

Panel addresses tragedy of Euro crisis

Professors say Euro zone is entering new phase of stagnation and recession



KEVIN SONG | The Observer

Moderator Anthony Monta poses a question to the panel about the current state of the Euro crisis Wednesday at the Hesburgh Center for International Studies.

By MEGHAN THOMASSEN
News Writer

The Nanovic Institute for European Studies partnered

with the Kellogg Institute on Wednesday to update Notre Dame students and faculty on the worsening Euro crisis at the Hesburgh Center for

International Studies.

Anthony Monta, moderator and associate director at the Institute, fielded a question from an attendee who also

came to the Euro crisis panel held last November: "How have the views of the panel [on the

see EURO PAGE 4

Leis show support for Te'o

By KRISTIN DURBIN
News Editor

After losing his grandmother and girlfriend within hours of each other last week, Irish line-backer Manti Te'o could have left Notre Dame and his teammates to be with his family in Hawaii.

Instead, he stayed in South Bend and led his team to a decisive victory at Michigan State on Saturday.

This Saturday, under the Notre Dame Stadium lights, tens of thousands of Fighting Irish fans

see LEIS PAGE 5

Economist disputes definition of poverty

By MEL FLANAGAN
News Writer

James Sullivan, associate professor of economics, recently completed a five-year study on poverty over the past five decades that utilized a consumption-based measure of poverty, unlike the official measure used by the U.S. government.

While the government's method finds the number of those below the poverty level to

have increased greatly since the 1960's, Sullivan discovered there

James Sullivan
professor of economics



has been a noticeable decrease in poverty since then.

"When you measure poverty

correctly over time you get a very different story [from the official measure]," Sullivan said. "There has been a sizable decline in poverty over the past five decades that you just don't see in the official poverty measure."

According to Sullivan's study "Winning the War: Poverty from the Great Society to the Great Recession," the measure used by the government to calculate the poverty level does not accurately reflect the number of citizens

who live in poverty today.

The official measure of poverty takes the poverty line established in the 1960s, adjusts it for inflation and declares that anyone whose pre-tax income falls below that line lives in poverty, Sullivan said.

Instead, Sullivan employed a measure based on an individual's consumption rather than his or her income, he said.

"How do we capture the value of expenses in the Medicaid

program [in the official measure]?" Sullivan said. "It's health insurance for the poor that ... frees up resources for those who would otherwise have purchased it. It's not captured in the official measure, but in consumption-based measure it would be."

The discrepancy in this measure often stems from the poverty measure only counting pre-tax income, Sullivan said.

see POVERTY PAGE 5

Charity builds home to aid local community

By BENJAMIN HORVATH
News Writer

Notre Dame's chapter of Habitat for Humanity will soon begin construction on a new energy-efficient home in nearby Mishawaka, marking the 19th house built through the University's partnership with the organization.

The house is being built for single mother Ashley Anderson, who has two children under five years old.

Michael Weathers, the organization's director of volunteer care, said the house

will have a long-term impact on both Anderson's family and the surrounding area.

"This house will add value to the community," Weathers said. "We are building something that will have lasting value to the family."

Graham said this is the third house Notre Dame has helped construct in this area of Mishawaka, which not only helps the individual family, but also begins to change the community.

"Habitat and Notre Dame want to give in a way that builds upon itself," Graham

said. "The whole area is improved by Habitat, and will allow for the family and area to reap more benefits down the road."

Ian Graham, co-president of Notre Dame's chapter of Habitat for Humanity, said Andersen is in the process of completing a sweat-equity program, which requires the homeowner to work a required number of hours on not only their own home, but other Habitat homes as well.

Weathers said the environment will also benefit from the construction project. The



Observer File Photo

South Bend residents and volunteers gather for the Habitat for Humanity Notre Dame house blessing in April 2010.

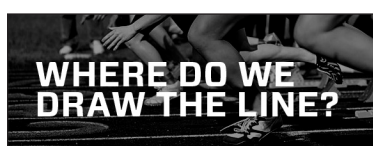
house will be Energy Star 3.0 compliant, meeting stricter environmental and energy standards than is required by

law in an attempt to reduce the home's energy cost and

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THE OBSERVER

ndsmcobserver.com

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

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

Post Office Information

The Observer (USPS 5992-4000) is published Monday through Friday except during exam and vacation periods. A subscription to The Observer is \$130 for one academic year; \$75 for one semester.

The Observer is published at:

024 South Dining Hall

Notre Dame, IN 46556-0779

Periodical postage paid at Notre Dame and additional mailing offices

POSTMASTER

Send address corrections to:

The Observer

P.O. Box 779

024 South Dining Hall

Notre Dame, IN 46556-077

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QUESTION OF THE DAY:

Have a question you want answered?

Email obsphoto@gmail.com

What is your favorite dance or dance move?



Catherine Groden
senior
Howard

"Falto Dance to 500 Miles."



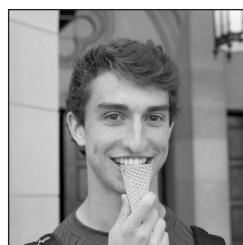
Cristina Couri
senior
off campus

"The Dougie."



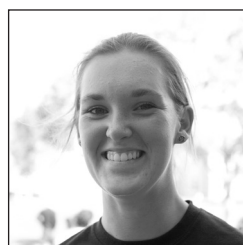
Jack Riely
freshman
O'Neill

"Gangnam Style."



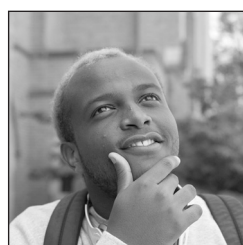
Joe Kelly
freshman
Fisher

"The Bernie."



Kate Hermeling
freshman
Walsh

"Grocery Cart."



Minelik Sisay
freshman
Carroll

"The Carlton."



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Want your event included here?

Email obsnews.nd@gmail.com

Thursday

Zen Meditation

102 Coleman-Morse Center

5:15 p.m. - 6:15 p.m.

All faiths welcome.

Friday

ND vs. Michigan Football Pep Rally

Hesburgh Library

6 p.m. - 7 p.m.

Open to the public.

Saturday

ND Band: Drummer's Circle

Main Building

12 a.m. - 12:45 a.m.

Home game tradition.

Sunday

Women's Soccer

Alumni Stadium

1 p.m. - 3 p.m.

ND vs. Oakland

Monday

Energy Quad Display

South Quad

10:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Companies promote sustainability.

Concert: Sons and Daughters

Courtyard of Snite

Museum of Art

6 p.m. - 8 p.m.

Enjoy music and food.

Why ND is suing the Obama Administration

North Dining Hall

12 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Mandate Discussion

Football Game: Notre Dame vs. Michigan

Notre Dame Stadium

7:30 p.m. - 11 p.m.

Beat Michigan.

Film: Spirited Away

DeBartolo Performing Arts Center

3 p.m. - 5:05 p.m.

Tickets \$7/\$5/\$4

Reflection on Nanotechnology and Society

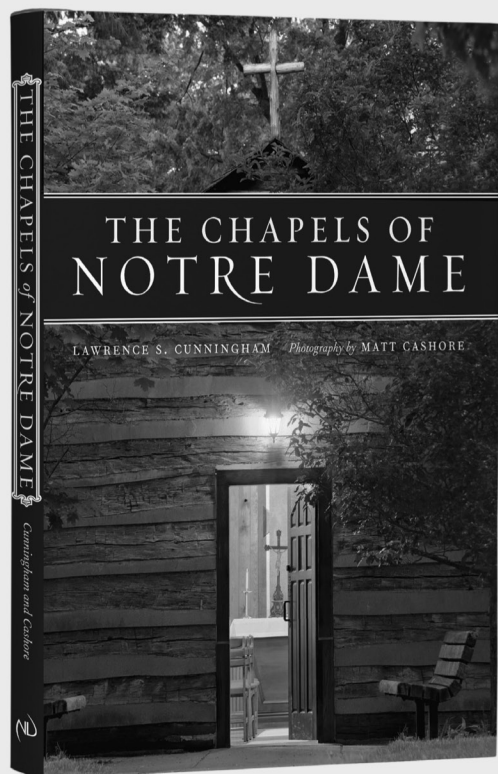
Stinson-Remick Hall

5:15 p.m. - 6:45 p.m.

Engaging seminar.

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Student awarded film scholarship

By ADAM LLORENS
News Writer

Weeks ago, senior Kathleen Bracke envisioned her one-of-a-kind senior thesis: writing, directing and editing a 25-minute film about a young Irish girl shot on location in the Emerald Isle's native tongue.

This dream became a reality for Bracke after she received a congratulatory phone call from the Princess Grace Foundation, informing her that she had won its Undergraduate Film Scholarship.

"I was shocked when I found out I won it," Bracke said. "I feel really fortunate because its an amazing program that supports artists who want to break into the film world; it provides the stepping-stone an aspiring filmmaker needs to bridge from one place to another."

Now celebrating its 30th year, the Princess Grace Award recognizes outstanding emerging artists in film, theater, dance, playwriting and choreography. The award's namesake comes from Grace Kelly, a 1950s actress best known for her roles in films directed by Alfred Hitchcock.

After leaving Hollywood, Kelly married into the royal family of Monaco, a small city-state located on the French Riviera. Friends, family and donors from around the world established the Princess Grace Foundation shortly after her death in 1982 to continue Kelly's support of the performing arts.

Now, Bracke will be able to use the funding from the award to create her film.

"To apply for the award, I had to include an outline of my thesis project and a portfolio of all of my work up to this point," she said. "Because of my undergraduate

research opportunities, I was able to go to Ireland to explore what exactly I wanted to do for the film.

"The Princess Grace Foundation saw that I wasn't going to Ireland for fun — this was a passion of mine," she said.

Bracke said she developed the idea for the script on a car ride with her mother two weeks before the application was due.

"We were talking about all the different experiences I've had in Ireland and it all came back to culture and language," Bracke said. "I wanted to express the culture of the area while using the Irish language in the film."

Bracke she will order film equipment and begin hiring crewmembers and actors after finalizing the script.

"I'm going back to Ireland in October to meet with potential cast members and get other logistics sorted out," Bracke said. "We're planning on shooting the film over winter break."

Bracke said she will begin the postproduction process in March and the film will be ready to submit to festivals in May after its premiere on campus.

"This journey definitely began outside the classroom by meeting with professors and picking their brains," she said. "I really got to establish some great relationships with my professors who became mentors to me."

Bracke said she wants to incorporate her Film, Television and Theatre major and Irish Language and Literature minor into a career.

"I love cinematography and I love the Irish culture, so I imagine I will be in Ireland working with film," Bracke said. "I want to make people think in a new way."

Contact Adam Llorens at allorems@nd.edu

Habitat

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

increase the home's value, he said.

Graham said the most notable of the new energy-efficient features is the use of foam insulation as opposed to less energy efficient fiberglass.

Habitat's commitment to energy-efficient practices signifies its long-term oriented philosophy, Graham said.

"Habitat is different from a typical construction company because we are not only interested in constructing the home, but also the long-term well-being of the family," Graham said.

Graham said Habitat for Humanity's continued goal is to build energy-efficient homes with low heating loss and energy costs for long-term benefits.

"We are doing this not only because it benefits the

environment, but it benefits the family as well," Graham said.

This will be the 19th home Notre Dame and Habitat for Humanity have built together, which Weathers said has been an "outstanding" partnership.

"The Notre Dame community has been helpful in an ongoing effort to erase homelessness and poverty in the community," Weathers said. "This is one of the best experiences with an affiliate we've had."

Graham said Notre Dame and Habitat for Humanity share the same basic goal for community service.

"Notre Dame and Habitat both share in the effort to eliminate poverty through affordable housing," Graham said. "This reflects Notre Dame's values of service and charity."

Contact Benjamin Horvath at bhorvat1@nd.edu

SENATE

Group anticipates gameday

By **MADDIE DALY**
News Writer

Student body president Brett Rocheleau began this week's Student Senate meeting by reminding students to be especially safe this weekend, especially for Saturday's night football game.

"Tell everyone who is underage in your halls that they are really not allowed to drink," Rocheleau said. "The Excise Police will be out this weekend, and hopefully nothing major happens."

Rocheleau also discussed a Campus Life Council meeting he attended earlier this week.

"We had a really good discussion focusing on consistency across dorms," Rocheleau said. "Our first meeting defined these inconsistencies, and next time we plan to delve into solutions."

Student body vice president Katie Rose continued by thanking Senate members for attending last Friday's Robinson Community Learning Center (RCLC) picnic.

"The RCLC picnic was a blast," Rose said. "It was the highest attendance of students and community members we've ever seen."

Rose attended a Community Campus Action Coalition meeting in Rocheleau's absence this week and heard from community members about off-campus student interactions.

"Overall things are okay, although property crimes are still

pretty consistent. Off-campus parties are still a problem. Make sure you remind your friends living off-campus to be respectful of their neighbors," Rose said. "Also, to reinforce what Brett said earlier, be safe this weekend. Excise Police have doubled their force for the night game to make sure everything is under control."

Chief of staff Katie Baker informed the Senate of a new Student Union Board committee being formed for diversity in residence halls.

"The purpose of the new committee is to make sure everyone feels welcome in their dorms from the minute they step foot on campus to the minute they leave four years later," Baker said. "The group is specifically for transfer students, international students ... anyone who needs help adjusting and feeling at home."

Next the Senate voted in favor of a resolution thanking the Office of Housing for funding hydration stations in each residence hall, brought in by Parker Dwyer, director of residence life for Senate.

The final order of business was the approval of a resolution brought forth by Matt Devine, director of gender studies for Senate. The resolution recognized the establishment of gender issues subcommittees.

Pangborn senator Emily Pollard described further what this resolution involves.

"Having subcommittees just breaks [the committee of gender studies] down so people can look at things more specifically," Pollard said. "It allows everybody to focus in on certain issues so we can help to the best of our abilities."

Baker said the cabinet discussed this resolution Tuesday and described it as more of public relations move than a final resolution.

"The point is really to keep the Senate and the student body informed so everyone knows where to go if they need help," Baker said.

The meeting ended with several dorm-specific announcements from the senators.

Walsh Hall senator Veronica Guerrero reminded all the male dorms to enter one contestant for the Mr. ND Pageant happening next Thursday.

Hall Presidents' Council co-chair Matt Lynch reminded Senate of a student initiative to wear leis during Saturday's football game in solidarity with senior linebacker Manti Te'o.

"In addition to the leis, make sure to tell everyone to hold up a 'five' from the minute Manti walks onto the field for the coin toss to the minute he leaves," Lynch said. "We are doing it as a sign of respect for everything that's happened to him in the past week."

Contact Maddie Daly at mdaly6@nd.edu

SMC canoe race builds community

By **HAYLEY MILLER**
News Writer

As a part of Spirit Week festivities, Saint Mary's Residence Hall Association (RHA) sponsored a canoe race Wednesday afternoon for SMC students to earn spirit points toward the "Hall of the Year" distinction for their dorm. This third annual event took place on Lake Marion, located at the center of campus.

Junior Emily Murphy, national communications coordinator for RHA, said the event is intended to promote camaraderie among Saint Mary's students.

"We have Spirit Week to promote hall bonding and to increase the spirit of the different residence halls," Murphy said. "We want to have pride not only in our class, but also [in] where we live."

RHA sponsored students to rent canoes from St. Joseph County Parks at a discount, Murphy said, and those with the best rowing skills won recognition for their dorm.

"Spirit Points' will be given to the different residence halls throughout the week based on [their] resident's enthusiasm and participation in the events," Murphy said before the race. "At the end of Spirit Week the points will be tallied and whichever residence hall collected the most points will be named 'Hall of the Year.'"

Duos competed in the regatta, which took the form of a

tournament, Murphysaid.

Before the race, junior Katherine Wabler said she sought to regain the championship title she won freshman year.

"We are going to have to work out our arms before the race so they are in prime condition for rhythmic rowing," Wabler said.

Wabler's partner, Shanlynn Bias, said teamwork is important.

"Communication and synchronization is the key to victory," Bias said.

Classmate and rowing rival, Kirsten Bonnesen, said she competed with teammate Helene Tarnacki as one of the other 11 teams up against Wabler and Bias.

"Our confidence as first-time rowers is very high," Bonnesen said. "There will be some intense competition, but our eyes are on the prize."

The first place team, consisting of Julienne DeLee and Krista Mathews from LeMans Hall, won \$25 gift cards to Target.

Spirit Week will conclude Friday with the first home meet in seven years for the SMC cross country team.

"We will be handing out free T-shirts, and would like to encourage everyone to come and show their support," Murphy said.

The meet will begin 6 p.m. Friday at the Saint Mary's soccer fields.

Contact Hayley Miller at hmille01@saintmarys.edu

Euro

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

crisis] changed?"

Robert Fishman, a Nanovic fellow and sociology professor at Notre Dame, said his views remained pessimistic but for somewhat different reasons from last year.

"The Euro crisis has passed into a new phase in which contagion in financial markets has largely resolved ... [but] the remedies taken [have produced] problems worse than the initial malady," he said.

Fishman said the European Central Bank's recent commitment to purchase large amounts of sovereign debt in the international bond market has led to a vast decrease in Euro zone borrowing costs.

"But now Greece, Italy, Spain and Portugal and much of the Eurozone is now stuck in a severe and worsening recession," he said. "Spanish unemployment [currently 25.1 percent] is certain to go substantially higher because of the policies adopted to deal with the Euro Crisis."

He said the crisis was inherently tragic.

"If the European Central Bank had done in 2010 what it recently did, which was to signal its willingness to purchase large amounts of debt in the secondary market, it could have staved off the crisis," he said.

Jeffrey Bergstrand, a Kellogg

fellow and finance professor at Notre Dame, said the Economic and Monetary Union consists of 27 countries, 17 of which are in the Euro zone.

"The union is designed to have free trade among those 27 countries," he said. "It's more than a free trade zone; they have a common external tariff, as well."

Bergstrand said the Euro zone still lacks a fiscal union, which is one of the coalition's goals.

"[Americans] have a central bank, a Federal Reserve system, but [the Euro zone] doesn't have a banking union that is a supernational," he said. "By removing monetary policy joining the Euro zone, then by default, fiscal policy is much more important for stabilization."

Alexandra Guisinger, a Kellogg fellow and assistant political science professor, said the Euro zone will never see an end to the crisis because the community has been trying to integrate their economies and monetary policies for over 300 years.

"For small countries ... it's going to benefit them to have fixed exchange rates because it will enhance their trade," Guisinger said.

She said credibility is an obstruction to resolution and recovery.

"Credibility is hard to measure, but it determines whether these crises will occur or not," she said.

Contact Meghan Thomassen at mthomass@nd.edu

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Fall, 2012 is the Season for Saints! Courtesy of the Institute for Church Life, you can spend an hour with the saints before the game on selected weekends this fall. Come nourish your Catholic faith and your mind at the same time with talks by distinguished members of the Notre Dame faculty.

Saturdays with the Saints

St. Hildegard of Bingen: 35th Doctor of the Church
Margot Fassler, Keough-Hesburgh Professor of Music History and Liturgy, Notre Dame

September 22
10:30-11:30am
Andrews Auditorium
Lower Level, Geddes Hall



Leis

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

will return the favor and display their support for Te'o during his time of loss by donning leis at the football team's night game against Michigan.

The "Wear a Lei for Manti" campaign was conceived at a Monday night meeting of the Leprechaun Legion when the student spirit group discussed the possibility of giving out leis to students at the pep rally before the Michigan game, senior and Legion football leader Rosemary Kelly said.

"The idea was suggested at the Legion meeting in recognition of Manti's allegiance to Notre Dame, his sacrifice to stay an extra year and his decision to play in the Michigan State game under personally difficult circumstances," she said. "As students,

we want to do our part and let him know that we value his contributions and support him as a man of Notre Dame, on and off the field."

Coincidentally, a similar idea was posted by someone unrelated to the Legion on the social media pages of The New ND Nation (TNNDN), a Notre Dame fan group committed to positive attitudes toward the school, within hours of the Legion's meeting, Kelly said.

Lynne Gilbert, a TNNDN volunteer who manages the group's Twitter account, said the group helped publicize the idea via Twitter and Facebook on Monday. By Tuesday morning, a local South Bend radio station contacted Gilbert to discuss the lei campaign.

"[The idea for the campaign] just blew up on Monday after we asked our Twitter followers what they thought of it," she said. "We

started a Facebook event page, 'Wear a Lei for Manti,' that now has 4,000 members, so it's just been growing and growing."

The social media-driven publicity helped the Legion find a way to distribute leis to students without violating NCAA compliance rules about paying for promotional items in Te'o's name, Kelly said.

"We had to figure out how to pull it off without spending any money," Kelly said. "Fortunately, a flurry of social media in the last few days has garnered support for the movement, and less than 24 hours after the idea surfaced, we had a donation for the pep rally, and we now have an opportunity to make the idea a reality."

Kelly said United Beverage Company of South Bend volunteered to donate 7,500 leis to the Legion to be distributed at Friday's pep rally.

At least 25,000 leis will be distributed Saturday from various sources, Gilbert said. Budweiser and WSBT have partnered to donate 10,000 leis for students on gameday, Brothers Bar and Grill will contribute 1,000 leis to the campaign and TNNDN purchased 500 leis with out-of-pocket money and donations received through its website.

Gilbert said TNNDN's goal in supporting the lei campaign was rooted in the group's love for Notre Dame.

"We really just want to give back to Manti and the whole team. Look what he's done through adversity ... just going out there and playing with his heart and putting it all on the field," she said. "It's a different atmosphere and the team is so unified, so anything we can do to give back to them, we want to do."

As a member of Notre Dame's

student community, Kelly said the movement holds even greater meaning.

"Hopefully students will take a moment to think about what the lei means as they put it on. It is a sign of affection for Manti and a symbol of our support for him," she said. "It is a nod toward what we, as a community, hold to be important in our representative student-athletes, and after this week, I think each student on campus will have a new awareness of just how tight-knit the Notre Dame community is and will realize that community does not end at campus boundaries."

For more information, visit TNNDN's website, www.the-newndnation.com, and the Facebook pages of TNNDN and the Leprechaun Legion.

Contact Kristin Durbin at kdurbin@nd.edu

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MOUNTAIN HEART THESE ROOTS RUN DEEP



ROOTS: MOUNTAIN HEART'S ROOTS MUSIC IS ADDICTIVE ACOUSTIC. WITH JOSH SHILLING FRONTING, THIS 6-MAN BAND DELIVERS STOMPING SOUTHERN ROCK, SOUL, GOSPEL AND BLUES THROUGH A RIOT OF FIDDLE, GUITAR AND MANDOLIN SHREDDING. KICK OFF THE WEEKEND AND GO LIVE WITH SEASON 9.

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Poverty

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Unlike when the official measure was developed, the government now redistributes money through the tax program to low-income workers.

"It's not counted in the official poverty level because it's a tax program," he said. "But low-wage workers file taxes and if they're eligible for income tax credits they end up getting a check from the government. It's a substantial program for allocating refunds to the bottom distribution."

This incongruity between the two poverty measures exemplifies how the official poverty measure does not account for changes over time, Sullivan said.

Further, Sullivan said an income-based poverty measure cannot reflect variations in income that are unrelated to an individual's well-being. Income can fluctuate greatly for reasons that are unrelated to how

well a person lives, he said.

"Think about a retired couple that has lots of assets, lives in a nice home and has a couple of nice cars," Sullivan said. "They're retired so they have no income, but they live off their assets so they live quite nicely. But because they have no money income they're classified as poor."

A consumption-based measure accounts for these gaps in the income-based measure, Sullivan said, and shows a clear decline in poverty.

Other factors skew the official measure of poverty besides post-tax income and wealth, Sullivan said. The price index used to adjust the poverty line for information is biased, he said.

"We're not accurately adjusting the threshold for time for inflation," he said. "We're over-adjusting and the threshold is artificially rising which will create more poor people."

Sullivan said the over-adjustment occurs because the inflation adjustment does not take into account two biases: a substitution bias and a new

product bias.

The substitution bias occurs because when a product's price increases, the government adjusts the poverty line for that level of inflation, Sullivan said. However, sometimes an individual can buy a very similar product for significantly less money, thereby not affecting their overall well-being.

"If the price of Coke were to double, and that was all you consumed, do you need your income to double for you to stay just as well off?" Sullivan said. "If you substitute into Pepsi and it's much cheaper, so you only need an income to buy enough Pepsi to make you as well-off as you were."

A new product bias arises because it takes about 10 years for a new technological product to be included in the measure of prices of certain goods, Sullivan said. By the time the product is added, its price has likely decreased greatly since goods tend to be more expensive when they first appear on the market.

The faulty official poverty measure could have grave implications for poverty-related government policies, Sullivan said.

"Official numbers show poverty is higher today than it was in 1970," he said. "People have used that statistic to say we've lost the war on poverty. That has political implications, to say there's been a failure in [anti-poverty] programs and perhaps we should cut back on them."

Instead, Sullivan said the evidence that income tax credit lifts millions of individuals out of poverty demonstrates the United States is actually winning the war on poverty.

The incongruity must be fixed for the sake of those in the bottom distribution, he said.

"We use those measures to evaluate and design anti-poverty programs, and if we're using it to design policy it had better be a good measure," Sullivan said. "[An accurate measure] will help us make better policies, and in the grand scheme of things, hopefully better policies lead to decreases in poverty."

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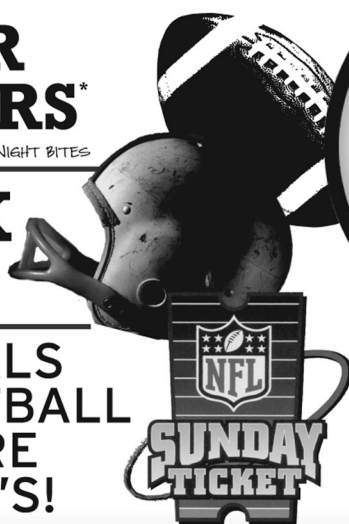
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INSIDE COLUMN

Fickleness

Isaac Lorton

Sports Writer

Sports analysts and writers are as fickle as a certain Katy Perry song or Brian Kelly choosing quarterbacks.

And on behalf of all sports writers, I would like to formally apologize for our flaw of fickleness. We cannot help it.

One week a team is living up to expectations, the next week the same team is irrelevant, overrated and has been lucky up to that point. A week later, this same team, with relatively no changes, is a serious threat.

Now at this point, you might think I am talking using a certain team as an example. Well, you are correct.

Last week everyone and their mother, except for good ol' Lou (and Mrs. Holtz of course) chose Michigan State to win. Notre Dame was the away team, had a questionable defense, an unproven quarterback and not enough criminals. But after the 20-3 win over State, Notre Dame was projected to be in the Fiesta Bowl. The defense even lost veteran Jamoris Slaughter in the secondary, but that did not stop analysts from praising Notre Dame this week.

Trevor Matich on SportsCenter yesterday said Notre Dame's front seven was second in the nation to Alabama. I understand there is a difference between the front seven and the secondary, but analysts have been talking about the defense as a whole. Kirk Herbstreit has long bashed on Notre Dame in years past, but after the one win we are now relevant again. Why were we irrelevant in the first place, Herby?

One could argue that Notre Dame simply proved something this past weekend against a strong team, but does that one game entitle sports writers and analysts to be so wishy-washy. How can someone change his/her mind so quickly?

Now, don't get me wrong, I love the attention Notre Dame is getting. I am excited that our team is playing well and proving all the long-time naysayers wrong. My concern is that all of these naysayers become yaysayers, and Notre Dame loses the chip on its shoulder. I hope the team goes out every week with the mindset that they have to continually prove the hot-and-cold analysts wrong. Maybe, it is the supposed hipster in me, but I have a hard time believing analysts who just last week said we were a second-rate team, now say we are contenders for a BCS game.

Notre Dame must have done something really right to make Adam Schefter, a Michigan alum, choose Notre Dame this weekend over his former school.

However, there is still Mark May, who I can always count on to continue being a naysayer and keep that chip on Notre Dame's shoulder.

Contact Isaac Lorton at ilorton@nd.edu

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

Carolyn Green

Holy Half

Like most other sports, running has its share of scandal and controversy. For instance, a quick Internet search of the phrase "bandit running" produces over 15 million results, with hundreds of opinionated blogs debating the ethics of running a race as a "bandit."

For those who have never heard the term, or for those who have more important things to do than read the USA Track and Field "Road Racing Rules and Etiquette" guide, bandit running may be defined as participating in a race without registering for it. According to said USATF guide, "The term 'thief' would be more appropriate. These uncaring individuals cause numerous problems for race officials at the start, during and at the finish of a road race."

Runners' opinions of bandits vary. Some race directors bemoan the extra, unaccounted-for numbers of runners on already crowded city streets, and the draining of resources by unregistered runners who take a swig of Gatorade or swipe a bagel from the finisher's table.

However, other races, the Boston Marathon included, allow and even acknowledge bandits. Despite not receiving a medal, official time, certificate or t-shirt, thousands of people run the Boston Marathon unregistered. They may have planned to run the race all year, and then missed the qualifying time by two

seconds, or they may jump in to run the last 6.2 miles with a son or daughter. Since the 1970s, a dedicated group of runners and artists has "bandited" the Boston Marathon. They run in the back of the pack, and call themselves the "Red Snakes," because, as director Gary Tucker says, "They're hard to kill, and very passionate."

Runners sure are a passionate bunch, which may be why they get so fired up about the latest polemical topic in their sport. Most recently, the Chicago Marathon has been a subject of conversation for its decision to ban Lance Armstrong from running the marathon this October. According to race officials, Armstrong had never formally registered for the race, but would have run as a member of Livestrong's charity team, part of a fundraiser for the Lance Armstrong Foundation.

Just a few weeks ago, Lance Armstrong surrendered in his fight against charges that he had used performance-enhancing drugs throughout his career. In a statement, Armstrong said, "There comes a point in every man's life when he has to say, 'Enough is enough.' For me, that time is now." According to Armstrong, "this nonsense" had simply taken too much of a toll on his family and his efforts for his cancer foundation.

According to the World Anti-Doping Code, Armstrong's decision will strip him of his seven Tour de France titles, his bronze medal from the 2000 Olympics, and all other titles, awards and money won since August 1998. Furthermore, and of significance to the Chicago Marathon,

Armstrong will also be barred for life from competing, coaching or having any official role with any sport that follows the World Anti-Doping Code.

Brett Cavanaugh, a Notre Dame senior, runner and fan of Lance Armstrong since childhood, says, "While I do not support the use of performance-enhancing drugs, I find it unfortunate that Lance will not be allowed to race in Chicago. He was hoping to run to raise money for his foundation. There will be close to 40,000 finishers in Chicago, some of whom are using PEDs. While top finishers will take a drug test after the race, people like you or I do not have to."

The Chicago Marathon abides strictly by USATF code. Besides increasing the reputation of the race around the world, USATF sanctions guarantee that race results and records are nationally recognized. These rules and regulations remain the same for all runners, elite or amateur, bandit or non-bandit, performance-enhanced or drug-free.

Regardless of one's opinions of performance enhancing drugs, and the charges against Lance Armstrong, the Chicago Marathon's refusal to allow Armstrong to run in this year's race is an undeniable blow against an already broken man.

Carolyn Green is the student director of the Holy Half Marathon. She can be reached at cgreen9@nd.edu

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

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

True Catholicism

Mr. Whichard (Catholics and liberals, Sept. 18): I proudly identify as both liberal and Catholic, and every Catholic should, despite the GOP touting its anti-abortion stance. Little to nothing can be done on a federal level on the matter without a constitutional amendment or a flood of state-based legal challenges. You misrepresented the concept of subsidiarity, which is and always must be tied with solidarity ("forced inter-dependency") and recognizes the government's role as essential. The White House is in opposition to the HHS mandate and conservatives errantly seem to believe that personal charity is a replacement for the requirements of justice. The bishops have clearly identified Ryan's budget as a "moral failure," and Mitt Romney has personally profited from abortions (National Catholic Reporter, August 10). But your original letter has a flawed premise.

John Carr, recently retired from the USCCB's Department of Justice, Peace, and Human Development, has often said Catholics are politically homeless; he's right. We do not fit into either political party well. We feel forced to choose between defending the unborn and ignoring the dignity of most others, or accepting abortion as an unavoidable evil while standing up for Scripture's widows and orphans. Neither position is right. Instead, as Archbishop Pates points out, we are called to challenge the paradigm of both parties (America, Aug. 13). We are called to actively engage in public life as lay Catholics, as a prophetic people building the Kingdom. We're called to pursue women's reproductive health while preserving human dignity. We're challenged to be fiscally responsible while forming a "circle of protection" around Christ's "least of these." To suggest otherwise is folly, irresponsible and reprehensible. The culture of life is a seamless garment and should never be distorted by "Don't tread on me" attitudes. We cannot be conservative Catholics, nor liberal, red or blue ones. We must be Catholics — period.

Samuel Evola

junior

O'Neill Hall

Sept. 19

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"The destiny of the world is determined less by the battles that are lost and won than by the stories it loves and believes in."

Harold Goddard
professor, Swarthmore College

WEEKLY POLL

What is the most important issue in this presidential election?

Tweet your response with #ViewpointPoll by 5 p.m. Thursday.

Submit a Letter to the Editor | Email obsviewpoint@gmail.com

The Kingdom of God is (sort of) at hand

Fr. Lou DelFra
Faithpoint

This Sunday, we will hear at Mass the well-known story of how Jesus once took a child, wrapped his arms lovingly around it and told his disciples — who had been busy arguing about which one of them was the greatest — “Whoever wishes to be first, must become the least of all.”

Of course, there are plenty of meaty theological and spiritual questions that this famous scene evokes for us. What are the distracting effects of pride and selfish ambition in our lives? How am I being called to a life of servant-leadership? What does it mean for adults to become child-like, in such a way that we become more open to God’s presence and invitations? All are important questions. Yet this morning, for some reason, as I read this Gospel scene, I found myself saying, I wonder who that child was? I wonder how old she was? Was she alone or with a friend? What was she doing there, in the house at Capernaum that day?

Probably, like most children, she was initially curious when the adults arrived, then bored out of her mind, listening to them argue about adult things, in which she had not the slightest interest. Maybe she was playing, in which case she was probably slightly annoyed at Jesus picking her up, not realizing she was about to be

immortalized in a Gospel passage. Or perhaps, as children sometimes do, she was making herself conspicuously noticed, wanting some attention, darting in and out between Peter and Andrew, James and John, kicking their heels or tapping their shoulders, then fleeing away, before Jesus finally nabbed her.

If she was anything like my niece while I am saying a family Mass, she was doing anything but listening to Jesus’ homily. In any case — and this seems to be one of the crucial assumptions of this Gospel passage — the child was, to most in the room, a distraction. Secondary. Outside the important group and the important conversation. Marginal. Irrelevant to the weighty matters at hand. Inconsequential. To everyone. Except Jesus.

Somehow she caught his attention. And not as an annoyance or a distraction. Rather, somehow, as a sign of the present breaking-forth of the Kingdom of God, right there in the midst of the adults’ busy and important and self-centeredly ambitious lives. I’d love to have seen Jesus’ eyes the moment he noticed her, surrounded by bickering grown-ups, and recognized she was where his Father was trying to become known at that moment.

This is hardly the first time, nor hardly the last, when Jesus’ eyes, and then heart, were drawn away from the seemingly urgent arguments and agendas and responsibilities and important people who constantly demanded his

attention. Walking with a group of disciples outside the city of Nain, teaching and moderating their religious squabbles, he suddenly heard a woman crying in the distance. He veered off from his group, and encountered the weeping mother, a widow (so of basement social status) following the coffin of her recently deceased and only child (thus, motherless, placing her even lower than the basement), whom he then raised from the dead. It’s this Sunday’s Gospel, in more urgent and dramatic circumstances. Again, away from the center, away from the immediate busyness of his life, in a seemingly utterly inconsequential, but suffering, person on the absolute margin of life, God’s presence burst forth in awesome, death-defying power.

A Syrophenician woman, a leper, Bartimaeus the blind man lying on the side of the road — each of them, the Gospels are careful to note, were not a part of the group that was presently engaging Jesus, when suddenly his attention was drawn to them.

In his last moment of life, hanging on the cross, the important people of his world continue to demand his attention: “If you are God, come down from there and save yourself.” Jesus’ focus? A convicted thief, hanging next to him, drained of all status and identity, almost drained of life. “Today the Kingdom of God will be opened to you.” God is present — just not where everybody was looking. Everybody except

Jesus.

We thirst for God. We long for God’s presence in our lives. Sometimes, we question whether or how God is present. We get bored of waiting, or hardship, or God’s apparent silence, seems to knock the faith out of us. We get busy. Really busy. With important and urgent stuff. We often get distracted. (I think that if Sunday’s Gospel played out in my life today, I — pathetically — probably would have missed the child, not because I was having a theological argument with my friends, but because I was checking scores on my iPhone.)

And yet, through it all, we still thirst. We seek God. Somewhere deep in our being, we hope for the day when the Kingdom of God will bring peace, healing, justice and mercy into our lives and the lives of all people.

To us, time and time again, Jesus says, “The Kingdom of God is in your midst.”

But perhaps, on this one, Jesus can be fairly accused of imprecise language. For the Kingdom of God rarely broke forth in his midst — but usually just off to the side. Have time to look?

This week’s Faithpoint is written by Fr. Lou DelFra, ACE director of Pastoral Life and resident of Keenan Hall. He can be reached at delfra.2@nd.edu

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Challenge accepted

In a Letter to the Editor on Sept. 19 (“Catholics and liberals”), readers were challenged to respond to an “irrefutable” contention that “it is not possible to be a liberal and Roman Catholic.”

And so here I stand.

To the author’s first argument, I respond that liberals are not encouraged by abortion. I believe, as many do, that abortions are a tremendous societal tragedy. I believe, however, that combating this tragedy requires that we not ignore its causes, but attempt to assuage its underlying conditions.

In this light, I would refer to a fact that our own Prof. Sebastian Rosato raised during a forum on just this subject: abortions fell by more under the Clinton (read: liberal) Administration than under the Bush Administration.

To his second point, I agree wholeheartedly that private society can do things far more effectively in a broad spectrum of areas. But private society’s reach is not perfect. In some aspects, government can, and I believe, should, positively impact lives.

I believe this because it wasn’t a desire to marginalize churches and communities that led to Medicare, but rather because private society’s handling of the issue led to 50 percent of seniors being uninsured.

As a Catholic liberal, I believe in the sanctity of life. I believe in it at all stages. I believe we must continue to care for life after birth, and abandon it neither in its most nascent stages of childhood nor in its final years. I believe government can aid in such endeavors, and thus find no issue with programs such as Medicare or USAID that protect the life of millions.

The author contends that to be liberal and Catholic are exclusive. I reject that notion as false. I look to a Catholic vote that has leaned Democratic and do not see legions of faux Catholics. I reflect on our nation’s only Catholic President and Vice President, liberals both.

Ultimately, I am a liberal.

And I am a Catholic.

I will vote the former in November, and practice the latter this Sunday in the Siegfried chapel. I invite all to join me in both.

Matthew Miklavic
sophomore
Siegfried Hall
Sept. 19

Sisters are friends

Ms. Galassini,

Your column (“Sisters for life,” Sept. 18) on sorority life in other schools was arragant, pretentious and extremely ignorant. And here is why.

Going to college is hard. It is hard to be forced to leave high school where one has usually developed a relatively comfortable social scene and be thrust into a completely different environment and instructed simply “make friends.” Therefore, one socially rational person will use all the resources available so as to not spend the next four years of their life alone and miserable. It was hard for me, it was hard for the friends I have made and if you cannot empathize then you must be Miss Popular McPopularson or whatever.

Every college is different and thus the social structure of the university is different. One way to make friends at another school is not better than ours. Belittling those friendships made in sororities and fraternities by stating things like “Nor did I have to fake my way into friendships that I will later pay for” is extremely ignorant of the bonds that they share. I would really like to know how you got the information on how friendships are formed in other schools while you are sitting on your laptop judging them through the internet.

Furthermore, you continue to put down Greek Life at other schools because it “bothers” you on Facebook. You state “Go ahead and make a status or profile picture ... don’t make me decipher Greek puzzles though.” This is laughably judgmental and pretentious. No one is making you do anything on Facebook. These college freshmen are engaging in a perfectly natural human action which is trying to find comfort in a situation where they are extremely scared.

Your article struck a chord with me because my sister is a freshman at Villanova and is going through this sorority process. She could literally dominate my newsfeed of her sorority sisters 24 hours a day, seven days a week with all her new friends doing sorority squats in a courtyard making Greek letters with their hands and I would be the happiest person. It would mean she is making friends and will eventually leave that extremely scary time of the first few weeks of college which I hated. Have some compassion and realize the other people in the world besides you.

Ryan Zurcher
senior
off campus
Sept. 18



DOWNLOAD.



LISTEN.



DISCARD.

Dan Brombach
Scene Writer



DOWNLOAD.

Maroon 5 haters, go ahead and pass this review over, but since “She Will Be Loved” was the first song I ever downloaded, I feel I have an obligation to talk about the band’s latest album “Overexposed.”

Blunders aside (“Ladykiller,” “Fortune Teller”), Adam Levine and company really shine in a number of songs, especially “One More Night,” a catchy track describing a man’s desperate attempt to free himself from a dysfunctional relationship.

“Daylight” and “The Man Who Never Lied” are also enjoyable songs echoing Levine’s recent relationship problems. I’m surprised Adam Levine has any problems with women to write about, though, since I know plenty of girls who would fight to the death Hunger Games-style for the chance to date him.

It may not be my favorite song, but a review of “Overexposed” would be incomplete without a discussion of the smash hit, “Payphone.”

In my opinion, what could have been a good yet overplayed song is marred by the brilliant, thoughtful lyrics of Wiz Khalifa, who spends a solid 30 seconds of “Payphone” cussing and griping about his haters.

You certainly do have haters, Mr. Khalifa, but spewing lyrical garbage on a Maroon 5 song is probably not the best way to shut them up.

Honestly, his verse sounds like a third grader’s Mad Lib, if the only words they could use were money, cars and a few phrases the child’s teacher would likely classify as “potty language.” At the end of the day, there was simply no place for Wiz Khalifa on such a benign and lighthearted track. The subject matter just doesn’t mesh.

Overall, I was mildly disappointed by parts of “Overexposed,” but would still recommend downloading the album.



Photo courtesy of justjared.com



LISTEN.

Let me preface this review by saying I’m not a rabid Dave Matthews Band fan. I don’t wear Dave t-shirts, I don’t own the band’s entire discography and I don’t drive around the country in a Volkswagen bus following their concerts.

A truly devoted Dave fan might scoff at this and call me an unbeliever, but I believe my moderate stance allows me to see past the cult-like haze surrounding the band’s music and make an honest analysis.

“Away from the World,” the latest album from Dave Matthews Band, is nothing more than pleasantly average. Many of the songs return to the melancholy, laidback vibe of the band’s earlier releases, with mixed results.

My favorite track, “The Riff,” is quiet and musically simplistic, but its lyrics are deep and undeniably sad. The song is told from the perspective of a husband coping

with the pain of growing old and watching the passion slowly squeezed from his marriage. The husband reflects, “Funny how time slips away / Looking at the cracks creeping across my face.”

Other, more upbeat, highlights from the album include “Gaucho” and “Belly Belly Nice,” a song that brings more of the jazzy sound Dave Matthews’ fans have come to expect. If you enjoy listening to Dave and crew jam out for 10 minutes, I would also recommend “Drunken Soldier.”

The album is not great, but it’s certainly worth a listen. It’s a fact many will enjoy “Away from the World” simply because it is “classic Dave.” However, if you ever use that phrase around me, there’s a good chance we will never be good friends.



Photo courtesy of billboard.com



DISCARD.

Allow me to use an analogy to express my disappointment with The Killers’ new album, “Battle Born.”

The Killers were my high school sweethearts. It was puppy love from the first time I listened to “Hot Fuss” and experienced the peppy vocals and crazy synthesizers of “Somebody Told Me” and “Smile Like You Mean It.” The band’s fresh sound and irreverent lyrics (“Somebody told me / You had a boyfriend / Who looked like a girlfriend”) never failed to keep me interested.

However, listening to The Killers’ newest effort, “Battle Born,” was like having this musical high school sweetheart leave for college, discover fro-yo, gain the Freshman 15 pounds and then elope with the bass guitarist from Nickelback.

Whenever I start making Nickelback references, that’s when you know things are getting real.

Overall, the album is uninspired, repetitive and beats the theme of being young and restless like a dead horse. “Runaways” and “Carry Me Home” are certainly two bright spots, but these songs alone are unable to shoulder the rest of the album’s dead weight.

Lead singer Brandon Flowers whining about the fragility of youth and innocence is definitely not what made me fall in love with The Killers. In fact, if The Killers don’t pull a U-turn on emo music highway and go back to the fun, avant-garde sound of their earlier albums, I may even call it quits and break up with my musical sweetheart.

At this point, The Killers wouldn’t even deserve a face-to-face breakup. I’d do it over Skype instead.

Contact Dan Brombach at dbrombac@nd.edu
The views in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.



Photo courtesy of last.fm

WEEKEND EVENTS CALENDAR

THURSDAY



What: Third Thursdays
Where: Snite Museum
When: 4:30 p.m.
How Much: Free

Be the first to experience the newest event on campus! Come with a group of friends to the Snite and enjoy good live music, interesting conversations and creative exhibitions. Appetizers and beverages will be provided free of charge.

FRIDAY



What: Michigan Week Pep Rally
Where: Hesburg Library
When: 6 p.m. - 7 p.m.
How Much: Free

Start your football weekend with lots of energy and spirit at the Library Quad between Hesburgh Library and the Stadium for the traditional football pep rally. Come out and cheer for the Irish as they prepare to beat the Wolverines on Saturday night.

SATURDAY



What: Book signings
Where: Hammes Bookstore
When: 1:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.
How Much: Free

Don't know what to do before the night game vs. Michigan? Nineteen different authors of books about the Fighting Irish, including Notre Dame legend Daniel "Rudy" Ruettiger, will be signing their books at the bookstore. Don't miss this special chance to meet them.

SUNDAY



What: Spirited Away
Where: DPAC, Browning Cinema
When: 3 p.m.
How Much: \$4 for students

Japanese manga and film director Hayao Miyazaki's Academy Award-winning film will be playing at DPAC. Take a break from studying and experience this amazing fantasy about a young girl trapped in a world of spirits.



KNOW THY SHELF

LITERATURE IS NOT DEAD

Meghan Thomassen
 Scene Writer

Students are overeducated. For the amount of input we cram into our heads every day, we produce very little output. Much of our cerebral energy and struggle seems to fall out of the back of our heads once a new exam pops up or we take off on fall break. It's foolish and wasteful. It's like dumping water all over the place in the hopes of hitting some grass. Our contemplation, analysis, exposure and culture run off in excess. What good does knowledge do when it's lying around in puddles?

One of my favorite authors, Oscar Wilde, was the epitome of the overeducated youth. His parents were Class A intellectuals in Dublin and he studied classics at Trinity College and Oxford. Once he had established himself in European society as a purebred dandy, he made a living traveling around America lecturing

about beauty and pleasure. He was mostly popular for his ridiculously long hair and strange wardrobe choices.

His only novel, "The Picture of Dorian Gray," is about a handsome youth, Dorian, whose new portrait has a shocking mystical property: the painting shows signs of wear and tear instead of his own body. After realizing his youth and beauty will never fade, Dorian indulges in every 19th-century man's dream: pretentious social circles, opium-induced hallucinations, beautiful women with low self-esteem, lush rugs and exotic perfumes.

Dorian's luxurious lifestyle, however, takes a toll on his portrait. Even though Wilde's writing is lovingly laden with beautiful diction and flowery syntax, Dorian's character sours. He takes the philosophy of pleasure and beauty to the extreme of hedonism, and the effects are fatal.

But Dorian's fictional philosophy was not too far from Wilde's every day reality. He lived to talk about art and beauty and

pleasure. Dorian could be the incarnation of Wilde's self-doubt and self-criticism. Perhaps Wilde had existential crises while traveling from lecture hall to lecture hall, wondering what was the point of it all. And at the end of "Dorian Gray," that finishing point looks pretty empty and bleak.

Students could very well find themselves in the same predicament: totally overwhelmed with heady philosophy, complex mathematics, outmoded languages and nowhere to put them. Admittedly, the exercise of intellectual engagement and interdisciplinary analysis are essential to our development as thinkers. But that's just it — we're just thinkers. Too often our parents, now stuck at their 9-to-5 jobs, or, more likely, 5-to-9 jobs, say wistfully, "You have the world at your fingertips." And it's true. We have the world at our fingertips, but right now we're just using the world for finger-stretching exercises.

The solution? Take a page out of Wilde's book. Write. I'm not talking about an

academic paper — those are restrained by discipline or audience. American writer William Zinsser said, "Writing is thinking on paper." Write about everything: the doubts, thrills, indulgences, surprises, fears, failures, random tidbits, connections and absurdities we learn about every day. I suspect Wilde wrote "Dorian Gray" in part to sort out the deluge of aesthetic and moral analysis he had clanking around in his mind.

We write to make sense of things, to see if what is jumbling about in our heads is actually important, or if it falls flat once applied to paper. As we continue to culture and develop ourselves, it is essential that we test out our philosophies, question our instincts and demonstrate our logic.

Contact Meghan Thomassen at mthomass@nd.edu

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

SPORTS AUTHORITY

NBA benefits from NHL lockout



Chris Allen
Sports Editor

The NBA is officially “where getting lucky happens.”

Since it really became a mainstream professional sporting organization in the mid-20th century, the National Basketball Association has been a league of cyclical popularity. Don't look now, but the cycle is officially back at its peak. Football may be America's obsession, and baseball its pastime, but basketball is America's spectacle — and it's gaining ground too. In the wake of this week's NHL lockout, on the heels of yet another Olympic gold in men's basketball and propelled by a series of blockbuster trades, the NBA is headed for its best season in 30 years. Face it: America has three marquee sports again.

Of course, the smile on NBA commissioner David Stern's

dimmer. Tim Duncan won championships, but with a quiet, bland personality. Kobe Bryant won championships, but a sexual assault trial hurt his relationship with the fans. Slowly but surely, under the pall of the lean financial years of the 2000s, the stars trickled back into the NBA.

LeBron James in 2003. Carmelo Anthony in 2003. Dwight Howard in 2004. Chris Paul in 2005. Kevin Durant in 2007. The stars are back in the NBA, and they are marketable. With the NHL lockout removing any competition for viewership, the NBA is poised for its biggest season since its heyday in the late '80s. How considerate of Mr. Bettman to move out of the way.

Some may bemoan the era of the “superteam” in the NBA, a trend started by James' defection to Miami prior to the 2010-11 season, but the trend is a blessing in disguise for a

With the NHL lockout removing any competition from viewership, the NBA is poised for its biggest season since its heyday in the late '80s.

face owes a lot to do with the failures of his former protégé Gary Bettman and yet another NHL work stoppage. The absence of the ‘other’ winter sport on televisions and in arenas around the country and in Canada will shift the attention of casual sports fans to the NBA to whet their appetites. And what a menu they will find. The NBA is as commercial and enticing to fans as it has arguably ever been.

Because there are so few players on the court at once, the NBA has always been a league that financially and commercially peaks and falls with the quality of its stars. In the 1980s, the two most popular stars in the league — Magic Johnson and Larry Bird — represented the yin and yang of American culture, and the NBA thrived in their stardom. The 1990s brought Michael Jordan, who transcended the game of basketball and became a world icon. Together, Jordan, Bird and Johnson made basketball a worldwide phenomenon at the 1992 Summer Olympics. But after Jordan, the stars grew

league that needed a spark. This season will feature a marquee back-and-forth contest of oneupmanship between the two superteams hoarding much of the league's elite talent — the reigning champion Heat and the rejuvenated Lakers. Meanwhile, the young and homegrown Thunder give small market fanbases hope, and a reason to believe in young stars — like New Orleans' Anthony Davis, the top rookie to enter the NBA since James.

So while the NFL enters the thick of its schedule, college football holds your attention on Saturdays and Major League Baseball looks to crown a champion, take a peek ahead at what could be a landmark season for the NBA, one it needs so desperately. And take a second to thank Gary Bettman for the assist.

Contact Chris Allen at callen10@nd.edu

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

MLB

Pettitte earns win in return

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Andy Pettitte was a little unsettled by an uncharacteristically thin crowd at Yankee Stadium on Wednesday afternoon compared to the raucous environment found at many of his big September and October starts. Still, the 40-year-old lefty was pumped to finally be back on the mound when it mattered most to his team.

Pettitte pitched five sparkling innings in his return from a broken leg and Ichiro Suzuki made a difficult catch to preserve a lead, keeping New York atop the AL East with a 4-2 victory over the Toronto Blue Jays in the opener of a day-night doubleheader.

“The beginning of the game it was almost like you could hear people talking — I'm just trying to focus,” Pettitte said. “I think for me it probably would've been better if we had a packed house.”

Pettitte (4-3) looked his old steely self in giving up four hits in his first September start since 2010. Injured on June 27, the postseason career wins leader boosted the Yankees into a half-game division lead over the pesky Baltimore Orioles.

“When you see these guys go through what they've been going through, and I've been sitting here watching and just trying to cheerlead for them, it's great to be able to go out there and feel like you contributed,” he said.

Rafael Soriano escaped a bases-loaded jam in the eighth after Toronto closed to 3-2, and New York extended a winning streak to three for the first time since Aug. 13-15.

In the sparsely attended makeup of a game washed out Tuesday night, Suzuki had three



Yankees second baseman Robinson Cano scores on a sacrifice fly in the first inning of New York's 4-2 victory Wednesday.

hits batting leadoff as Derek Jeter was given the opener off. Despite being bothered by a sore left ankle, Jeter started at shortstop for the first time in a week in the nightcap.

Robinson Cano had an RBI double in a three-run first against Henderson Alvarez (9-13) that also included Alex Rodriguez's run-scoring groundout and Curtis Granderson's sacrifice fly.

Pettitte threw 75 pitches in his first start since a line drive off the bat of Cleveland's Casey Kotchman broke his left fibula. Then manager Joe Girardi mixed and matched liberally, using six relievers.

Clay Rapada, Derek Lowe, Joba Chamberlain and Boone Logan held Toronto scoreless through seven innings. Then David Robertson gave up an RBI single to pinch-hitter Kelly Johnson and a run-scoring double to Omar Vizquel in the eighth.

“Our bullpen guys understand they can be used at any

point,” Girardi said.

Soriano relieved with two outs and runners on second and third, then walked Anthony Gose after a foul drive about a foot foul down the left-field line that just missed being a two-run double. Rajai Davis followed with a sinking liner to left field that Suzuki caught against his stomach for the third out.

“I'm glad I don't have a big belly because if I did it might've hit the belly and popped out,” Suzuki said through a translator.

Nick Swisher had an RBI single in the bottom half. Soriano pitched a perfect ninth for his 41st save in 44 chances.

Toronto's 45-year-old Vizquel had two hits to move past Babe Ruth for 41st on the career list at 2,874.

“I think when you get a hit to tie one of the best hitters in baseball, it's an amazing feeling. I mean, this guy has been a legend in the game for a long time and, to mention my name right next to his just makes me feel so little,” Vizquel said.

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Desperado, why don't you come to your senses? Come down from your fences, open the gate.

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PGA

McIlroy and Woods will square off in final pairing

Associated Press

ATLANTA — With every week, and every win, Rory McIlroy gets a new moniker. Two-time major champion. The world No. 1. Heir apparent. The latest nickname was courtesy of none other than Tiger Woods.

"He calls me 'The Intimidator,' McIlroy said Wednesday as he tried to stifle a laugh.

Woods has never had much of a rival during his 17 years on the PGA Tour, at least not for long. Now, he can't escape the growing shadow of McIlroy, who comes into the Tour Championship as the undisputed No. 1 player — in the world ranking, the FedEx Cup, the PGA Tour money list and every other important category.

What triggered his one-liner at East Lake were comments Greg Norman made in an interview with FoxSports.com.

"What I'm seeing is that Tiger's really intimidated by Rory," Norman said. "When have you ever seen him intimidated by another player? Never."

For the longest time, Woods was said to have a two-shot advantage just by stepping on the first tee. He was the most prolific winner in golf, averaging about six wins a year and piling up 14 majors faster than anyone in history. The red shirt was blazing.

Now, the baton appears to have been passed over to

McIlroy. He arrived at the Tour Championship having won three of his last four tournaments, starting with that record eight-shot victory at Kiawah Island in the PGA Championship for his second major. He won consecutive FedEx Cup playoff events in Boston and Indianapolis to stretch his lead in the world ranking and become the favorite to win at East Lake and capture the \$10 million bonus.

It's an intimidating record. McIlroy doesn't see how that translates into Norman suggesting that he's intimidating.

"No, how can I intimidate Tiger Woods?" he said. "The guy's got 75 or 70 whatever PGA Tour wins, 14 majors. He's been the biggest thing ever in our sport. I mean, how can some little 23-year-old from Northern Ireland with a few wins come up and intimidate him? It's just not possible. I don't know where he got that from, but it's not true."

There's no room for intimidation on either side at the moment. They've been around each other too much lately.

When they tee off in the final pairing Thursday, it will be the fifth time in the last four tournaments that Woods and McIlroy have played in the same group and the eighth time this year, including the Abu Dhabi Championship.

McIlroy is in his fifth full year



Rory McIlroy swings during a practice round at the Tour Championship on Wednesday in Atlanta. The tournament begins Thursday.

as a pro, but he can't think of a time when he ever felt intimidated by Woods.

"I don't think intimidated is the right word," McIlroy said. "More just in awe of what he's done, of his accomplishments, of his achievements. But never intimidated."

Woods and Norman have never had much of a relationship,

and Woods wasn't about to get wrapped up in an exchange of words Wednesday. Asked if he had seen Norman's comments, he replied, "It's got to be the hair, yeah."

That was a joking reference to McIlroy, who in an interview with the Times of London last week talked about the banter between him and Woods. The 36-year-old Woods makes fun of the kid's height. McIlroy, with his curly brown locks, fires back at Woods for his age and diminishing hair line.

The only time Woods ever felt intimidated on the golf course was when he was 11. It was a story he told a decade ago about competing against a 12-year-old in a junior tournament when the older boy drove the green on a 290-yard hole. Woods still wound up winning.

On this day, either tired or annoyed by Norman's comments, Woods gave an elementary response to this intimidation factor.

"This is a different kind of sport," Woods said. "We go out there and we play our own game. And see where it falls at the end of the day. As I said, it's not like you go over the middle and some guy 255 pounds is going to take your head off. This is about execution and going about your own business and seeing where it ends up at the end of the day. It's just the nature of our sport, which is different than some sports."

But if there's a 255-pound linebacker in golf at the moment, it's a freckled-face Boy Wonder who is on a roll that brings natural comparisons with Woods.

McIlroy has an average score of 68.1 in his last five tournaments, which dates to the Bridgestone Invitational where some swagger returned to his game. His confidence has never been higher. He showed up at Crooked Stick expecting to win the BMW

Championship, and that's what he did.

Now he has to avoid falling into the trap of being overly confident, a nice problem to have.

As dominant as McIlroy has been over the last few months, the FedEx Cup title comes down to the Tour Championship. The points are reset to give all 30 players in the field a mathematical chance of winning, with the higher odds attached to the highest seeds.

Any of the top five seeds — McIlroy, Woods, Nick Watney, Phil Mickelson and Brandt Snedeker — only have to win the Tour Championship to claim the \$10 million bonus. A year ago, Bill Haas was the No. 25 seed and won the FedEx Cup through a bizarre chain of events in which none of the top three seeds finisher higher than 20th in the Tour Championship.

Woods is the only two-time winner of the FedEx Cup, though this is his first time back at East Lake since 2009. He didn't qualify for the Tour Championship in 2010, and he didn't make any of the playoffs last year after missing a chunk of the season with leg injuries.

McIlroy is playing East Lake for the first time, a rugged test that puts a premium on fairways and greens. Lately, he's been doing just about everything right.

"The way I've played since Firestone, it obviously gives you a lot of confidence," McIlroy said. "But I think you have to guard against being overconfident, as well. You have to still go in and work hard. You've 30 players in this field, 30 of the best players in the world, and I'd be very naive to think that I'm just going to come in here and contend again and have a chance to win."

"I know I'm going to have to play very well," he said. "And hopefully, I can do that."

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Bayliss

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

conferences in the nation, Bayliss said. Notre Dame will join the likes of Virginia, Duke and North Carolina, all of whom finished last season ranked in the top 20. In addition, the Irish have already competed against many ACC teams in the past, including Duke, Virginia, Wake Forest and

“The ACC is a terrific tennis conference, one of the best, if not the best, in the country.”

Bobby Bayliss
Irish coach

North Carolina at least once in the past two years.

“The ACC is a terrific tennis conference, one of the best, if not the best, in the country,” Bayliss said. “Virginia and Duke are consistently top 10 in the country. Florida State has reached the quarterfinals of the NCAA tournament and a number of the other teams, like North Carolina, got into the quarterfinals all fairly recently.

“It’s great to be a part of that kind of tradition and excellence. We’ve been playing, maybe the last seven or eight years, a lot of matches with Virginia, Florida State, Duke and North Carolina and they are the four best teams in the ACC.”

The move also eases many of the scheduling problems Notre Dame has faced in recent years. Last season, the Irish only played four Big East conference matches before the Big East tournament. In the ACC, each member plays every other school before the ACC tournament.

“The Big East tennis is set up so that there isn’t a mandatory round-robin across the schedule,” Bayliss said. “And while there are some very good teams in the Big East, Pittsburgh, Louisville and South Florida, there isn’t the depth that there is in the ACC.”

“Scheduling becomes problematic during late March and April when most of the better national teams are in their conference schedule and they don’t want to play an out-of-conference match. They already have their hands full. It is difficult for us to get quality teams at that time of the year.”

Besides matches, Bayliss said he believes the move will also positively affect recruiting. Currently only three players on the Irish 15-man roster originate from the area the ACC encompasses. Thus, Bayliss anticipates becoming a member of the ACC can only improve the recruiting on the East Coast.

“My guess is it is a positive [for recruiting],” Bayliss said. “We are part of a great league and the best tennis is played in the warmer-weather climates so the best recruits are generally going to be from those climates.

“It’s going to be a very strong East Coast synthesis and the majority of the population in the United States is on the East Coast, so there are obviously

more people and more recruitable athletes. I think it’s in every way a win-win.”

With all the positives resulting from the move to the ACC, Bayliss had one person in particular he wanted to thank.

“My congratulations go to Jack Swarbrick for all the time and effort this took,” Bayliss said. “I really think he deserves a lot of credit for pulling it off. We cer-

tainly had everyone’s interest at heart and rarely does something like this affect everyone positively, but literally there are no losers at Notre Dame in this arrangement.”

Contact Peter Steiner at
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LAUREN FRITZ | The Observer

Irish junior Billy Pecor prepares to blast a forehand during his 8-3 doubles win against DePaul on April 4 at the Courtney Tennis Center.

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Brindock

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

challenges to become a better team both physically and mentally. As a team, we have very high expectations and goals to achieve throughout the season. We take each opponent, one at a time, and focus on the goal of getting better every opportunity we have to play."

Notre Dame's latest milestone came against a Kansas

team that had previously been on a nine-game winning streak. Brindock broke her

"I love to compete, and hate to lose."

Maggie Brindock
Irish junior setter

career-high by contributing 51 assists. She also tallied 10 digs, five kills and three blocks.

"My favorite aspect of the

game its high energy and competitiveness," she said. "I love to compete, and hate to lose. With that, the game can change at any moment. An underdog could be on top at any time, and the competition is never dull."

Brindock and the Irish will be back to work this weekend when they travel to Cincinnati on Friday.

Contact Laura Coletti at
lcoletti@nd.edu



SARAH O'CONNOR | The Observer

Irish junior setter Maggie Brindock celebrates after a point during Sunday's 3-1 win over Kansas at Purcell Pavilion.

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SMC GOLF

Belles embark on MIAA play

By BRENDAN BELL
Sports Writer

After an eighth-place finish at the O'Brien Invitational, the No. 15 Belles hope to transition into conference play with a more confident team than they had at the beginning of the season, thanks to the experience gained through invitational play. Belles coach Mark Hamilton said conference play brings a new dynamic that will force the golfers to have a different approach and outlook towards their matches.

"Our young players will get introduced into it, as we have many rounds to compete in coming up," Hamilton said. "There will be more head-to-head matchups than in the

invitational style,"

The Belles have six rounds of conference play between Thursday and Oct. 13. Each match is critical in helping Saint Mary's attain its goal of winning the conference championship.

On Thursday, the Belles will travel to Olivet to compete against a number of MIAA members. Hamilton said he expects Saint Mary's will face a number of traditionally strong teams within the conference again this year.

"Hope and Olivet have been our main competitors in the past and I expect that to be the same this year," Hamilton said.

The Belles are going back up to Olivet this week after playing in the O'Brien Invitational

at Warren Golf Course this past weekend. Hamilton said Olivet, while solid throughout its lineup, is particularly strong at the front of its pack.

"Olivet has two very strong players and we need to keep pace with those two," Hamilton said. "We need a strong third, fourth and fifth golfers in order to compete well against them."

Saturday, the Belles will face the same competition, but instead travel to Alma for their match.

The first part of Saint Mary's journey to win the MIAA conference championship begins Thursday, as the Belles travel up to Olivet.

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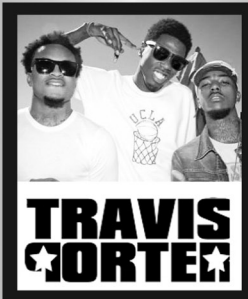
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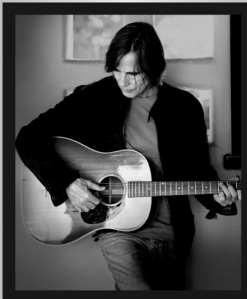
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NCAA

Joyner will remain as acting AD

Associated Press

STATE COLLEGE, Pa. — Penn State's acting athletic director will stay on the job as long Rodney Erickson remains the school's president.

Erickson said in response to a question Wednesday at a Penn State student forum that Dave Joyner was doing an excellent job at athletics.

Erickson has said he plans to step down when his contract expires in June 2014. The search for his replacement will begin in November.

It was appropriate, Erickson said, for his successor to decide whether to go in another direction with athletics.

Joyner replaced Tim Curley last November after Curley was charged with perjury and failure to report a crime in connection with a sexual abuse allegation against retired defensive coordinator Jerry Sandusky.

Curley, who faces trial in January, has denied the charges. He is on administrative leave.

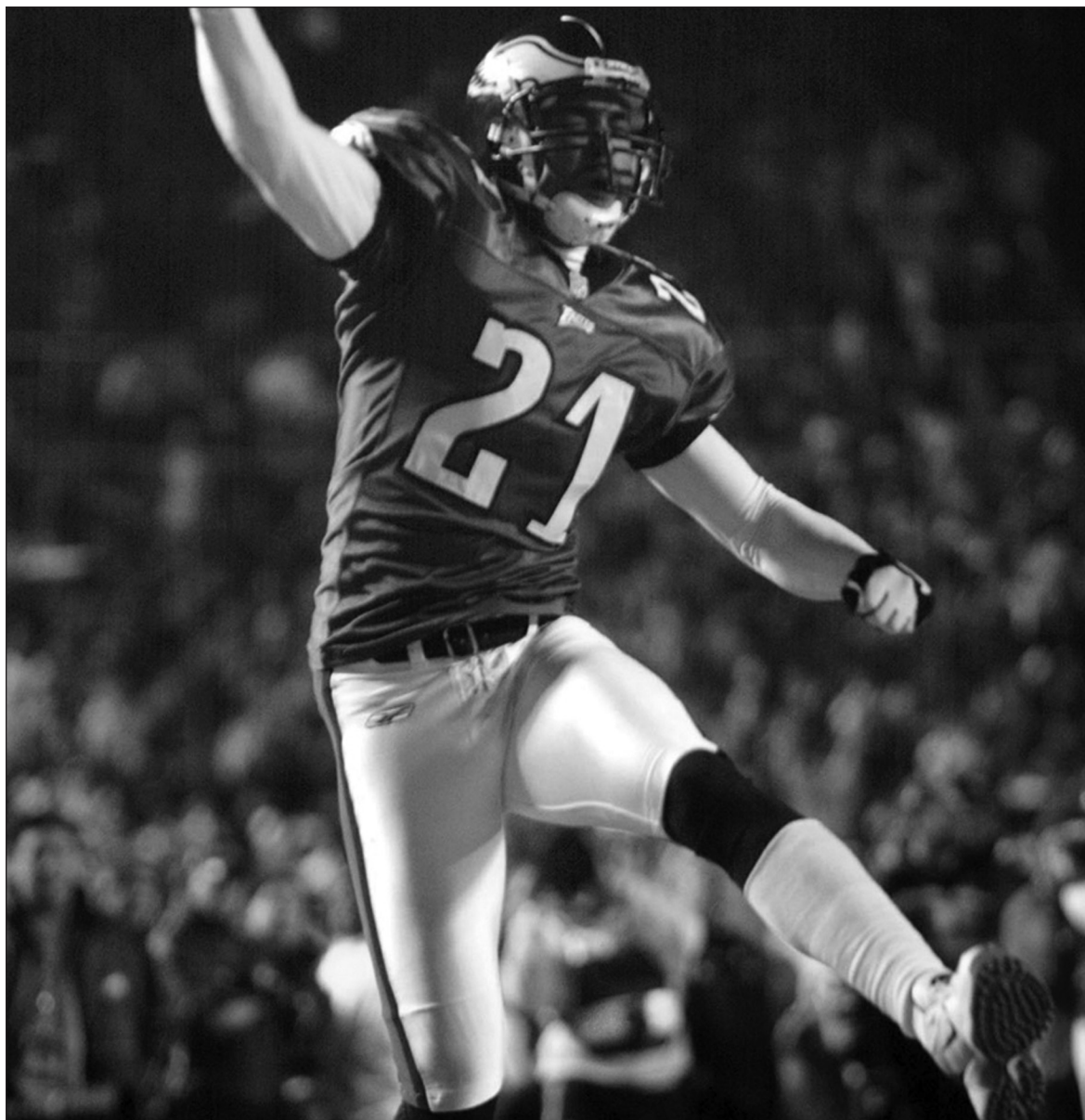
"Dr. Joyner has provided

excellent leadership for our programs" and monitoring athletic integrity programs, Erickson said at the forum. "I want to have continuity there."

Joyner has said since being appointed acting athletic director that he would stay on as long as desired. Joyner joined Erickson and other administrators at the student forum Wednesday. He said later that he was happy with Erickson's decision "because I want to continue to help," he said. "I love this university, I believe in it."

The employment agreement for Joyner is worth \$396,000 a year. The agreement calls for the school to give Joyner 30 days' notice before parting ways.

Joyner said he only learned of Erickson's vote of confidence after a friend passed along a story of an interview Erickson had Tuesday in New York with Bloomberg News, which first reported the decision. Penn State leaders are in the midst of conducting interviews with national media outlets in New York as part of a public relations campaign.



Former Irish defensive back Bobby Taylor, pictured here with the Eagles, now has a financial services company and will soon be launching his own clothing line, VZYCO.

Taylor

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

a different mentality. It was something I had the God-given talents to do but it took a little time mentally for me to embrace it.

"Everything you're doing on the perimeter, you can't hide. If you're out there playing cornerback and a guy is taking you to school on a particular day, you can't hide."

Taylor, recruited out of Longview, Texas, was a safety and originally favored nearby Texas over Notre Dame in the recruiting process. When the Longhorn fired coach David McWilliams, however, the Irish had a shot. Taylor had one request, though.

"I made a point to tell every recruiting coordinator that I'm not even going to consider any of these schools if the head coach doesn't come visit me," Taylor said. "There were a couple of guys I knew before that were going through the recruiting process and they never got a chance to even speak to some of the head coaches."

When Holtz visited the decorated senior at his high school, Taylor said it was "like a holiday. The school shut down to a certain degree."

Taylor committed to the Irish and capitalized on his early playing time at Notre Dame. During his freshman year in 1992, he registered 28 tackles while also breaking up nine passes.

Taylor starred on the 1993 defense that helped the Irish begin the year 10-0. In his final

season with Notre Dame, he garnered All-American honors despite Notre Dame stumbling to 6-5-1 record following a preseason No. 2 ranking.

"It was tough. Every year, we had great expectations," Taylor said. "To have a disappointing season like that, that was awful because all of the Notre Dame teams that I could remember, they didn't do that bad."

Taylor — who finished his Irish career with five interceptions — said he did not aim to become an All-American or be nominated for the Thorpe Award, annually given to the nation's best defensive back.

"I never really focused on being an All-American. I just wanted to contribute to my team's success," he said. "It wasn't about All-American honor or being up for the Thorpe, it was always about team, team, team. That's something we've always stressed ... I would give that back to have some more victories."

After his junior year, Taylor entered the 1995 NFL Draft and said the process — the combine, the tests and the interviews — were as exhausting as draft day itself.

"That was probably one of the longest days of my life," Taylor said. "You're just hoping and wishing that one team calls your name."

With the 50th selection in the draft, the Eagles picked Taylor. As a "country boy" that attended college in northern Indiana, Taylor said he initially had a lot to adjust to in Philadelphia.

"It was a culture shock at first because of how the media

and talk radio and just how the fans are just totally into everything you're doing as an athlete, on the field and off the field," Taylor said. "You're constantly scrutinized."

Taylor, along with Brian

Dawkins and Troy Vincent, helped form one of the best defensive backfields in the NFL. The dominating secondary led the Eagles to three consecutive NFC title games in the early 2000s. Philadelphia, however, failed to reach the Super Bowl even once.

"It definitely was tough at the time but I would have rather been in that position than not been in that position at all. We learned a lot from it," Taylor said. "I wish we would have been able to make a few more plays and make it to the Super Bowl."

Since he retired from football, Taylor has kept busy. He has a financial services company with Vincent that recently celebrated its 10th anniversary and has also done football camps with former Eagle N.D. Kalu.

In 2010, six years since he played in the NFL, rumors began to spread about a possible comeback for Taylor. He said it was all a misunderstanding.

"I was just having a conversation with someone and think it just kind of went along the lines of 'Do you think you can still play?' and I said 'I think I probably still can play, especially if I'm brought on to someone's team as a specialist, a third-down guy or a nickel back,' he said. "Next thing I know, I get so many different people calling me saying 'You trying to make a comeback?'"

Taylor also has his own clothing store, End Zone Fashions, and will be launching his own clothing line

within the next year. VZYCO, which Taylor said stands for Vicious Zone You Can't Attain, will be a streetwear line that features an aggressive, cutting edge style.

"I've always had that passion of wanting my own so this is my perfect opportunity to do so and we've created some good buzz locally," Taylor said. "A lot of the guys I played with will probably be some of the first endorsers of our products. I've always had that fashion creativity growing up as a young man."

Taylor said the company will begin with T-shirts and hats before transitioning to denims, outerwear, watches, bracelets and shoes. Taylor, along with one other person, design the clothing themselves. While becoming a globally recognized brand like FUBU is not the main goal for Taylor, he said VZYCO has potential to be popular.

"I have seen a lot of small brands that I've sold in my store that started slow and then gained momentum," Taylor said. "They had the right people wearing them. They were putting out quality products and then boom, they blew up."

Taylor, 38, lives in Houston and has one son, Bobby.

A full transcript of our interview with Bobby Taylor will be available Friday morning at ndsmcobserver.com

Contact Matthew DeFranks at mdefrank@nd.edu

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WAKING THE ECHOES | BOBBY TAYLOR

Taylor continues to find success at each stop

Former Irish defensive back went on to 10-year NFL career



Observer File Photo

Former Irish defensive back Bobby Taylor runs upfield during a 23-16 loss to then-No. 6 Florida State at the Citrus Bowl in Orlando, Fla.

By **MATTHEW DeFRANKS**
Associate Sports Editor

Editor's note: This is the fourth of a new Observer feature. The "Waking the Echoes" series intends to inform fans about some former players and will feature weekly stories profiling them and their lives

since Notre Dame.

Before Bobby Taylor was an All-American cornerback, before he was a second-round draft pick, before he was a Pro Bowler, he was a safety. But one day changed all that.

During a scrimmage, former Irish coach Lou Holtz moved Taylor to cornerback to fill a

need in the secondary and Taylor wowed the coaches with two interceptions.

"At first, I really didn't like playing cornerback," Taylor said in a phone interview with The Observer. "Mentally, it was something that I had to get adjusted to because there's

see TAYLOR **PAGE 14**

MEN'S TENNIS

Squad looks forward to ACC



KIRBY MCKENNA | The Observer

Irish junior Greg Andrews returns a forehand in Notre Dame's 5-2 win over Louisville on April 14 at the Courtney Tennis Center.

By **PETER STEINER**
Sports Writer

With the news last week that Notre Dame will be moving to ACC, fans, players and coaches alike were deciding exactly how this move will affect them and their team.

But Irish coach Bobby Bayliss and his program knew immediately after the announcement where they stood.

"When I was sitting in the room with the other coaches

when [Director of Athletics] Jack Swarbrick announced 9 a.m. last Wednesday that, as of 10:30 the night before, Notre Dame had accepted an invitation to join the Atlantic Coast Conference, I got pretty excited," Bayliss said. "You could just feel the optimism and excitement in the room."

By moving to the ACC, the Irish become a member one of the top collegiate tennis

see BAYLISS **PAGE 12**

ND VOLLEYBALL

Consistent captain Brindock leads Irish

By **LAURA COLETTI**
Sports Writer

Junior setter and captain Maggie Brindock has no problem being in the spotlight.

The Film, Television and Theater major, who is concentrating on Television, has been a consistent force and a true leader for the Irish this season both in her actions and words.

"I think I lead by example and I am a vocal leader," she said. "With being a setter, I run the offense, and it is crucial for me to be vocal during matches and practice to keep the flow of the team steady. I strive to be a leader by example as well because what I do off the court is just as important as what I do on the court."

Coaches and teammates certainly recognized Brindock's ability to guide the team in these ways, as they nominated her to

be captain of the 2012 squad last spring.

"Knowing that they trust and support me as a leader of this team is a great feeling," she said. "This role brings a lot of responsibilities, but it is all worth it. I want to be there for my teammates, in any way, and be an example on and off the court."

Brindock had an example of her own to follow in her older sister, Tess, who played collegiate volleyball for Angelo State (Texas).

"She was a leader, and a captain, and took on that role by being a great example on and off the court," Brindock said. "She was a selfless player, and trusted in herself and her teammates. She was compassionate and driven to be at her best each day because she expected nothing less."

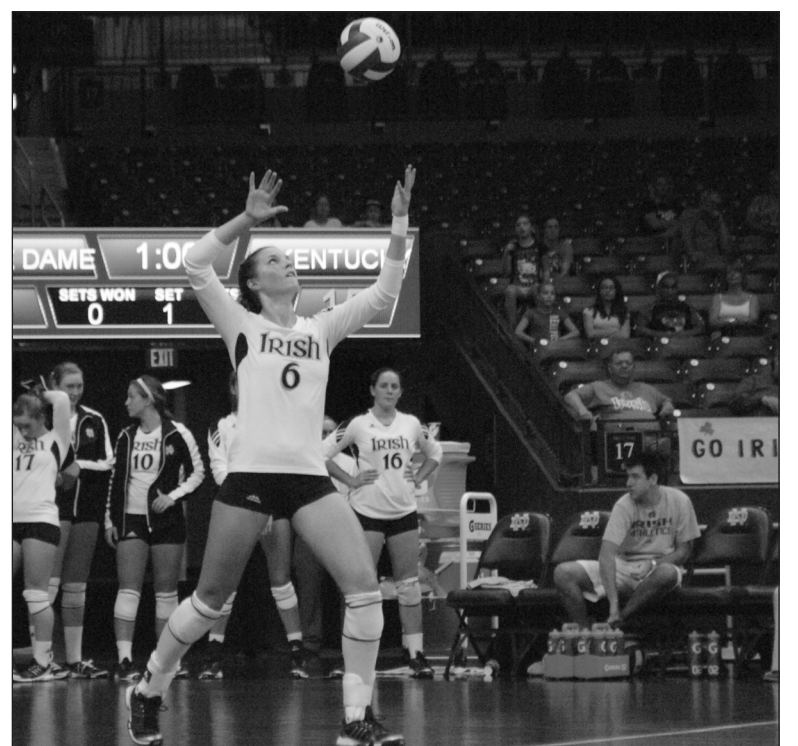
Brindock has been able to

emulate her older sister and be an example for the Irish. She and tri-captains, junior right-side hitter Andrea McHugh and senior opposite side hitter Marie Roof have successfully led the team through tough competition so far this season. The Irish are 7-5 overall, as they look to begin conference play this weekend. Four of their five losses have come against ranked opponents.

"The season so far has been going well," Brindock said. "We have taken on some tough opponents, and even though we may not have come out with the win, we have learned a lot about the game and ourselves as a team each match. We work hard each day in practice, and we get better every day."

"We know what we need to improve on, and we take on those

see BRINDOCK **PAGE 13**



ASHLEY DACY | The Observer

Irish junior setter Maggie Brindock serves against Eastern Kentucky during Notre Dame's 3-0 win Sept. 2 at Purcell Pavilion.