven has played well here the last few games, and we hope we can continue to have that kind of goaltending."

Notre Dame's biggest obstacle in beating the Wolverines (21-11-4, 15-9-4-1) and reaching Joe Louis Arena is likely Hunwick, a 5-foot-7 former walk-on who is undisputedly one of the nations top goalkeepers. Hunwick has performed well against the Irish in the past and Maday said the team will need to get physical to overcome the netminder.

"Over the past couple years, I've seen a lot of Hunwick, probably too much" Maday said. "Recently, he's gotten the best of us. I think we need



ASHLEY DACY/The Observer

Irish freshman forward Austin Wuthrich dodges an opponent during Notre Dame's 4-2 loss to Michigan on Feb. 25.

to create traffic. He's not the biggest goalie in net, so if we create traffic I think we can have success. Aside from that, I think if we can get the puck up and shoot it high, upstairs, I think that might be our best shot."

The underwhelming record for the Irish in the regular season means the team will play the second-round series in the unfavorable environment of Yost Arena. Jackson emphasized the need for the Irish to play well early in the first period to neutralize the effects of the crowd.

"We have to play smart in the first period against Michigan, especially in the first 10 minutes, because they're all amped up, the crowd gets going, and they're very explosive in that first 10 minutes," Jackson said. "We have to make sure that we are composed. We have to take care of the puck and stay out of the penalty box, plain and simple."

The puck will drop on Friday, Saturday and Sunday — if necessary — at 7:35 p.m.

Contact Chris Allen at callen10@nd.edu

Hofstra

continued from page 20

fense because they know they can work longer into possessions. As a defense, we know that it's harder to play two to three [straight] minutes of defense," he said. "If our offense doesn't have to press for goals, they can be more methodical. If we're not down by many goals, it allows our offense to be more effective."

Hofstra, who scores 8.25 goals per game, has faced three ranked opponents thus far, defeating Harvard and

falling to both Princeton and Fairfield. Randall said Notre Dame is preparing for Hofstra just like it would for any team in the league.

"Every week we watch film of our most recent game, and we find little areas that we can fine-tune," he said. "There were a few small plays at the end of the Drexel game and unsettled defense that we need to work on, so hopefully we can have those areas [improved] for the next game."

With upcoming matchups against No. 13 Denver and No. 20 Ohio State, Notre Dame is approaching a daunting stretch on its schedule.

Randall said the Irish cannot afford to overlook a talented Hofstra squad.

"Every week we have the same approach," he said. "It starts with playing consistent defense and playing strong in our running game. Then that transitions into playing effective offense. We try to play within ourselves and keep the game plan that the coaches establish."

The Irish will face Hofstra on Saturday at James M. Shuart Stadium in Hempstead, N.Y. at 3 p.m.

Contact Megan Golden at mgoldel@saintmarys.edu

Big East

continued from page 20

Babb (800-meter) and junior Jeremy Rae (1,600-meter), is also preparing for the meet.

"We come from three different training groups ... so it is pretty unique because three separate training groups all competing on the same team," Babb said. "It creates that much bigger of an environment, our whole team gets so excited for the relay because we are a pretty diverse group."

At last year's NCAA Indoor championships, the Irish men's distance medley relay team placed fourth with a combined time of 9:30.16 and received All-American honors. Shawel and Rae both participated on last year's medley team, but Giesting and Babb are first time competitors at the NCAA championship level.

"It is definitely different," Shawel said. "This is third time I have been there and it is definitely going to be the last time I go for indoors, so it is pretty

much all or nothing. I remember the other times I went, it was pretty stressful, being a newcomer to nationals and you are racing guys who have been there multiple times. Definitely, now I feel experienced."

This year's relay team qualified for the NCAA championships less than a week ago at the Alex Wilson Invitational. The group ran a school-record time of 9:29.72 and automatically qualified for the NCAA Indoor championships. The Irish will hope to maintain the momentum gained from their recent performance as they attempt to improve on last year's fourth place finish at the national meet.

"It is going to take firing on all cylinders, that is for sure," Babb said. "Everyone is just

going to have to run super focused and not be overwhelmed. It is just going to be a huge step up in environment, from when we qualified at Alex Wilson,

but that being said ... we realize what we did last year ... going forward, we are definitely looking forward to doing something bigger and better."

While most of the Irish athletes are already gear-

ing up for the outdoor season, which kicks off March 22 at the Alabama Relays, the few who qualified for the NCAA's turn their attention to an indoor meet one last time.

Notre Dame's representatives will compete for a title Friday and Saturday in Nampa, Idaho.

Contact Joseph Monardo at jmonardo@nd.edu

"[The relay] creates that much bigger of an environment, our whole team gets so excited for the relay because we are a pretty diverse group."

Randall Babb
senior



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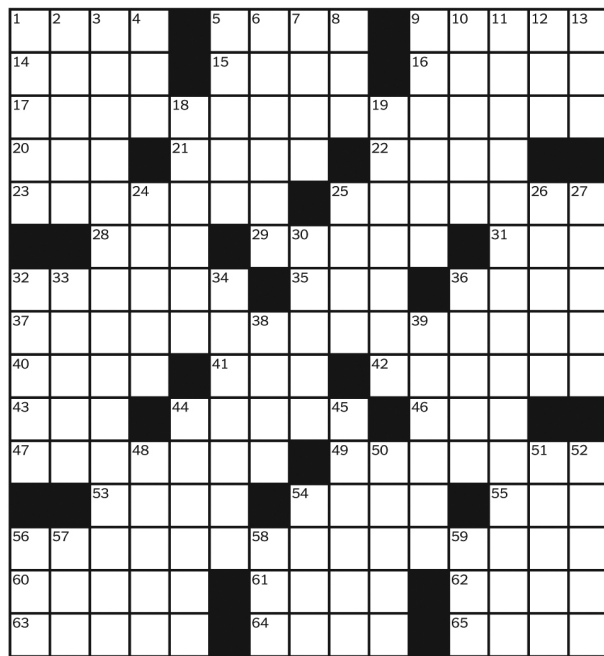
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CROSSWORD

WILL SHORTZ

- Across**
- 1 Nursery rhyme vessel
 - 5 Candy used to be seen on it
 - 9 Like a celestial body
 - 14 Oscar Wilde poem "By the _____"
 - 15 Ingredient in traditional medicine
 - 16 Uncertain
 - 17 Start of a Confucian aphorism
 - 20 Man's name that's Latin for "honey"
 - 21 Not so great
 - 22 Arm raiser, informally
 - 23 Like the gang, in an old song
 - 25 Single, e.g.
 - 28 Accept eagerly, with "up"
 - 29 A goner
 - 31 Dig it
 - 32 Work assignments
 - 35 TV network that broadcast live from Opryland USA
 - 36 Two-time Oscar-winning cinematographer Nykvist
 - 37 Aphorism's middle
 - 40 Draftable
 - 41 Tick off
 - 42 Journalist Howell
 - 43 Actor Wheaton
 - 44 Medgar _____ College
 - 46 Number twos, for short
 - 47 Some galas
 - 49 Accustoms
 - 53 Place for family portraits
 - 54 Together, in Toulon
- Down**
- 1 Cheese city
 - 2 Staggering
 - 3 Probably
 - 4 Joke follower
 - 5 Not being such a daredevil, say
 - 6 Place for many a hanging
 - 7 Brings along
 - 8 Speed: Abbr.
 - 9 Guinness superlative
 - 10 "La _____ du jeu" (1939 Renoir film)
 - 11 Music featured in "A Clockwork Orange"
 - 12 "_____ tu"
 - 13 Faulty: Prefix
 - 18 One who's working out of pocket, informally?
 - 19 "Elf" co-star, 2003
 - 24 Co-creator of "The Flintstones"
 - 25 Curse
 - 55 Suffix with manager
 - 56 Aphorism's end
 - 60 Beau
 - 61 Call _____ (stop play after service)
 - 62 "Am _____ only one?"
 - 63 Terminals in a computer network
 - 64 Minuscule issues
 - 65 Word with china or chop



Puzzle by Stu Ockman

- 26 Memorable 2011 hurricane
- 27 Sights at Occupy protests
- 30 More
- 32 Stores
- 33 "Pagliacci" clown
- 34 Turns
- 36 Mushroom stem
- 38 _____ jolie
- 39 Chicago's Saint _____ University
- 44 Fishermen with traps
- 45 Browning piece
- 48 Hindu princess
- 50 Bad demonstrations
- 51 Prefix with - meter
- 52 Time out?
- 54 _____ fruit
- 56 On one's _____
- 57 When doubled, Miss Piggy's white poodle
- 58 N.H.L.'s Laperriere
- 59 Start of an alphabet book

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ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE



HOROSCOPE

EUGENIA LAST

Happy Birthday: Work toward your goals. Don't limit yourself by being stubborn. Do your best to be a team player in both personal and professional relationships. Honor contracts and agreements or make constructive suggestions to amend whatever isn't working for you. Make sure you are conscious of those around you. Your numbers are 5, 12, 20, 24, 29, 37, 44.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Take care of minor health problems. Sort out differences you have with a peer or colleague. Put more effort into the way you treat others and how you take care of your needs. Raise your profile by being unique. ★★★★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Take time to think matters through before you react physically or emotionally. It's important to know your limitations and to put your efforts in the right place. What you have to offer others can be your saving grace. ★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Don't invite trouble. Do what needs to be done and keep moving. Interact with someone who can help you raise your income or connect you to people interested in what you have to offer. Your opinion will be more valuable than you realize. ★★★★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Unexpected changes may set you off, causing you to miss an opportunity that has the potential to alter your personal and professional life. You have to learn to adapt to the inevitable so you can focus on your success. ★★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Don't give up or give in. Forge ahead on your path and strive to reach your goals. Following someone won't work. Decline any offer that doesn't allow you to demonstrate what you have to offer. Love and romance are highlighted. ★★★★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Expand your interests and make changes that will show others you are ready to take on any task that comes your way. Sharing your thoughts and interacting with people who interest you will lead to improved relationships. ★★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Ask for favors or offer what you can to someone you need something from in return. Sharing and collaborating will help you get ahead personally and professionally. There is money to be made if you market your skills creatively. ★★★★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Use your experience and intuition to find a way to achieve your professional goals. Don't allow anyone to push you around. Make decisions based on your needs and don't budge. Love and romance are on the rise. ★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Make changes to fit your current situation. Instigate a move or do a little renovating or redecorating conducive to your pursuits. Business travel will help you see what needs to be done, allowing you to react promptly. ★★★★★

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Put greater focus on home, family and your personal budget. Taking action now can save you a loss in the future. Looking for love or doing what you can to enhance a relationship will bring positive long-term results. ★★★

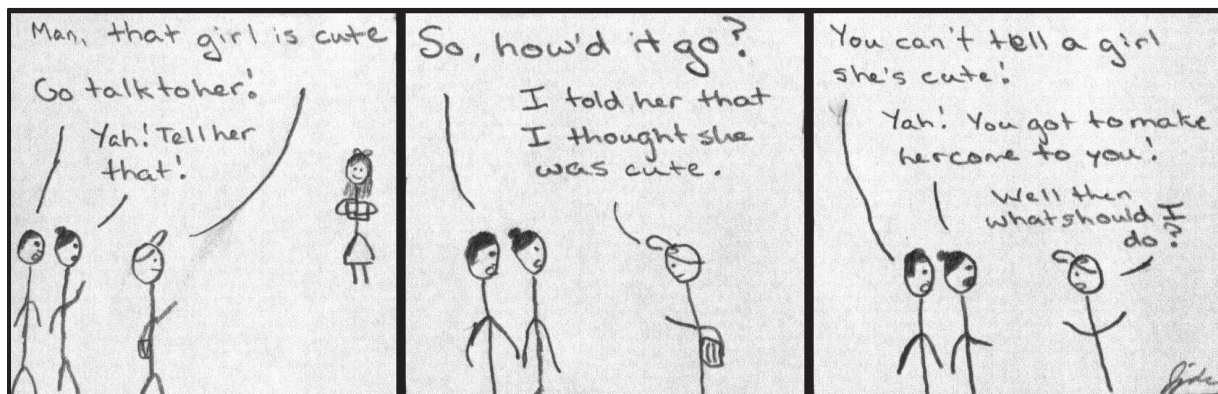
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Don't be afraid to be different. It's your uniqueness that attracts interesting people to your side. Emotional blackmail may be used to get you to do something you don't want to do. Before you take that route, consider walking away. ★★★★★

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Don't be fooled by empty promises. Get any offer in writing before changing your life. You must look out for you and your family first. Your astuteness will impress someone who does have something worth your while. Wait, and you'll get results. ★★★★★

Birthday Baby: You are aggressive, determined and prepared. You strive for honor and equality.

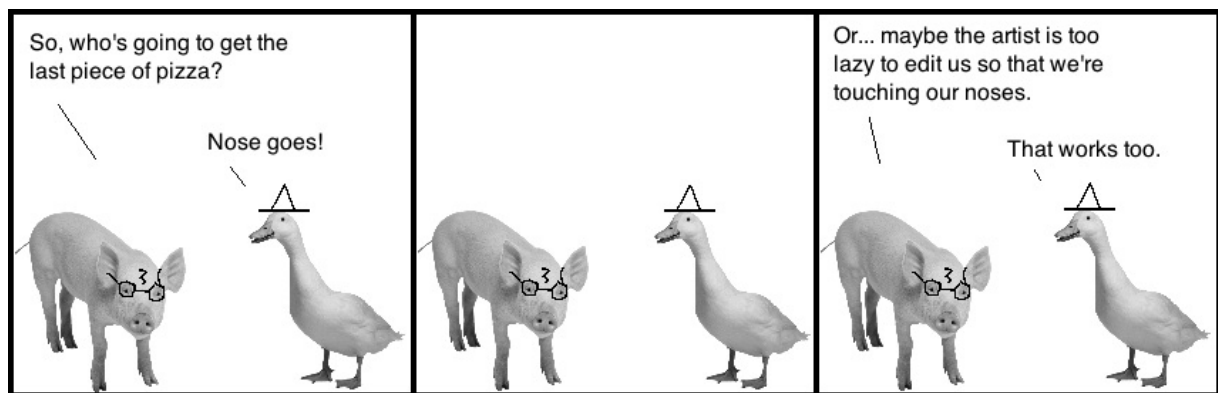
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JONATHAN REPINE



THE LONDON EXPRESS

LEE HAGGENJOS AND ALEX GRISWOLD



JUMBLE

HENRY ARNOLD
MIKE ARGIRION

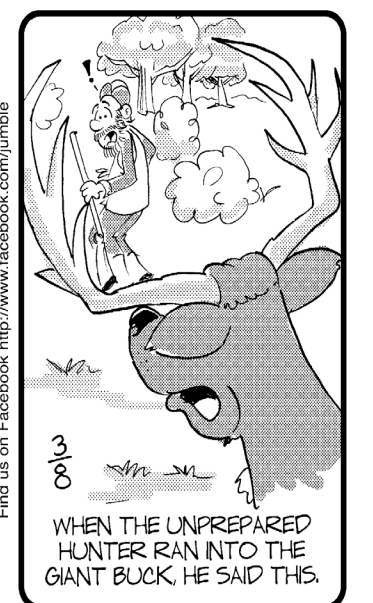
Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

FNIEK
□ □ □ □ □

TDHPE
□ □ □ □ □

REUNNO
□ □ □ □ □

ATAMUR
□ □ □ □ □



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

Print answer here: □ □ □ □ □ " □ □ □ □ □ "

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's | Jumbles: BLINK ADMIT SUFFIX GROCER
Answer: Elvis liked to eat meals that were this — FIT FOR A KING

THE OBSERVER

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HOCKEY

Hostile takeover

No. 17 Notre Dame heads to Ann Arbor to face rival No. 4 Michigan



JULIE HERDER/The Observer

Irish sophomore goalie Steven Summerhays, right, watches senior defenseman Sean Lorenz take control of the puck during Notre Dame's 4-2 victory over Ohio State on Saturday.

By CHRIS ALLEN
Sports Writer

The next chapter in a growing postseason rivalry between No. 17 Notre Dame and No. 4 Michigan will be written this weekend as the Irish travel to hostile Yost Arena to take on the Wolverines in the second round of the CCHA tournament.

The two schools have factored heavily in recent CCHA tournaments, winning five of the last seven championships

dating back to 2005. The winner of this weekend's three-game set will head to Joe Louis Arena in Detroit next weekend to play for the CCHA crown. Despite struggling through much of the second half of the season, the Irish (19-16-3, 12-13-3-0 CCHA) dominated Ohio State in a first-round sweep last weekend. Sophomore goalie Steven Summerhays posted two strong performances between the pipes and senior center Billy Maday scored three goals on the

weekend to lead Notre Dame to 2-0 and 4-2 wins. Maday said the team has completely put the late-season slide behind it.

"Before, I had said we took a lot of positives from the Michigan State weekend [Feb. 24-25] and I think that continued into Ohio State weekend. The slump that we had is pretty much forgotten, the playoffs are a brand new season," he said. "This is a new team,

see MADAY/page 18

TRACK AND FIELD

Relay leads team to Big East championships

By JOSEPH MONARDO
Sports Writer

Six athletes will represent Notre Dame at the NCAA Indoor Championships in Nampa, Idaho this weekend, bringing the first portion of the season to a close.

Following roughly three months of competition, the indoor season will conclude with the national meet, after which the outdoor season will begin.

Senior pole-vaulter Kevin Schipper, who jumped a

personal best height of 5.40 meters his last time out, and senior multi-eventer Maddie Buttinger will represent Notre Dame in Idaho. Schipper is a five-time Big East champion pole-vaulter, and Buttinger placed second in the pentathlon at the Big East Indoor championships Feb. 19.

The men's distance medley relay team, comprised of senior Johnathan Shawel (1,200-meter), freshman Chris Giesting (400-meter), senior Randall

see BIG EAST/page 18

WOMEN'S LACROSSE

Notre Dame aims to stay undefeated on trip

By JOSEPH MONARDO
Sports Writer

Coming off a convincing win over then-No. 10 Ohio State, No. 7 Notre Dame will attempt to double its win total over spring break and extend its perfect start to six games.

The Irish (3-0) will head to Massachusetts to face Boston University on Saturday before traveling to Florida for showdowns with Ivy League members Yale and Cornell. After

beginning their season with two home games and a trip to Ohio Stadium, the Irish will experience their first true road tests over the three-game stretch.

"I think the big thing right now that we have obviously looked at is that our first three-game swing is a lot different than our second three-game swing," Irish coach Christine Halfpenny said. "Obviously we had that comfort at home for the first two games,

see IVY/page 18

BASEBALL

Irish prepare for tough week in Baton Rouge

By JACK HEFFERON and VICKY JACOBSEN
Sports Writers

For most Notre Dame students, spring break is a time to head for warmer weather to rest and recharge. The Irish will indeed be heading south for break, but with nine tough games scheduled in as many days, it might not be a vacation.

Notre Dame (5-4) will hope the change of scenery will bring a change in its play as well, as the team was swept and held scoreless in three games at Texas State last weekend. In addition to their struggle to produce runs, the Irish have had trouble settling in in the field as well, registering 17 errors in their first nine games.

But while the team's fielding numbers might be unsettling, Irish coach Mik Aoki said he thinks the defense will improve with time.

"I think a lot of it is just getting repetitions," Aoki said. "I

think the problem is that our errors have come in bunches, and so that first weekend we had nine errors in that one game against Purdue...so they seem to come in bunches and hopefully we can kind of iron that out, but I think the way to fix it is to get out there and get better and develop."

Notre Dame will kick off its marathon break Saturday, with two games against rival Michigan at the LSU Baseball Tournament in Baton Rouge, La. The Wolverines (6-6) are another team trying to rebound after losing four of their last five, but Aoki and the Irish expect a stiff challenge nonetheless.

"I think they're similar to us in that they're trying to get their program headed back in the right direction," Aoki said. "I think it'll be a nice little series, but we'll have to play well and I think that it'll be a measuring stick to see how far

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MEN'S LACROSSE

Hofstra presents new challenges

By MEGAN GOLDEN
Sports Writer

No. 7 Notre Dame continues its road trip as it travels to No. 19 Hofstra on Saturday in search of its first winning streak of the season.

Irish senior attack Sean Rogers garnered Big East Offensive Player of the Week honors following his game-winning goal in Notre Dame's 6-5 comeback win at Drexel last weekend. Senior defenseman and co-captain Kevin Randall also earned Big East honors for his performance in the 6-5 Irish victory.

The matchup between the Irish (2-1) and the Pride (2-2) will be a first for everyone on Notre Dame's roster. Hofstra's style of play, Randall said, is similar to Drexel's and could pose a problem to Notre Dame.

"It's interesting to learn about a new team for once. We've been playing the same teams over and over," he said. "[Hofstra] presents a lot of unique challenges that



GRANT TOBIN/The Observer

Irish freshman midfielder Jack Near defends an opponent in Notre Dame's 4-3 loss to Penn State on Feb. 23.

we'll have to defend against. They have had a lot of Canadians for the past few years. [The Canadian] style of play is pretty unique, and that's transferred into this year."

The Irish rank first in the nation in scoring defense, allowing just four goals per game, 2.25 goals better than the next best team. Hofstra allows 9.25

goals per game — more than double Notre Dame's average.

Randall said the defense works to limit its opponent's scoring opportunities, ultimately allowing the Irish to be patient on the offensive side of the ball.

"It definitely helps the of-

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