

ACE leaders embark on bus tour

Alliance for Catholic Education celebrates its 20th anniversary with cross-country tour

By MEL FLANAGAN
News Writer

In celebration of the Alliance for Catholic Education's (ACE) 20th anniversary, ACE leaders will embark on a national bus tour to acknowledge the contributions of its teachers and administrators to Catholic schools.

ACE has sent young college graduates to teach students in underserved Catholic schools in its Service Through Teaching program since its inception in 1993.

Sr. Gail Mayotte, director of field supervision for ACE Service Through Teaching, said the tour will celebrate more than just current and past ACE teachers and administrators.

"The whole opportunity is a celebration of Catholic education, to recognize local contributions to Catholic education,

to provide an opportunity to share in the anniversary celebration," she said. "But mostly [it is] the celebration of the gift of Catholic education locally and nationally."

The yearlong bus tour will begin in the fall and will stop at 50 cities across the country. Each location is affiliated with ACE, either through its Service Through Teaching program or one of the many other programs initiated at ACE over the past 20 years.

John Staud, senior director of pastoral formation and administration for ACE, will be on the bus for the majority of its stops.

"Many people connected with ACE will partake in certain segments of the trip," Staud said. "We're even trying to see if we can get famous Catholic schools

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Photo courtesy of ACE

Notre Dame graduate Steven Alagna, pictured with his colleagues, teaches in Jacksonville, Fla., with the ACE program. ACE sends young college graduates to teach students in underserved Catholic schools.

Basilica named most beautiful college cathedral



SARAH O'CONNOR | The Observer

The Basilica of the Sacred Heart recently received recognition as the most beautiful college cathedral.

By NICOLE McALEE
News Writer

The University's Basilica of the Sacred Heart, arguably one of the most beautiful buildings on campus, received official recognition when it topped BestCollegeReviews.org's "30 Most Beautiful College Cathedrals" list.

Fr. Peter Rocca, rector of the Basilica, said he was thrilled to hear the Basilica had received the highest

honor.

"To be perfectly honest, I was surprised that the Basilica was ranked No. 1," he said. "There was a lot of stiff competition among those [listed.]"

The Princeton University Chapel, the West Point Cadet Chapel and Yale University's Battell Chapel were among the 30 churches also to make the list. The list honored 21 churches at American universities and nine churches at European universities.

JD Arney, editor of BestCollegeReviews.org, said he chooses churches for the list based on one simple criterion: He listed the churches he found most beautiful.

"Ultimately, a list like this is very subjective. ... I compiled a large list of possible churches and then narrowed it down with the help of a colleague," he said. "The criteria [were] really just to pick the churches I found the most

see BASILICA **PAGE 4**

Saint Mary's hosts all-school formal

By MEAGHAN DALY
News Writer

Saint Mary's women will pack the Gillespie Center at the Hilton Garden Inn on the Saint Mary's campus from 8 p.m. to midnight for the annual all-school formal Friday.

Freshman Lauren Wells, Residence Hall Association

(RHA) 2013 formal chair, said this year's dance theme is the "Phantom of the Opera."

"[The committee] chose this theme because of the grand elegance and romanticism that surrounds a beautiful love story like that of 'Phantom of the Opera,'" Wells said.

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Students return to America

By PETER DURBIN
News Writer

Despite their excitement upon returning to their 'home under the Dome,' many Notre Dame students find they struggle to adjust to life stateside after a semester immersed in another culture abroad.

Junior Kathleen Ryan said she was surprised at the

see ABROAD **PAGE 6**



Photo courtesy of John O'Brien

Notre Dame juniors, from left to right, John O'Brien, Nick Kalejs, Luke Murphy and Chris Cheney pose in Killarney National Park in Ireland.

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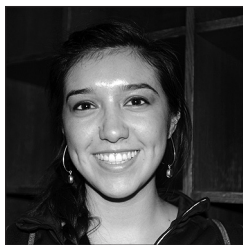
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QUESTION OF THE DAY:

Finish the sentence: Friends don't let friends...

Have a question you want answered?

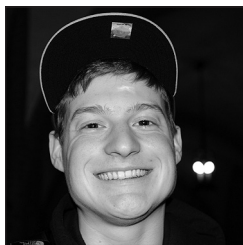
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Alacielle Torres

freshman

Welsh Family Hall

"Settle."

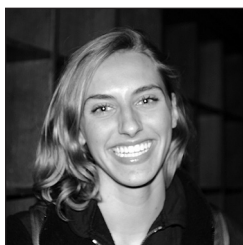


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freshman

Keough Hall

"Give each other mono."

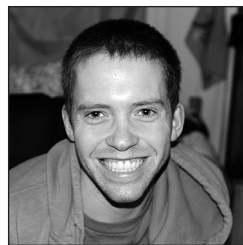


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freshman

Welsh Family Hall

"Die."

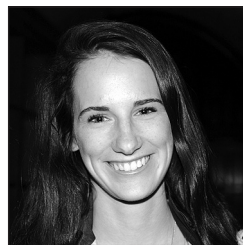


Brad Schroeder

senior

Fisher Hall

"Swim with whale sharks."



Mary Kate Whelan

freshman

Welsh Family Hall

"Run around naked."



Reid Hayes

senior

Stanford Hall

"Steal souls."



WEI LIN | The Observer

The Main Building and God Quad show no evidence of the snowfall which blanketed campus for much of last week. Weather in South Bend has been unseasonably warm the past few days, hitting a high of 59 degrees Fahrenheit on Tuesday.

THE NEXT FIVE DAYS:

Want your event included here?

Email obsnews.nd@gmail.com

Wednesday

Dodgeball Tournament

Rolfs Sports Recreation Center
3:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.
For Pink Zone: fight cancer.

"Young Mr. Lincoln"

Debartolo Performing Arts Center
7:30 p.m.-9:10 p.m.
1939 Film.

Thursday

"5 Broken Cameras" (2011)

Debartolo Performing Arts Center
7:00 p.m.-8:45 p.m.
ScreenPeace Film Festival.

Zen Meditation

Coleman-Morse Center
5:15 p.m.-6:15 p.m.
Meditation.

Friday

Lewis Hall of Pancakes: LHOP

Lewis Hall
10:00 p.m.-1:00 a.m.
All-you-can-eat breakfast for \$3.

Ski & Snowboard

Rockne Memorial
4:00 p.m.-next day
Hit the slopes in Petoskey, Mich.

Saturday

Time to Write Workshop

Coleman-Morse Center
10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.
GRC's event to reflect on violence.

Women's Basketball

Joyce Center
2:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.
Notre Dame plays Cincinnati.

Sunday

Basilica Sunday Mass

Basilica of Sacred Heart
11:45 p.m.-12:45 p.m.
Mass.

Men's Tennis

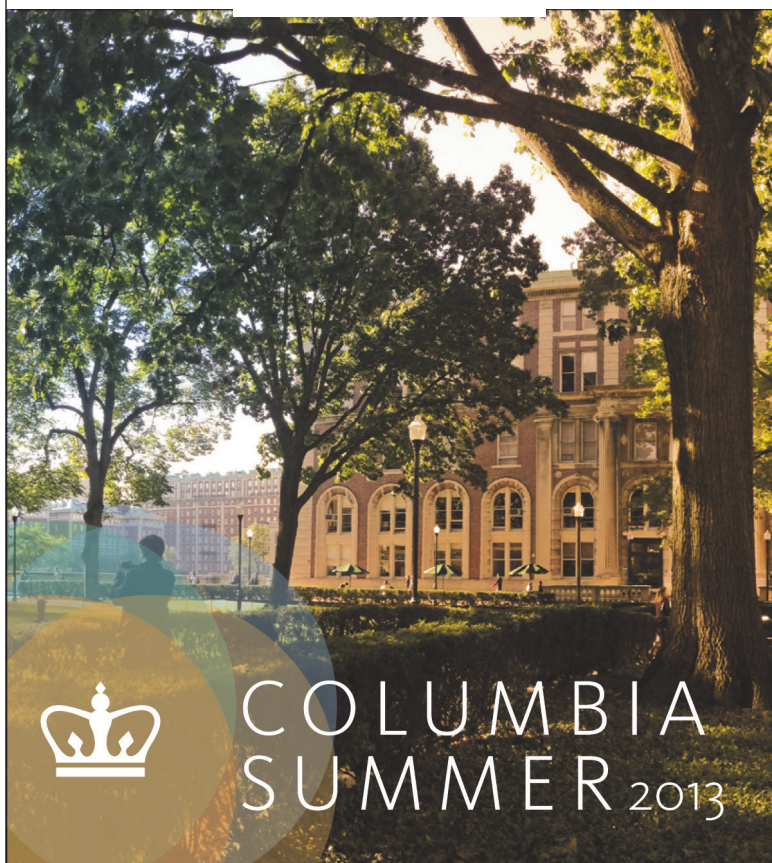
Eck Tennis Pavilion
12:00 p.m.-2:00 p.m.
Notre Dame plays Duke.

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SENATE

Group extends GRC reforms

By **MADDIE DALY**
News Writer

Student Senate discussed the complete overhaul planned for the College Hookups, Alcohol and Sexual Assault education program, known as College HAS Issues, at Wednesday's meeting.

Student body vice president Katie Rose said the Gender Relations Center (GRC) wanted to foster a spirit of care on campus with the reformation of the program.

"The GRC is basically planning to change everything about it," Rose said. "They want to focus on community safety within the dorms, being our brother's or sister's keeper. The overall goal is to illustrate a positive, healthy social life, define sexual misconduct, identify risky behavior and make known the resources that are available."

Class of 2014 president Lizzie Helping said educating students about Indiana state laws in College HAS Issues would help to create a safer environment at Notre Dame. "With regards to the state laws about alcohol, is there any way we could give the freshmen a packet with the rules?" Helping said. "It's one thing to hear about them, but it's another to actually remember

them."

Rose said she shared this concern because many students coming from other states are unaware of Indiana state laws pertaining to alcohol.

"The state laws and rules about alcohol are not explicitly talked about [in the program]," Rose said. "A portion of the content of College HAS Issues is actually federally mandated, but we're making sure to get that and additional state information to students without it being so stigmatized."

Pangborn Hall senator Emily Pollard said the GRC plans to make a short video about Indiana state laws to address the issue. Pollard is currently working with the center to implement changes to College HAS Issues.

Looking ahead to the upcoming turnover, student union treasurer Alexa Shaw announced her search for a successor.

"We are looking for a new treasurer, so I encourage all of you and your friends to apply," Shaw said. "It is more skewed towards finance and accounting majors, but we're opening it up to all majors."

Student body president Brett Rocheleau encouraged the Senate to recruit candidates for

the position.

"This is a great opportunity, especially for business majors, to run a budget of about \$850,000," Rocheleau said. "This year is unique because you could become the student union treasurer right away without having to be an assistant treasurer first."

Rocheleau also reported a positive meeting with the Community/Campus Advisory Coalition (CCAC) on Jan. 29.

"[Tuesday] I went to the CCAC meeting to talk to police forces and neighborhoods," Rocheleau said. "Everything is going good, everyone's happy."

Department of community relations director Kelsey Eckenrode asked senators to encourage their neighbors to attend CommUniversity Day, which is set this year for Saturday, April 6.

"It's a day-long event, and we're trying to get well over 1,000 participants," Eckenrode said. "Previous years have had from 700-1,000 participants in the past, so it shouldn't be too difficult if you spread the word in your dorms."

Contact Maddie Daly at
mdaly6@nd.edu

Formal

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Guests can expect a simple yet classic theme, which will include colors such as black, gold, red and white, Wells said.

Wells said she was selected as the formal chair in September and her committee has been planning since November. She said the most challenging, time-consuming part of the planning process was organizing all the logistical details of a huge event: everything from a security detail to finding decorations and picking out the menu.

"Although I will be working most of the formal, my enjoyment and satisfaction will directly come from the positive reactions and complements of our guests," Wells said. "All I want is for our students to have a phenomenal experience."

Residence Hall Association president Sarah Copi said the committee was pleased with the choice of venue. "We, as [the] RHA, are really excited about the new venue and we are very proud of all the hard work Lauren and her committee have put in for this event," Copi said.

Wells said Belles look forward to the Saint Mary's formal because it offers them a chance to celebrate with their classmates.

"There is something about a Saint Mary's formal that is so different than any other dances/formals of its type," Wells said. "Knowing the fact that all your girlfriends are always there for you to have a good

time definitely makes people more interested and excited to attend this formal."

Junior Kathleen Sullivan said she could not imagine missing the event.

"My philosophy is, I have four years to go to formals with my best friends. Why wouldn't I go?" Sullivan said. "I think it was a really good idea to have it at the Hilton Garden Inn because it's really convenient for all students."

Junior Erica Chiarello said her date is traveling from West Virginia to attend.

"I'm really looking forward to hanging out with my friends

and having a great time," she said. "I'm also excited to have a friend from home coming to visit."

Junior Katherine Kautz said this will be her first formal after spending time studying abroad.

"I'm excited to see all of the dresses girls decide to wear, especially since it's red carpet season," Kautz said.

Tickets are available for purchase from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the Student Center atrium today. The cost is \$15 per person or \$30 per couple.

Contact Meaghan Daly at
mdaly01@saintmarys.edu

SAINT MARY'S 'ALL-SCHOOL FORMAL'

8 p.m. – Midnight

**Gillespie Center of
Hilton Garden Inn
on campus**

**\$15 per person,
\$30 per couple**

BRANDON KEELEAN | The Observer

Basilica

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

aesthetically pleasing.

"Many beautiful churches didn't make the list, I probably could have made an honorable mention list with another 50," Arney said.

Arney said that he visited Notre Dame as a child, and acknowledged the visit might have swayed his decision to put the Basilica at the top of the list.

"I grew up in southern Ohio, and have family in Indiana. I attended a Notre Dame football game when I was a kid. ... I'm not sure if it factored into the decision, but it probably did, as it left quite an impression on me," Arney said.

Arney said that the Basilica was a natural choice for the most beautiful college church in the world.

"[The] Basilica of the Sacred Heart is one of the few churches on the list that is iconic as a national landmark, and from the start I knew it would be my top selection. It's also one of the few churches on the list, I think, that is the symbol of the entire university," Arney said. "It was an easy choice as our most beautiful church, and while I've gotten a great deal of feedback on the list, I haven't had anyone complain

"The Basilica of the Sacred Heart is one of the few churches as on the list that is iconic as a national landmark, and from the start I knew it would be my top selection."

J.D. Arney
editor
bestcollegereviews.org

about Notre Dame's selection as No. 1 overall."

Arney said the list was compiled independently of any influence from the respective universities.

"It just came as a complete surprise to me," Rocca said.

"The basic question I have is, I don't know what kind of weight this ranking has. I would like to think that it has a lot of weight." Rocca said he believes the Basilica is worthy of its ranking.

"In some ways, I'm not surprised that it finished first because a lot of those other churches are very beautiful, but I think the restoration of the church in the early 1990s brought the beauty of the Basilica to such an outstanding level that it's hard not to be just overwhelmed with the beauty of the place," Rocca said.

Contact Nicole McAlee at
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ACE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"We're even trying to see if we can get famous Catholic schools graduates or celebrities to be guest riders on the bus so we can make it a local news story."

Staud said the two constant riders of the bus will be Fr. Tim Scully, founder of ACE, and Fr. Lou DeFra, ACE director of pastoral life.

Scully founded ACE after he recognized the dearth of Catholic schoolteachers in the Southeast, Staud said. He hung posters around Notre Dame campus that read, "Tired of homework? Give some. Be a teacher" and was overwhelmed by the response, Staud said.

"There was a real interest in service through teaching," Staud said. "There was a real need for it, and Notre Dame students equally responded to that need."

Soon after its inception, the program had grown so much

that the University installed a Master's program within it in cooperation with the University of Portland's Master's program, Staud said.

But soon ACE outstripped Portland's capacity, and Notre Dame launched its own Master's of Education degree program in 1998. In the ACE master's program, teachers learn through a teacher-preparation curriculum taught by faculty and practitioners combined with supervised field experience, coupled with distance-learning classes through the academic year.

Participants earn a cost-free Master of Education from Notre Dame following two years in the program, and they then become eligible for state licensure as a teacher.

ACE has since expanded to include other degree and certification programs such as the Mary Ann Remnick Leadership Program, which prepares participants for educational

administration, and English as a New Language certification, which prepares teachers to serve children who speak a different language at home.

"We take very talented leaders and shape them into teachers."

Abby Salazar
assistant director
ACE

ACE also prioritizes eight professional and outreach programs, which the ACE website explains helps the initiatives to reach a larger pool of people and to aid those people in the development of professional skills.

But 'Service Through Teaching' remains the heart of the ACE program, Abby Salazar said. Salazar serves as the assistant director of ACE Service Through Teaching and

as a pastoral administrator for teachers in Texas.

"We take very talented leaders and shape them into teachers, and the energy and spirit within that cohort is incredible," Salazar said. "They go off to do endless things for education."

Salazar, who was a teacher in ACE before she worked for the organization, said the Service Through Teaching program provides tremendous opportunities for both the students and the teachers.

"What better way to live Catholic Social Teaching than to share that with kids in Catholic schools who don't have the same experiences Notre Dame students have had?" she said. "It shapes you in teaching, but it shapes your spirit too, and builds further on that sense of community you get at Notre Dame."

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Gunman holds young hostage

Associated Press

MIDLAND CITY, Ala. — A gunman holed up in a bunker with a 5-year-old hostage kept law officers at bay Wednesday in an all-night, all-day standoff that began when he killed a school bus driver and dragged the boy away, authorities said.

SWAT teams took up positions around the gunman's rural property and police negotiators tried to win the kindergartener's safe release.

The situation remained unchanged late Wednesday, with negotiations ongoing, Alabama State Trooper Charles Dysart told a news conference. He said no additional information would be released until Thursday morning.

The gunman, identified by neighbors as Jimmy Lee Dykes, a 65-year-old retired truck driver, was known around the neighborhood as a menacing figure who once beat a dog to death with a lead pipe, threatened to shoot children for setting foot on his property and patrolled his yard at night with a flashlight and a shotgun.

He had been scheduled to appear in court Wednesday morning to answer charges he shot at his neighbors in a dispute last month over a speed bump.

The standoff along a red dirt road began on Tuesday afternoon, after a gunman boarded a stopped school bus filled with children in the town of Midland City, population 2,300. Sheriff Wally Olson said the man shot the bus driver when he refused to hand over a 5-year-old child. The gunman then took the boy away.

"As far as we know there is no relation at all. He just wanted a child for a hostage situation," said Michael Senn, a pastor who helped comfort the traumatized children after the attack.

Authorities initially said the boy was 6, but state Rep. Steve Clouse, who visited the boy's family, said he does not turn 6 until next week.

The bus driver, Charles Albert Poland Jr., 66, was hailed by locals as a hero who gave his life to protect 21 students.

The boy's classmates, their parents and other members of this small Bible Belt community gathered in several churches and held a candlelight vigil in the town square Wednesday evening to pray for Poland and for the boy's safety. Some in the square joined together to sing "Amazing Grace."

Authorities gave no details on the standoff, and it was unclear if Dykes made any demands from his underground bunker, which resembled a tornado shelter.

The sheriff said in a brief statement Wednesday evening that negotiators continued talking to the suspect and "at this time we have no reason to believe that the child has been harmed."

About 50 vehicles from federal, state and local agencies were clustered at the end of a dirt road near where Dykes lived in a small travel trailer. Nearby homes were evacuated after authorities found what was believed to be a bomb on his property.

Clouse, who also has met with authorities, said the bunker had food and electricity, and the youngster was watching TV. He said law enforcement authorities were communicating with the gunman, but he had no details on how.

At one point, authorities lowered medicine into the bunker for the boy after his captor agreed to it, Clouse said. The lawmaker said he did not know what the medicine was for or whether it was urgently needed.

Chris Voss, a former international kidnapping negotiator for the FBI, said negotiators at the scene should remain patient and calm, resisting the urge to force a quick resolution.

"Getting what you want is not the same as getting even," said Voss, whose firm, the Black Swan Group, now consults on high-stakes negotiations. "Flooding the zone will not save lives."

Mike and Patricia Smith, who live across the street from Dykes and whose two children were on the bus when the shooting happened, said their youngsters had a run-in with him about 10 months ago.

"My bulldogs got loose and went over there," Patricia Smith said. "The children went to get them. He threatened to shoot them if they came back."

"He's very paranoid," her husband said. "He goes around in his yard at night with a flashlight and shotgun."

Patricia Smith said her children told her what happened on the bus: Two other children had just been dropped off and the Smith children were next. Dykes stepped onto the bus and grabbed the door so the driver couldn't close it. Dykes told the driver he wanted two boys, 6 to 8 years old, without saying why.

According to Smith, Dykes started down the aisle of the bus and the driver put his arm out to block him. Dykes fired four shots at Poland with a handgun, Smith said.

"He did give his life, saving children," Mike Smith said.

Patricia Smith said her daughter, a high school senior, began corralling the other children and headed for the back of the bus while Dykes and the driver were arguing. Later, Smith's son ran inside his house, telling his mother: "The crazy man across the street shot the bus driver and Mr. Poland won't wake up."

Patricia Smith ran over to the bus and saw the driver slumped over in his seat. Her daughter used another child's cellphone to call 911.

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Abroad

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challenge readjusting to her daily routine presented upon her return from a fall semester in Toledo, Spain.

"My mom would fix a big family dinner at 6 p.m. but I wouldn't get hungry until 9 p.m. [because that was dinnertime in Spain]," Ryan said.

The biggest difference in her daily schedule abroad, at home and at Notre Dame was that her days abroad were more variable, Ryan said.

"I miss the exploration aspect and that there was really no daily routine," Ryan said. "It was different every day."

Ryan said she was relieved to return to the strong faith present at Notre Dame.

"The Notre Dame kids in our program were great and they stuck together, but just little things like not being able to go to English Mass were difficult," Ryan said.

After living as a foreigner in Spain for several months, Ryan said it was a relief to assimilate easily into the community around her.

"I was walking around campus and thought, 'Wow, no one's

looking at me,'" Ryan said. "I don't stand out here, which is kind of nice."

Ryan said her fall semester in Toledo, Spain, challenged her to expand her grasp of the Spanish language.

"The language barrier was the most difficult aspect of study abroad, because everyone tells you that you're going to have a little bit of culture shock, because literally everything is in Spanish," Ryan said. "You can't really comprehend that until you get there."

Ryan said she embraced the opportunity to make a new home abroad.

"Some people complain that the [new] culture and families are so different, but I always felt that I could have encountered my host family in any city in the United States," Ryan said.

Junior John O'Brien, who studied in Ireland at University College Dublin, said he noticed an increase in his workload upon returning to campus.

"It's definitely been difficult acclimating back to life on campus," O'Brien said. "The workload is a lot different from study abroad, and it's been tough trying to get myself motivated to do homework that I might not have



Photo courtesy of John O'Brien

John O'Brien, left, and Pat O'Brien, pose in front of the Coliseum in Rome. O'Brien and O'Brien studied in Notre Dame's Dublin program during the fall semester of 2012.

done while abroad. I am slowly getting back in the routine and back to work ... Being around other people has been helpful because you see how hard they're working and it motivates you to work harder."

After returning stateside, O'Brien said he missed the mobility of his abroad experience, which let him travel to other

countries on a whim.

"I miss the freedom of it—while you're here you're a bit more confined to campus," O'Brien said. "Every weekend I was going to different cities, it was really awesome."

While abroad, O'Brien said he missed the most distinctive camaraderie of campus life at Notre Dame. In particular, he

said living in a singlenin Dublin differed sharply from residence life in a 200-person dormitory.

"I missed being with all the guys around the dorm," O'Brien said. "I missed going to football games and going out on the weekends."

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Partisan divide threatens plans to revive economy

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — There's a growing sense of resignation that the country's political leaders will be unable or unwilling to find a way around looming automatic spending cuts despite fresh signs the cuts would threaten the recovering economy.

On one side are conservative Republicans, outnumbered and frustrated, who see the painfully large cuts as leverage in their battle to force Democrats into concessions on the budget. On the other side are President Barack Obama and his Democratic allies, who are pressing to replace some of the cuts with new tax revenues.

The predictable deadlock — and looming cuts of \$85 billion this budget year alone — has the potential to slam the economy, produce sweeping furloughs and layoffs at federal agencies and threatens hundreds of thousands of private sector jobs.

The cuts would shrink the Pentagon budget by 7 percent and force most domestic agencies to absorb a 5 percent cut concentrated in the last half of the budget year.

Just last year, GOP leaders were among the loudest voices warning of dire consequences for the military and the economy if more than \$100 billion in cuts across the board went into effect. Now, even as defense hawks fume, Republicans see the strategy as their best chance of wringing cuts from costly government

benefit programs like Medicare that Obama and his Democratic allies in Congress have been reluctant to touch.

The move is fraught with risk. Some \$43 billion would be cut from the Pentagon budget between March and October if battling Democrats and Republicans can't agree on an alternative. Equal cuts would hit domestic programs, although the health care programs that are major drivers of future deficits are largely exempt.

"Talk about letting the sequester kick in, as though that were an acceptable thing, belies where Republicans were on this issue not that long ago," White House Press Secretary Jay Carney said Wednesday. "This is sort of political brinksmanship of the kind that results in one primary victim, and that's American taxpayers — the American middle class."

The automatic cuts, known as a "sequester" in Washington-speak, are the penalty for the failures of the 2011 deficit "supercommittee" and subsequent rounds of budget talks to produce an agreement.

Along with the threatened expiration of Bush-era tax cuts, the spending cuts were a major element of the so-called fiscal cliff crisis that gripped the country at the new year. While most of the tax cuts — except for upper-bracket income — were made permanent, negotiators could only agree on a two-month reprieve to the sequester after finding \$24 billion in replacement money that reduced this year's round of cuts from \$109

billion to \$85 billion. Eight more years of cuts, totaling almost \$1 trillion, still remain.

The austerity, economists say, would slow down the economy. Under a formula by the Congressional Budget Office, a \$43 billion cut in defense spending could cost 300,000 jobs this year.

"In terms of the political dynamic here, defense spending is only 20 percent of the federal budget, but it's taking 50 percent of the cuts, which means it's going to be hitting the Republicans a lot harder than the Democrats," said defense analyst Loren Thompson of the Lexington Institute think tank.

On Wednesday, the government reported that the economy shrank by 0.1 percent in the last quarter of 2012 and said a slowdown in defense spending and uncertainty over the automatic spending cuts could have kicked in at the start of the year.

Last year, Republicans issued dire warnings of the impact the cuts would have. Defense hawks like Sens. John McCain, R-Ariz., and Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., made campaign tours in political swing states like Virginia and Florida lambasting the cuts, warning that the reductions would hollow out the Pentagon and cost many thousands of jobs. They reminded voters that the sequester was an idea developed by Democrats during 2011 negotiations on increasing the government's borrowing cap.

Priest convicted in sex abuse case

Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — A jury on Wednesday convicted a priest and teacher in a pivotal church-abuse case that rocked the Philadelphia archdiocese and sent a church official to prison for child endangerment.

The verdict upholds the stunning account from a troubled 24-year-old policeman's son that he was sexually abused as a boy by two priests and his sixth-grade teacher. One priest took a plea deal before trial, while the jury convicted the Rev. Charles Engelhardt and former teacher Bernard Shero of all but one count.

The 2009 complaint describing the abuse led to the landmark conviction last year of Monsignor William Lynn, the longtime secretary for clergy in Philadelphia. Lynn is serving three to six years in prison for his role transferring an admitted pedophile priest to the accuser's northeast Philadelphia parish. A string of priest victims testified in Lynn's case, but none said they had been passed around like the policeman's son.

"I'm overjoyed that there was a conviction, mostly because of this victim. I really didn't expect it," said Philadelphia District Attorney Seth Williams, an active Catholic who revived efforts to prosecute the archdiocese after taking office three years ago.

The accuser, now a gaunt young man, has battled heroin abuse since his teens and still

has a drug case pending. And details of his story changed frequently over the years, even about whether Shero raped him in the classroom or in a parked car.

"The victim was demonized, cross-examined, ... dehumanized. I would understand how a jury could come to a different verdict," Williams said.

The accuser said the assaults began after Engelhardt caught him drinking altar wine in fifth grade. He said Engelhardt told fellow priest Edward Avery about their "session," prompting Avery to twice sexually assault the boy. And he testified that Shero raped him a year later, after driving him home after detention.

The jury convicted Shero, 49, of Levittown, of rape, indecent sexual assault and other charges. They convicted Engelhardt, 66, of Wyndmoor, of charges including indecent assault of a child under 13, corruption of a minor and conspiracy with Avery. The jury deadlocked on one count, an indecent sexual assault count against Engelhardt, after deliberating since late Friday.

Lawyer Burton Rose described Shero after the verdict as "very distraught, very distraught." He had told jurors that his introverted, visually impaired client was an easy target for a false accuser.

Defense lawyers had argued that the accuser was simply hoping for a payout from his pending civil suit against the archdiocese. His story defied belief, they said.

MALI

French forces rout jihadists in northern Mali

Associated Press

JOHANNESBURG — French-led forces have wrested control of three key cities in northern Mali from al-Qaida-linked militants, but the fighters have escaped with their weapons into a desert region the size of Texas and are poised to mount counterattacks.

New military strategies will be needed to rout the jihadists from their desert hideouts. When the French leave their former colony, armed extremists are still likely to remain. No one has yet publicly announced a campaign to hunt them down in the Sahara and in Mali's villages, where they are believed to be slipping in among civilians.

"The French and Malian forces are dealing with an enemy — jihadists — that don't have a fixed address, that don't wear uniforms," said Ayo Johnson, director of Viewpoint Africa, a think tank in London. "It's an enemy that can disappear into the population and come out at will. The insurgents play the long game. They are not in a hurry, the French are. The Islamists could use the population as human shields. They could use suicide bombers. This is not a conventional war."

With the rapid success of French and Malian forces in recapturing the major cities in northern Mali, French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius said his country's forces will be leaving Mali "quickly." France sent its troops and warplanes to Mali on Jan. 11 after the armed Islamists

began encroaching on the south from their northern stronghold, toward the capital. The French quickly blocked the offensive and forced the insurgents from three key northern cities, Timbuktu, Gao and Kidal, that they had ruled for 10 months. The French had already made clear that's the extent of their mission.

That leaves Malian and African forces facing new, daunting challenges: holding the cities and searching out the rebels in the vast desert surrounding the population centers. The well-armed Islamist extremists, who are from Mali and a host of other countries, are known to have recruited child soldiers and are expected to use the civilian population as human shields and to use suicide bombers.

The fight for Mali has really barely begun, warn analysts.

"It's a strategic withdrawal (from the cities) by the jihadists which means that the fight is not over," said Alex Vines, head of the Africa program at Chatham House, a center for international affairs in London.

Vines said unmanned aerial vehicles, or drones, already have a prominent role in intelligence gathering in the area but have not been used to fire on targets, such as the drone strikes in Afghanistan and Pakistan.

"That could change," he said.

The Pentagon is considering setting up a drone base in northwest Africa to increase intelligence collection, said a U.S. military official this week. Niger



AP

A sign on the northern road exiting the town of Gao, Mali, reads "Welcome to the Islamic state of Gao." Islamist extremists fled the city Saturday.

has accepted the idea of hosting unarmed U.S. drones but has not endorsed armed U.S. Predator strikes or the launching of U.S. special operations raids from its territory. The U.S. and Niger in recent days signed a "status of forces agreement" spelling out legal protections and obligations of American forces that might operate in Niger in the future.

Vines believes that a French force will have to stay in Mali for some time to come. It is widely agreed that the Malian army is not up to the job of holding the cities on its own. Malian troops put up little to no resistance when the Islamist rebels attacked the cities of northern Mali in April

last year. Eventually the army will be backed up by an African force that is still being assembled. There are now some 2,900 African soldiers in Mali, including 1,400 from Chad who are used to fighting in harsh, desert terrain like northern Mali.

"The French will have to ... keep in place a backup force that can move in quickly if there is any trouble," Vines said.

But French Defense Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian declared on Monday that "the mission is accomplished," referring to the blocking of the jihadists' offensive toward the south and retaking of the northern cities.

"The African forces will slowly

take over from France to ensure the sovereignty of Mali," he told French television station TF1. "And France doesn't plan to stay. Once the handover has happened, France will pull out."

But even so, he seemed to hold out the possibility of a continued French role.

Asked about the status of the thousands of jihadists, he said: "Some were killed because the attacks were violent. Others are trying to flee, but the borders of neighboring countries are closed and guarded today. Others are hiding so it's necessary to continue, with help from African forces, Malian forces, with the request, the liberation of Mali."

VIETNAM

U.S. pro-democracy activist released, deported

Associated Press

HANOI, Vietnam — Vietnam released and deported an American pro-democracy activist detained since April, a move that contrasts with the long prison terms given to Vietnamese activists who are members of the same U.S.-based dissident group.

The release of Nguyen Quoc Quan on Wednesday came after U.S. diplomatic pressure and removes an obvious thorn in relations between the former enemies. Both countries are trying to strengthen their ties in large part because of shared concerns over China's emerging military and economic might, but American concerns over human rights in one-party, authoritarian Vietnam are complicating this.

Vietnam's Foreign Ministry said in a statement that Quan had "confessed to his crime" and asked for leniency to be reunited with his family. His wife, Huong

Mai Ngo, said she doubted this was the case, suggesting that Hanoi was seeking a face-saving way of allowing him to go home.

"I don't believe it. They say that about everybody," she said via telephone from Sacramento, Calif. "If my husband was prepared to do that (confess), he could have been released nine months ago."

Given the diplomatic sensitivities around the case, most observers had expected Quan to be released and quietly deported.

Quan, an American citizen, was arrested at Ho Chi Minh City's airport in April after arriving on a flight from the United States, where he has lived since fleeing Vietnam by boat as a young man. The 59-year-old is a leading member of Viet Tan, a nonviolent pro-democracy group that Vietnamese authorities have labeled a terrorist organization. He was detained in 2007 in Vietnam for six months, also on charges relating to his

pro-democracy activities, before being deported.

Authorities initially accused Quan of terrorism, but he was later charged with subversion against the state, which carries penalties ranging from 12 years in prison to death. Earlier this month, 14 Vietnamese activists associated with Viet Tan were sentenced to up to 13 years in jail.

Ngo said she had yet to speak to her husband, who was on a plane home, but that the U.S. consulate had informed her of his release.

"I can't believe it," she said. "I cried over the phone when I was told."

Asked whether she believed Quan would try to return to Vietnam again, she said: "I can't stop him, but I hope not."

In Washington, U.S. State Department spokeswoman Victoria Nuland said it had no higher priority than the safety and security of American citizens abroad. "It's good news that he's now been released," she said.

Patient shoots Calif. physician

Associated Press

NEWPORT BEACH, Calif. — A retired barber accused of fatally shooting a California urologist was a patient who had an appointment with the victim and brought the gun with him to the exam room, prosecutors said Wednesday.

Stanwood Fred Elkus, 75, was charged with murder in the Monday attack that killed Dr. Ronald Gilbert.

The 52-year-old doctor was shot multiple times in the upper body at his office in the affluent city of Newport Beach in suburban Orange County.

Elkus, of Lake Elsinore, appeared in court Wednesday afternoon wearing an orange jumpsuit with his hands in his pockets, and told a judge he couldn't afford an attorney.

Superior Court Judge Craig Robinson postponed his arraignment until March 5, and said Elkus would be assigned a public defender in the interim. He was being held without bail.

Elkus had appeared at the

office seeking an appointment on Friday, though it was not clear with which of the three doctors who worked at the Orange Coast Urology Group, said Matt Murphy, the deputy district attorney prosecuting the case.

Elkus was told he could be squeezed into Gilbert's schedule on Monday, when he waited in the exam room with a handgun before opening fire when the doctor walked in, Murphy said.

He then gave the gun to another staff member at the medical office and was arrested quietly, authorities said.

Investigators have found no evidence that Gilbert ever treated Elkus prior to the appointment, Murphy said.

Elkus had long suffered from prostate problems and was upset about his incontinence after a recent surgery, his neighbors said. It wasn't clear who performed the surgery.

Elkus' health problems left him running for the bathroom constantly, sometimes in mid-conversation, neighbors said.

INSIDE COLUMN

Find your
'Space Jam'

Ankur Chawla
Assistant Scene Editor

This past week I stumbled on a video titled "A pep talk from Kid President to you." While typically I am as unimpressed as McKayla Maroney and think of myself as above falling for empty rhetoric and cheesy halftime speeches, this video blew me away. If you haven't seen the clip yet, it is of a young kid dressed in a suit (presumably the "Kid President") emphatically motivating and encouraging viewers to be awesome.

Making allusions to Robert Frost's "The Road Not Taken" and Michael Jordan's "Space Jam," Kid President asks each of us to take the road that leads to awesome, and what our "Space Jam" will be. What really makes the video effective, though, aside from the calmly dramatic music in the background, is Kid President's character and wit — though admittedly it's probably a writer's wit. He is incredibly genuine in his message and even has a shout out to his friend Gabbi who's, "fighting cancer like a boss."

What amazed me was the simplicity of his arguments and ideas, ones we've all heard hundreds of times but hardly take to heart when said by our parents and teachers. And there in lies the rub for the video. We are incredibly receptive to things that are adorable and cute, and are more motivated and easily persuaded by children. Take, for instance, Michael Jordan in "Space Jam." If it were a group of his peers or others perceivably talking down to him asking him to play basketball, I don't think he would have lead that team against the Monstars. However, when asked by the adorable and lovable Looney Tunes, he could hardly say no.

Imagine if your organic chemistry lecture were delivered by a seven-year-old in a suit. While you probably wouldn't have much guidance in how to use a Bunsen burner — seven-year-olds shouldn't play with fire — I can guarantee you would pay closer attention and not bring in crayons to class. It's my million-dollar idea to create online courses taught by kids who can speak as eloquently as Kid President (if I get motivated enough by this video to go out and do it).

As Kid President's pep talk quickly reaches five million views, I think we can agree he's fulfilled his obligation to "give the world a reason to dance." Now, to cliché-ly turn it around to you reading this. I know you probably won't listen to me, but watch the video and be inspired by it. Or at least laugh at it and appreciate our Kid President taking the road less traveled, and the one that leads to awesome. Hopefully you'll make something as cool as "Space Jam." I love "Space Jam."

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

Celebrating Catholic schools

Fr. Lou DelFra

Faithpoint

The Letter to the Hebrews records one of the most awesome articulations of the love of God that the human race has ever received: "So that he could truly mediate between God and humans, Jesus became like his brothers and sisters in every way. Because he himself was tested and suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested and are suffering." This is the Incarnation: that the transcendent, omnipotent and omniscient God, who is pure, infinite and unconditional Love, took on human flesh.

This mystery of the Incarnation, however, comes with a few severe disadvantages. Think about it this way: because God decided to become human, God would have to deliver his message in human ways. No more voices from pillars of cloud and fire. No snap of the heavenly fingers to wipe away all suffering and tears. No spiritual social media to quickly spread the word around first-century Palestine about the coming of the Kingdom of God. No, if God were to become fully human, then God would have to play by human rules, which of course entailed making regular use of human-made creations for support and help.

As a result, because God has decided to take on human form, we can hardly read a single story in the Gospels without seeing some human-made creation that helped to carry Christ and His message to the world. We can't, for example, make it through the Infancy Narratives without the manger, the wood and straw crafted by human hands that bore the vital role of cradling Christ as an infant, a place of nurture in the early, vulnerable days of his life. Think about this for a moment: it was in a structure created by human hands, and through human ingenuity and labor, that God was first revealed to the shepherds and the magi — the first people to believe in the Christ.

We can't make it through so many of the early scenes in Jesus' life, on the

Sea of Galilee, for example, without boats — again, the result of human craft, ingenuity, creativity and sweat. These boats, time and again, served the crucial role of bearing Christ and his disciples on the sea. It is from a boat that Jesus first preaches to the crowds on shore. It is from a boat that Jesus calms the storm, walks on water, asks the disciples to lower their nets on the right side for a bigger catch.

We could come up with a whole list of the man-made creations that serve to bear the presence of Christ to the world: the ceramic jugs at Cana that held His first miracle from which the wedding guests could drink the finest wine; the house at Capernaum, where Jesus gathered frequently with his first listeners; even the Cross and the tomb are structures made from human hands that would bear the most awesome revelation of the power of God, as they held Christ and bore his weight. These works of human creativity and labor became, through the grace of God, instruments of evangelization, by which many would come to know God's love.

Because God became human, God has always used human creations, human structures, as vehicles of grace. This week, throughout the United States, we celebrate and pray for one of the most effective vehicles of evangelization in the history of the Church: the American Catholic school system. All of the human-made creations in the Gospels — the manger, the boats of Galilee, the wine jugs of Cana — which served the purpose of bearing Christ to the world, thereby become little images for us of Catholic schools. These schools are the work of the hands and minds, the ingenuity, sweat and sheer determination of countless nuns, brothers, priests and laypeople — generations of American Catholics. Like all human structures, they require our craft, skill and devotion, all so that Christ might have a place to be born, have a place from which to speak to the crowds, have a place to work miracles, have a place to accomplish the saving acts of his death and resurrection, over and over again in our midst, in our neighborhoods and

among our children.

Some days, one Gospel image in particular — the boat caught in a storm, whipped by winds and waters threatening to overwhelm this sturdy yet fragile human-made structure — presents an almost too-apt image of our beloved Catholic schools. Since 2000, at least 1,755 Catholic schools have closed (though there have been 460 new schools opened). Since 2000, enrollment is down an estimated 22 percent. The poor and inner-city schools, where excellent, faith-based education is in some ways needed the most, are most adversely impacted. A recent Notre Dame study has shown when a Catholic school closes, neighborhood crime goes up and social cohesion goes down. The boat, undoubtedly, is in the midst of a storm.

And yet, this Gospel image is one we might willingly embrace, for at the center of the boat, at the center of what was conceived and made by, and now threatened by, human effort lies Jesus, the Son of God. He is the heart of Catholic schools; He is the reason for the whole structure. And He guarantees his continued, steadying presence if we stay committed to keeping Him awake and alive at the center of our efforts.

We made these boats to carry Christ's presence in the world. Like the disciples in the boat that stormy day, as we rouse ourselves to overcome the storms that face us, let us make sure to run and rouse Christ too — for He is the still point, the unshakeable center, in the middle of the storm. He is the one whom even the wind and seas obey. So, this Catholic Schools Week, we ought to gather our strength and rekindle our spirits, energies and commitment around the One who is constantly inviting us to build, so He can continue to teach and proclaim his saving words.

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

EDITORIAL CARTOON



LETTER TO THE EDITOR

One issue is more than enough

In his column “One issue isn’t enough” (Jan. 28), Mr. Durkin writes that modern politics is complex and urges us not to vote based simply on the pro-life/pro-choice debate. This exhortation, however, fails to take into account the nature of the right to life as the underpinning of all other rights.

Our Declaration of Independence states, “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.” It is very clear it is not possible to protect liberty and the pursuit of happiness without first protecting life, and for this reason the debate regarding the sanctity of life is

not simply “one issue” as Mr. Durkin claims, nor can it be equated to school vouchers or climate change. Blessed Pope John Paul II explains this in his Apostolic Exhortation *Christifideles Laici*, writing, “Above all, the common outcry, which is justly made on behalf of human rights — for example, the right to health, to home, to work, to family, to culture — is false and illusory if the right to life, the most basic and fundamental right and the condition for all other personal rights, is not defended with maximum determination.”

Because the right to life is so basic, and because the importance of all other political issues pale in comparison to it, abortion and euthanasia are among the non-negotiable issues the Church

has stated all Catholics must vote against — both by voting against the policies themselves and by voting against candidates who endorse them. In effect, when it comes to voting for candidates who are pro-life, nothing else matters.

So in response to Mr. Durkin’s question, “Does it really make sense to base political judgments so heavily on someone’s views on one issue alone,” I say yes, it does, because neither tax reform nor foreign policy matter one iota in a society that does not recognize the basic right to life of all of its citizens.

Patrick Gallagher
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UWIRE

Obama and the second-term curse

H.W. Brands

The Daily Texan

Presidents breathe rare air, and re-elected presidents, rarer air still. Only 44 people in American history have held the office of president; Barack Obama is the just 17th to have been elected twice. Rare air sometimes invigorates; more often it makes people dizzy. An oddity of American politics is that nearly every president wants a second term, but second terms almost never turn out well. The re-elected Thomas Jefferson coerced Congress into declaring a ruinous embargo; Andrew Jackson sent the country into a financial tailspin; Abraham Lincoln and William McKinley were assassinated; Woodrow Wilson broke his health in a vain attempt to persuade Americans to join the League of Nations. The unlucky list goes on.

The second-term curse can be ascribed to an evil alignment of influences. Second-termers enjoy no honeymoon; their opponents attack them and their policies from the moment they retake their Oath of Office. Second-termers typically operate with a second-string team. On first election they get their top choices for Cabinet and White House positions, but those first picks generally resign from the most crucial — and stressful — offices by end of the first term. Their successors are usually less talented, less energetic, less credible or less reliable.

Second-term presidencies are prone to scandal. Some of this tendency is a statistical artifact. Presidencies in general are prone to scandal, the temptations of power being more than many people can resist. If a scandal occurs during a first term, that president doesn’t get a

second term. If the first term is scandal-free, the odds are likelier to catch up with the president in the second term.

But scandals also reflect a relaxation of standards, a loss of vigilance. First-term presidents who attempt election to a second term (a group that includes every president since Rutherford Hayes) mind their manners and those of their administrations with great care. Once freed of the burden of running again, however, they often let their guard down.

Yet hope springs eternal for second terms, not least among those who achieve them. Second-term presidents can focus on the long run, on issues too large or with payoffs too distant to survive the short-run tyranny that has constrained them theretofore. A first-term president asks how a decision will read in the next day’s papers; a second-term president asks how it will read in the history books. Second-term presidents can ascend the moral high ground of the national interest, as opposed to the party interest, and not be charged with hypocrisy as easily as first-termers.

What does all this mean for Barack Obama? First, he must be extremely careful to avoid scandal. Nothing stays secret for long these days; the slightest slip by him or a subordinate can ruin what remains of his presidency. The four most recent two-term presidencies ended in ignominy or severe embarrassment: Nixon in Watergate, Reagan in Iran-Contra, Clinton in impeachment, Bush in the Katrina bungle. Obama must be very watchful — and perhaps lucky — to avoid a similar fate.

Second, he should concentrate on a few carefully chosen issues. With these he might have a chance of success. In his second inaugural address, he staked a position on immigration reform that would have been

bold before the election but that parallels what many Republicans have been thinking after the election results revealed how thoroughly they have alienated Latinos. Expect a bipartisan law before the end of the current Congress. More difficult yet more pressing is a grand bargain on taxes and spending. Already the Republicans have retreated on the federal debt limit; if Obama doesn’t push too hard, he might win the moderate Republican votes he needs to put fiscal policy on a sustainable path.

Third, he almost certainly will devote more of his time to foreign policy, especially in his seventh and eighth years. Presidents are merely coequals with Congress in domestic affairs, but in matters of war and peace and much of what lies between, they enjoy great autonomy. They can embark on wars, negotiate treaties and do all the other things that lie within the purview of the commander in chief and diplomat in chief. Obama might attempt a transatlantic trade pact with the European Union, issue executive orders on climate change or jump-start the peace process between Israel and the Palestinians. There is no guarantee of success — foreign policy is hard. But when the approach of 2016 tempts the Republicans to run out the clock on Obama, as it assuredly will, foreign policy will seem like a vacation.

In fact, foreign policy is often a vacation for presidents, which is another reason it beckons second-termers. There’s no ride like Air Force One.

This column originally ran in the Jan. 28 edition of The Daily Texan, serving the University of Texas at Austin.

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

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LOOKING BACK ON '30 ROCK'

By **COURTNEY COX**
Scene Editor

Tonight on NBC one of the wittiest television shows of the past decade is coming to an end. "30 Rock" revived the career of Alec Baldwin and made Tina Fey a star outside of her "Saturday Night Live" bubble. It made audiences fall in love with the off-beat Liz Lemon and her quest to find fulfillment outside of her work life. In preparation for the impending hole in the Thursday night television schedule, I've compiled a list of the top episodes of "30 Rock." Watch them today to refresh your memory about how awesome the past seven seasons have been, or save them to watch later when you're missing the quirky repartee between Jack and Liz.

"Tracy Does Conan"

Jenna is bumped from her appearance on "Late Night with Conan O'Brien" and Tracy is brought in to fill her place. Jenna is furious and threatens to leave the show, but Liz has bigger things on her plate. As the taping draws closer, Tracy acts stranger and stranger and he begins to imagine that he is seeing an orb-like "blue dude" played by Rachel Dratch. In an attempt for Tracy to seem sane while on the show Liz and her producer Pete spend the entire day running around trying to control the situation.

"MILF Island"

Jack's reality show "MILF Island" about "25 super-hot moms, 50 eighth-grade boys and no rules" is a huge success, but he can't enjoy it. He begins a smoke-out of the "TGS with Tracy Jordan" staff after an unflattering piece about him appears in The New York Post, as he is convinced that one of the writers was behind the story. Later on we discover that it was actually Liz who accidentally spoke to the reporter, but mirroring the competitive winner of Jack's hit show, she refuses to tell Jack.

"Sandwich Day"

Liz's perfect ex-boyfriend Floyd returns to New York on business, and Liz attempts to show him how fantastic she's become since he left. At the same time,

the Teamsters who work on "TGS" treat the staff to their annual gift of a mythical sandwich from an unknown deli. It's the episode that gave us such incredible lines as "I wolfed my Teamster sub for you," and "I'll cut your faces so bad you'll have a chin. ... You'll all have chins," which is obviously a reference to Kenneth the Page's lack of a prominent chin.

"The Bubble"

Liz notices that her new handsome doctor boyfriend Drew is floating through life without any difficulty. His handsomeness has put him in a bubble where people neglect to tell him when he's doing something incorrectly or when he can't have something immediately. Liz tries to break him out of the bubble, but Drew doesn't take it lightly. Meanwhile, Jack deals with Tracy Jordan's choice not to return to "TGS" after his video game becomes a major success. He uses Kenneth as a pawn to get him back.

"Sun Tea"

When Liz learns that the apartment building she's living in is being turned into condos, she has to purchase her apartment or face a rent increase. Realizing that she owns no property, she decided to purchase both her apartment and the one above for the family she might have in the future. All she has to do is drive the resident upstairs out of his apartment. Going beyond the boundary of human decency, she does so and rejoices in the end.

"Queen of Jordan"

A parody of another NBCUniversal hit, the "Real Housewives" franchise, this follows Tracy's wife Angie and her bizarre posse of friends like D'Fwan, Portia and Randi. Despite not fitting in with the rest of the series, it's a timely criticism of the state of television today.

This is by no means a complete list of the best of the best, but it's enough to induce the nostalgia of seasons past and get you ready for tonight's celebration of this incredible show.

Contact Courtney Cox at ccox3@nd.edu

ABRAMS TAKES ON 'STAR WARS'

By **WILLIAM NEAL**
Scene Writer

Nerds, rejoice. The question of who will take the coveted director seat of the "Star Wars" franchise has finally been answered: Mr. Bad Robot himself, J. J. Abrams. Those familiar with Abrams' long history of sci-fi work may not be surprised with the decision, but keep in mind that he rebooted the "Star Trek" franchise (long-time arch nemesis to the "Star Wars" fan base) and is set to release the next installment of that series this summer, "Star Trek: Into Darkness." The thought of such a crossover brings to mind George Costanza's speech on when "worlds collide."

What's even stranger than the man who resurrected Kirk and Spock turning to a competing franchise is the fact that Abrams originally denied claims of his involvement with the film. He explained his loyalty to the "Star Trek" fan base and explained his "very genuine concerns" about taking over the seventh "Star Wars" installment. Clearly Kathleen Kennedy and the rest of the executives at the House of Mouse and Lucasfilm offices have learned the manipulative art of the Dark Side of the Force, or just offered him a lot of money. Either way works.

I'm sure the fact that writer Michael Arndt, who scripted "Toy Story 3," is on board to write Episode VII's script with the assistance of Lawrence Kasdan (writer of "Star Wars: The Empire Strikes Back") further encouraged Abrams to jump on the bandwagon — I mean the Landspeeder. Regardless of what was possibly promised/offered/blackmailed to get Abrams to direct, this is major news. For the first time since 1977, a new director is taking the helm from the beloved, yet infamous, George Lucas.

Taking on a \$4.05 billion franchise is no easy task, but then again, Abrams has had a successful track record and is experienced in having to appeal to a massive fan base. Plus, it's not like he can do much worse than the CGI-bombarded, political-allegory-filled and terribly-written "Star Wars" prequels. Still, it's a daunting task to take over a franchise that has become so much more through the years than merely a film series (look up "Jediism" or "Star Wars weddings" sometime).

The fact that the last three films were deemed failures by "Star Wars" fans and critics alike means there is much more pressure for Abrams in the director's seat. In many ways, however, this is a chance for the franchise to start fresh and many believe that the current team of developers will deliver a solid trilogy for "Star Wars" Episodes VII, VIII and IX.

Aside from a talented director and team of writers, the stars of the original trilogy, Mark Hamill, Harrison Ford and Carrie Fisher, have all expressed an interest in returning. So, with Abrams handling both the Final Frontier and the Galaxy Far, Far Away, will both projects conflict with one another? It's hard to say, but Abrams has already told the press that there is no guarantee that "Star Wars: Episode VII" will be released in 2015 like Disney originally planned.

It's been nearly eight years since the last "Star Wars" film, so as long as the movie is done right, I believe it's well worth the wait. I just pray that the story is well written, the acting is strong (i.e. no Hayden Christensen), Abrams goes easy on the lens flares and that we get an ending in which Jar Jar Binks is incinerated. Requests and concerns aside, we're all rooting for you, Abrams. Don't let us down, and may the Force be with you.

Contact William Neal at wneal@nd.edu



KEEP CALM AND STYLE ON

VALENTINE'S DAY VITALITY



By JESSIE CHRISTIAN
Scene Writer

It's nearing the end of January, which means that Valentine's Day is right around the corner. For some, this means a cute date with a boyfriend or girlfriend featuring a nice dinner and special guest appearances from Ryan Gosling and Rachel McAdams. Throughout the years, however, I have found that an overwhelming number of individuals have not and will not be partaking in such festivities. In past years, I have heard a nonstop buzz of negativity surrounding V-day and all that goes along with the occasion. People from all over the world have declared themselves, proud or not, as solo entities; they have ditched the holiday and all its lighthearted glory.

As a lover of fun and fashion, this is very saddening to me. Date or not, time and time again Valentine's Day has presented to me the opportunity to get together with friends, dress up, go out and appreciate the love that we have for one another. The holiday's slow demise is so sad that I'm determined to convince the naysayers that it must go on. From all red everything to a simple dinner date with friends, I'm breaking down some of the ways to make the best of Valentine's Day without throwing in the towel, queuing the lower-lip pout and hating the world for 24 hours.

Dress Up

Valentine's Day will only be special if you commit to making it that way. Make a pact with your girls that you'll all plan to look nice. Don't know what to wear? Dresses and heels are always a



Photo Courtesy of CarbonNYC

fun place to start. Peplum tops and full dresses are all the rage this year, and are perfect for all sorts of body types. Sweetheart necklines are also perfect for nice and or romantic occasions because of their beautifully feminine cuts. Plus, with a name like that, who wouldn't want try one out for V-day?

Dinner Dates

Whether you're with your beau or with a group of your favorite beauties, make reservations at a nice place, put away those cell phones and talk the night away. Many restaurants have Valentine's Day themes and specials, and if you're in good company, even the cheesiest of decorations will add to the fun-filled day.

Dye Your Hair Pink!

Just kidding, please don't do that. Just appreciate the fact that you could, then move on. Good life choices.

Cupcakes

Not in the mood to go out, but still want to take part in some of the fun V-day festivities? Pull out your cupcake tray and bake away! It's a great way to bond with friends and goes perfectly with my next suggestion. Not in the mood to go out or to bake? Get some from a bakery or supermarket during the day to share with friends on Valentine's night.



Photo Courtesy of lamantin

Watch Movies

Sappy, scary, thrilling, funny or whatever your taste may be, movie nights are a win-win almost every time. Oh, and don't forget to pig out on ice cream too — as much as you want, no regrets, because it's Valentine's Day. Tell me you Debbie Downer's aren't feeling that idea.

Girl's Night Out

Hit the club or go to a fun concert and dance and sing the night away with your beau or close friends. Even better — take a couple of hints from the suggestions above. Dress up, dine out and then make your way out.

Within no time, your Valentine's Day agenda will be full and by the end of the night you'll be counting down the days until you're surrounded by pink balloons and sequins all over again.

Contact Jessie Christian
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Photo Courtesy of Nasty Gal

SPORTSAUTHORITY

Magical moments define Masters



Matt Robison
Sports Writer

Editor's note: This is the fourth in a 10-part series discussing the best event in sports. In this installment, Matt Robison argues for The Masters.

After his seemingly impossible hooking wedge shot out of the straw on the 10th hole the second playoff hole and a tap-in putt to seal his first major victory at the 2012 Masters Tournament, Bubba Watson sobbed in the arms of his caddy. The raw emotion of the moment overwhelmed Watson and likely millions watching at home.

It's moments like these that make the Masters the best event in sports. As a four-day golf tournament, it may not have the two-minutes of mayhem like the Kentucky Derby, the marathon of magic like March Madness or the pageantry of the Rose Bowl. But it's the moments — the memorable and the downright miraculous — that define the Masters.

Everyone has seen Tiger Woods' chip-in on the 16th hole in 2005. We all dream about hitting a shot like that — a dribbling chip that broke 25 feet. The ball hung longingly on the edge of the cup before, as if by some supernatural force, it fell into the cup. The crowd erupted into a roar and Verne Lundquist nearly leapt out of his giant green TV tower as he screamed, "In your life, have you seen anything like that?"

No, Verne. We haven't. Because the Masters is the only time shots like that happen. It's the only time a moment in sports can make us question the very nature of inertia and gravity.

It is upon the backdrop of the 79-year-old tradition that both the famous and the notorious moments are made.

No golf fan in our generation will forget current world No. 1 Rory McIlroy's epic collapse in 2011. After finishing each of the first three days of the tournament in the top spot on the leaderboard, McIlroy turned in the worst Sunday performance by a three-day leader in history, an eight-over 80 to finish fifth. McIlroy hit one bad shot after another, sometimes playing shots out of what looked like someone's

backyard, crumbling under the pressure of the moment.

It is where legends are made, as when Tiger completed the "Tiger Slam," winning his fourth straight major championship by a tournament-record 12 strokes at just 21 years of age.

It is also where players suffer wounds that turn to scars that forever mark a career. Just ask Greg Norman.

In 1986, after making four straight birdies, Norman needed just a par on the 18th hole to force a playoff with Jack Nicklaus. Instead, he pushed his second shot badly and missed his par putt. In 1987, Norman lost a playoff when his opponent, Larry Mize, holed a 45-yard shot to win. In 1996, he took a six-shot lead into the final round and shot a 78 to lose by five strokes to Nick Faldo.

As far as golf courses go, Augusta is far from the toughest. Players frequently post low scores. As far as traditions go, it's nowhere near the oldest. In fact, it's the youngest of all the major championships. The Open Championship, commonly called the British Open, was established in 1860. The U.S. Open — 1895. The PGA Championship — 1916. But it's the magic of the moments that make the Masters the best of them all.

Sometimes, the magic of the moment fuels something truly special. Other times, it creeps into the player's head and causes disaster. Either way, it creates the moments that make the Masters what it is.

So when the winner has the honor of donning the legendary Green Jacket, he knows he not only outlasted the other players, he has conquered the course and the pressure of it all as well. In the end, it's the golfer who makes the moment — and doesn't let the moment make him — who will win.

The moments make the Masters live up to its tagline. The Masters truly is a tradition unlike any other.

It stands alone as the best event in all of sports.

Contact Matt Robison at mrobison@nd.edu

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

NFL

Harbaughs anticipate emotional Super Bowl

Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — Jack and Jackie Harbaugh are spending Super Bowl week celebrating the good fortune of having two sons at the pinnacle of pro football.

Once the Super Bowl between John Harbaugh's Baltimore Ravens and Jim Harbaugh's San Francisco 49ers has ended this Sunday night, the parents know their first priority will be expressing sympathy to the coach who didn't get to hoist the Lombardi Trophy.

"The one thing that I do think about is after the game. There is going to be one winner and there is going to be one that is going to be totally disappointed. My thoughts go to that one that will not experience the thrill of victory," Jack Harbaugh said. "That's where our thoughts will be."

Harbaugh explained that he and Jackie had a "dry run" on how to handle the post-game last season when the Niners lost at Baltimore on Thanksgiving night.

After leaving an office in the stadium where they watched the game — in private and emotionless — the first locker room they walked past was that of the Ravens.

"We've all experienced that excitement of victory-guys jumping up and down, the smile on John's face. They were just ecstatic. ... Then you realize that you're not needed here," Jack said. "You walk across the hall, and you went into the 49ers locker room and you walked and you saw the players walking about — that look in their eyes, that look of not being successful and coming up short. We opened up a couple doors and finally saw Jim all by himself in this room, just a table and a chair. He was still in his coaching outfit. His head down in his hands and you looked into his eyes and you realized that this where you're needed as a parent."

"Every single parent can identify with that," he



AP

Jack and Jackie Harbaugh, parents of Ravens coach John and 49ers coach Jim, speak at a Super Bowl press conference Wednesday.

continued. "On Sunday night, we're going to experience both of those great emotions. Our thoughts will be with the one that comes up a little short."

Now comes the second act in New Orleans, which happens to be the home of another set of parents who can relate to watching NFL games involving two of their sons on opposing teams: the Mannings.

As it turns out, Jack Harbaugh said, Archie Manning called before the Niners-Ravens Thursday night tilt last season to offer some advice.

"The advice was this, 'This will be over on Friday. I promise you it will be over on Friday,'" Harbaugh recalled. "Sure enough it was great advice and that's exactly how it happened."

The elder Harbaugh was a longtime coach himself, and a former assistant of Bo Schembechler at Michigan, where Jim quarterbacked before a playing career in the NFL, followed by a college coaching career and then his NFL head coaching debut just last season in San Francisco.

Jack credited Jackie for taking their sons to Michigan practices when they were young so they could learn about what their father did during long days at work.

And he was thrilled that they wanted to play and later coach football.

Now that has put them in the spotlight in the Big Easy, where the Harbaugh parents were fittingly at ease as they sat — talk show style — in lounge chairs in front of a large crowd of international media.

Jack opened the news conference by loudly asking, rhetorically, "Who has it better than us?"

Then he and Jackie both exclaimed, "Nobody!"

It appeared well rehearsed because it has long been a family motto.

But when it comes to navigating the rest of Super Bowl week, they acknowledged they were neophytes, and didn't have much of a plan beyond spending time with relatives and friends. They didn't even know where they were sitting for the game. They added that both sons have simply urged them to make sure they enjoy the experience.

When asked if the knowledge that one son will lose will diminish their enjoyment of the game, Jackie Harbaugh said, "I don't think so because we will see both of them after the game. We're going to hug both of them and tell them how proud we are of them."

CLASSIFIEDS

PERSONAL

UNPLANNED PREGNANCY? Don't go it alone. Notre Dame has many resources in place to assist you. If you or someone you love needs confidential support or assistance, please call Ann Whittall at 1-0084 or Karen Kennedy at 1-5550. For more information, visit ND's website at: <http://pregnancysupport@nd.edu>

The Best Liz Lemon One-Liners:

"I pretty much just do whatever Oprah tells me to."

"For every orphan Annie, there's a 30-year-old Russian dwarf who's just pretending to be a child, according to a movie that I watched part of."

"Lovers...oh, that word bums me out unless it's between meat and pizza."

"There ain't no party like a Liz Lemon party 'cause a Liz Lemon party is mandatory!"

"He could be a serial killer. He could wear a thumb ring."

"Can I share with you my worldview? All of humankind has one thing in common: the sandwich. I believe that all anyone really wants in this life is to sit in peace and eat a sandwich."

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

Lewis denies substance abuse



Lewis and the Ravens have been taught not to take any medication or drug without first getting the OK from the league or the team's training staff.

In the Field



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NFL

Brees looks to lead Saints past scandal

Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — Drew Brees wore gray sneakers to his first full day of Super Bowl-related appearances — a wise move for an ambassador of a city who had to walk briskly from end to end of a sprawling convention center to make all of his scheduled stops.

Not only was the Saints' star quarterback a man on the move, but also ready to move on from the bitterness of the bounty scandal, which may have undermined his team's chances of playing for a title on its home field.

"We're professionals and we've moved past that in the sense that there's nothing that can be done other than, 'Let's move on and let's find a way to be better next year in spite of it,'" Brees said. "It would be easy to sit here and be angry, but it is what it is."

Coming off a 13-3 campaign in 2011 and a narrow loss to San Francisco in that season's playoffs, the Saints went into the offseason figuring they would be contenders again this season.

Then came the NFL's probe of the Saints' cash-for-hits program and numerous sanctions, the most severe of which was the full-season suspension of coach Sean Payton. New Orleans went 7-9 and missed the playoffs for the first time since 2008, and now the team practicing at the Saints' suburban training center is the NFC champion 49ers.

Throughout the community, displeasure with NFL commissioner Roger Goodell's handling of the matter has been on display for months, from T-shirts reading "Free Payton"

(he is now reinstated) to signs in bars and eateries showing Goodell's photo and reading: "Do not serve this man."

During the season, Brees offered his own criticism of what he thought was a faulty investigation and overly heavy-handed disciplinary process. But when the topic came up Wednesday, Brees said it was time to "put this thing to bed."

"We've said what needed to be said," Brees said. "Sean's back, all the pieces are in place, and now it's time for us to put ourselves in a position to make a run."

Brees has been one of New Orleans' most prominent public faces and leading promoters since he arrived in the Big Easy in 2006, when much of the area was still in a state of devastation from Hurricane Katrina's August 2005 landfall. Now his team is the official host of the Super Bowl, and Brees is once again stepping up to highlight his adopted hometown's resurgence as it hosts the Super Bowl for the first time since 2002 — also the first time since Katrina.

He also sought to stamp out the notion that there is some kind of undercurrent of tension between his club, its fans and all of the high-ranking NFL executives in town for the league's biggest single event.

"I know the city is going to be a great host regardless," Brees said. "The city wants to put their best foot forward, they want everybody to have a great experience. I don't like the fact that we've got the NFC team practicing in our facility, but we're going to be gracious hosts and hope that it pays us back in the future."

Brees' stops Wednesday included a talk with area high

school kids about the importance of managing one's money. He even revealed that he graduated Purdue with an unpaid \$2,000 mobile phone bill, and later regretted it when it damaged his credit score and pushed up the interest rate he had to pay on the first house he bought in San Diego, shortly after being drafted by the Chargers in 2001.

Later, he hosted a news conference in which his foundation donated \$1 million to businesses teaming up with charities in the metro area. He also made several radio appearances and lent his support to an event hosted by former Saints special teams standout Steve Gleason, who has the debilitating and incurable neuro-muscular disease ALS.

As an organization, the Saints' approach has mirrored that of their quarterback. Owner Tom Benson spoke at an NFL event promoting the importance of children doing more physical activity on Wednesday. He has invited Goodell to the team party in New Orleans' City Park on Thursday night, and he will attend Goodell's main media event Friday and has even invited the commissioner to watch the game from his suite in the Superdome.

"We're making this the best Super Bowl ever and what that means is we're going to get another Super Bowl to come back in a few years," said Benson with a nod to the city's intent to bid on the 2018 Super Bowl. "We've rolled out the red carpet for everybody."

Frank Supovitz, the NFL's vice president for events, called the Saints "outstanding hosts."

"We've been working on the Super Bowl together with the



AP

New Orleans quarterback Drew Brees looks for an NFC receiver during the NFL Pro Bowl on Sunday in Honolulu.

Saints the last three years. ... The level of partnership has never wavered for a moment," he said. "The NFL and Super Bowl have had a long and deep relationship with the city and with the team and one of the pleasures of my career has been working with the team on the reopening of the dome (after Katrina). We've been very, very close partners with the city and the team and I don't expect that to change."

Dennis Lauscha, who serves as the president of both the Saints and NBA's Hornets — which Benson bought last spring — scoffed at the idea that any animosity lingered between the Saints and the

league.

"What we're absolutely concerned about is making sure we put on the best possible show and make a great bid on the next one. We want to put our best foot forward," Lauscha said. "No question we wanted to be the first team to host and play on our own field in the same year. We had an unbelievable experience down in Miami when we won the Super Bowl and we kept on saying how great it would be if we could do that back in New Orleans for our fans, so there is a bit of disappointment in that, but look, we're looking forward to next year and winning the Super Bowl in New York."

SOCCER

Altidore refuses to let racist chants affect play



AP

AZ Alkmaar striker Jozy Altidore, a native of the United States, celebrates during a match against Udinese on March 15, 2012.

Associated Press

United States striker Jozy Altidore refuses to hold a grudge against fans who showered him with racist abuse during a match this week, saying: "We all make mistakes."

In an interview with The Associated Press, Altidore said he decided to play through the abuse Tuesday because he didn't want to give satisfaction to people who directed monkey chants at him.

The 23-year-old said it was the first time he has experienced racism like this, on or off the field.

"This was pretty big. To have a stadium chanting monkey sounds is not something pleasant," he said in the phone interview. "I'm the only black player on my team, so I think it was more directed to me than

anyone else."

"There's a bunch of videos online, you can hear them pretty clear," he added. "It was really loud."

Dutch club FC Den Bosch pledged Wednesday to do all it can to identify and punish the fans who hurled abuse at Altidore during the Dutch Cup match against Altidore's AZ Alkmaar. It said the abusive fans "will face the toughest possible sanctions."

Altidore said such incidents are a stain on everyone, not just fans who chanted.

"Anytime it happens I think we all should be ashamed," Altidore told the AP. "It's very embarrassing for everybody, you know, because at the end of the day we are, as a society, trying to move forward. So when that happens I think everybody takes a loss."

"It's disappointing. But, I

mean, at the end of the day, you know you hope those people can improve themselves."

Altidore said he has prayed for his tormentors.

"My family, we were brought up, you know, very religious. My mother, she always told us that the best way to help some people, especially people you have no way of coming into contact with, is to pray for them. And, yeah, that's what I did. Because, I mean, those people they're deep down probably not all bad people. But at the same time people make mistakes and this for them was a mistake."

He added: "You just pray that it won't be repeated and that they learn from it and you forgive them because at the end of the day you can't hold grudges against people. We all make mistakes."

FENCING

Olympian readjusts to college competition

By **LAURA COLETTI**
Sports Writer

Irish senior captain Courtney Hurley is getting reacquainted with Notre Dame fencing.

With a highly-decorated collegiate career already under her belt, Hurley has returned to fence for the Irish during her senior year after spending the 2011-2012 season traveling Europe, with her epee training culminating at the 2012 Olympic Games in August.

Since helping Team USA earn the Team Epee bronze medal last summer, Hurley has returned to competing for the Irish while continuing to compete individually at World Cup events throughout the world.

Hurley said the undertaking has been both fulfilling and tiring.

"It's really tough, because you train so hard for the Olympics, all you want to do after you train hard is take off," Hurley said. "It was a very stressful year."

The year off also had its perks for the San Antonio, Texas native.

"I think over the course of the year that I took off to do training in Europe, I got a little better at least," she said. "I think people are more intimidated by me now that I've been to the Olympics. I'm not sure whether that's a good or bad thing."

Although she hasn't always

had Olympic dreams, fencing has always been in Hurley's blood. Her parents met through the sport and her older sister, Kelley, also competed for the Irish epee squad.

"When we were babies, [our parents] would take us to their fencing tournaments and we would run around," Hurley said. "They put us into fencing when we were eight or so, we were pretty good so we continued."

Hurley realized she had a good chance of eventually competing in the Olympics around the age of 15, she said, when she won the world championships at the cadet level.

She then went on to win at the junior level, and trained to go to the 2008 Beijing Olympics. Her sister qualified that year but she did not.

That did not deter her goal of ultimately reaching the Olympics, nor did it affect her relationship with her sister.

"It was nice having her here," Hurley said. "We lived together my sophomore year and her senior year in Breen-Phillips. We were really close, she helped me find my way my freshman year. It was always nice having someone just in case. Fencing-wise, we've always been together, so it wasn't anything new there."

For her senior year, Hurley has her sights set on making a return to the NCAA National



SARAH O'CONNOR | The Observer

Irish senior epee and Olympian Courtney Hurley competes in the Notre Dame Duals on Jan. 29, 2011. Hurley was part of the Olympic Epee Bronze Medal team in London last summer.

Championships, both on an individual level and with the Irish as a team. Hurley won the 2011 individual national championship after placing third in both her freshman

and sophomore years.

"[Winning the championship in 2011] felt awesome because the team won also," she said "Everyone felt amazing because we had all won,

and for me to win it [individually] on top of that, it was just an amazing weekend."

Contact Laura Coletti at lcoletti@nd.edu

SMC BASKETBALL | TRINE 63, SMC 57

Belles drop match against conference rivals Trine

Observer Staff Report

In a game of many back-and-forth runs, Saint Mary's fell short in a close matchup with conference foe Trine on Wednesday night, as the Thunder (11-9, 5-6 MIAA) held on for a 63-57 win in Angola, Mich.

The Belles (5-16, 3-9) came into the game having lost their last four and were hoping to halt their losing streak and sweep the season series with the Thunder. It looked like that would be the case early, with the Belles using an early 9-0 run sparked

by junior guard Shanlynn Bias and senior guard Kayla Wolter to take a 15-7 lead with 10 minutes remaining in the first half.

Trine recovered, outscoring the Belles by 11 over the final 10 minutes of the opening half. The Thunder took a three-point advantage — and the momentum — into the locker-room at halftime.

The Thunder, riding their first-half momentum, opened up a 15-point lead thanks to a 21-7 run over the first six minutes of the second half.

The Belles mounted a furious comeback, cutting the lead to two with just more than seven minutes left, but the Thunder responded again, sealing the game with free throws down the stretch. Saint Mary's coughed the ball up 21 times, leading to 21 Trine points.

Bias continued her stellar play of late, leading the Belles with 15 points and adding seven rebounds.

The Belles will look to rebound from the loss with another road tilt at 0 p.m. Saturday against Albion in Albion, Mich.



Observer File Photo

Belles junior guard Shanlynn Bias looks for an open teammate during Saint Mary's 72-50 win over Alma on Dec. 3, 2011.

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MICHAEL KRAMM | The Observer

Irish senior forward Jack Cooley goes up for a dunk during Notre Dame's 65-60 victory over Villanova on Wednesday at Purcell Pavilion.

Cooley

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 20

but hit seven of their last 9 attempts — including five from Biedscheid — to keep the cold-shooting Wildcats at bay. Junior guard Jerian Grant finished 4-of-7 from deep to add 12 points, and Cooley and senior forward Tom Knight added 17 points and 10 points, respectively.

“What more can you say about Cooley? I have never seen a guy so relentless,” Brey said. “He is going after balls, and I don’t know how he has the energy to do it, but he continually does it. How he set the tone for us physically in the middle was just fabulous. Amazing.”

In their second game of a long — and potentially permanent — stretch without dependable starter Martin, Notre Dame displayed a physical rotation and played much of the game with two big men. Cooley and Knight rotated with Augustine, who added four critical points in his first meaningful Big East minutes, to frustrate the Villanova big men. Cooley said the team is adjusting to life without Martin.

“It’s difficult, because you can’t really replace a Scott Martin. I mean, there’s the

experience he’s had and how much basketball he’s played and the overall basketball IQ he has is just huge,” Cooley said. “I realized when we get

“What more can you say about Cooley? I have never seen a guy so relentless.”

Mike Brey
Irish coach

in the huddle we can’t look to Scott to help us know what to do, we have to help each other to come together as a team to show leadership. It’s hard,

but we can get through it.”

For Brey, the road going forward without Martin means a more physical approach from Notre Dame down the stretch in the Big East.

“We fouled tonight, we knocked guys down, you know, I don’t care ... if you foul out, I’ve got another guy to throw in there,” he said. “The physicality we play with on offense and defense is really helping us.”

The Irish will return to action Saturday at 2 p.m. against DePaul at Allstate Arena in Rosemont, Ill.

Contact Chris Allen a
callen10@nd.edu

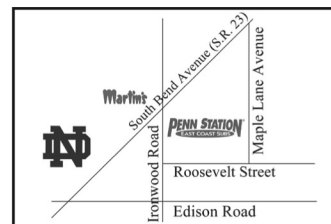
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Emily Tommolino
Clinical Student

Duffy

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 20

loved the dynamic of running the team."

Duffy served as a consistent team contributor in her first two seasons but really embraced her leadership role in her junior campaign. That season, she dished out over five assists per game, many of them to then-senior Jacqueline Batteast, the 2005 Big East Player of the Year. Equally important to the team was her contributions on defense, as she led the Big East in steals, and at the free-throw line, where shot at an 89.5 percent clip to break the single-season school record for free-throw percentage.

"I spent a lot of time in the gym working not only on my free throws but on my game in general," Duffy said of her free-throw prowess. "When you're in the

gym a lot, you build your confidence when nobody's watching and then when the lights turn on, it's a little bit easier to perform well."

After Batteast graduated, however, the team needed Duffy to occupy the role of go-to scorer for her senior season. She responded by increasing her scoring average from 12.3 points per game during her junior season to 15.6 points per game and winning the Frances Pomeroy Naismith award, given to the top senior women's basketball player standing five-foot-eight or under.

"With the departure of [Batteast], I got the opportunity to move off the ball a little bit, and there was the greater need for me to bring a little bit more scoring," Duffy said. "I think that helped me move on to the next step, since I was able to be versatile and play more positions."

The next step for Duffy came in the professional ranks, as she was drafted 31st overall by the Minnesota Lynx in the 2006 WNBA Draft. She averaged 3.4 points per game as a backup for the Lynx in 2006 and then bounced around between the WNBA and Europe before retiring from the game in 2009.

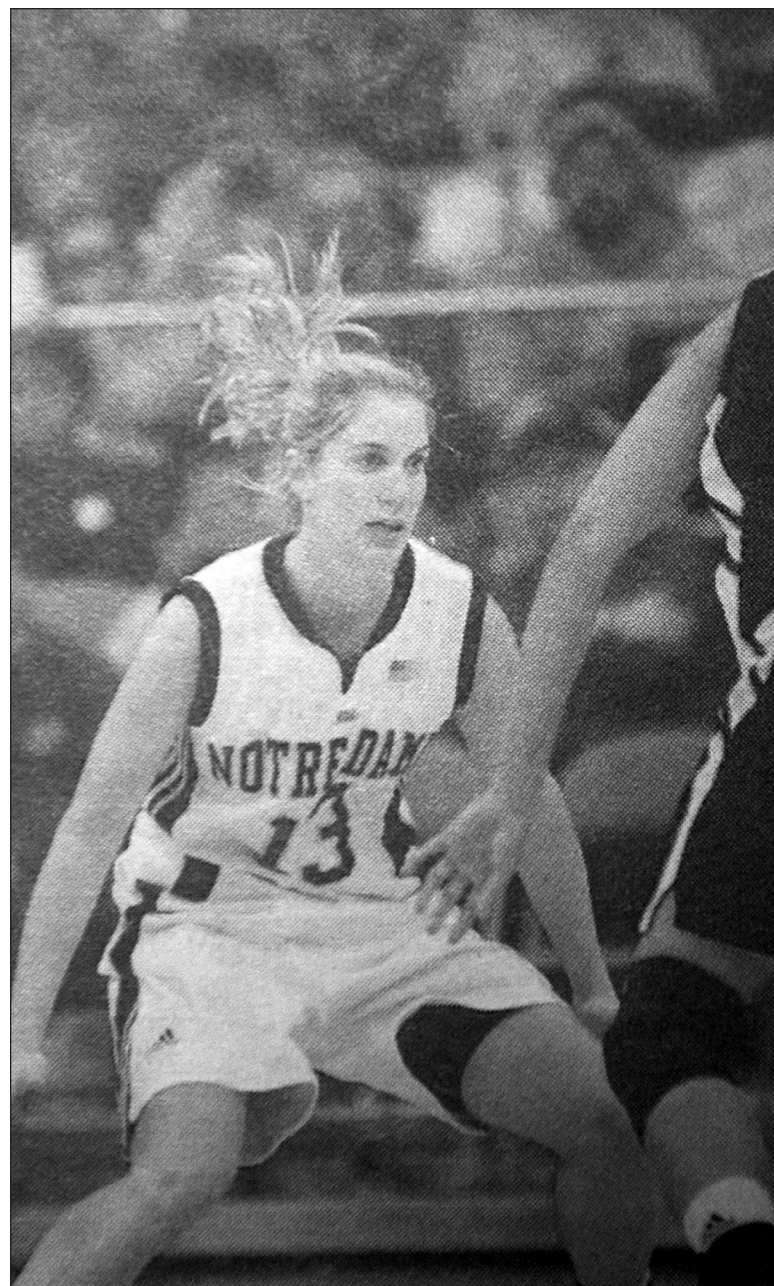
"The athleticism was different, it's a little more of a business than college, and you're fighting for your livelihood every night," Duffy said of the WNBA. "But it was an amazing opportunity for me to be in the WNBA for three years, and I got to play with and against some of the best players in the world."

Although Duffy's playing days ended in 2009, her basketball career was far from over. Shortly after retiring, she was back in the Big East, this time as an assistant coach for St. John's.

"I've always dreamed of being a coach, and I think, back in grade school and high school, it was always in the back of my mind that I wanted to some day get back into coaching," Duffy said. "I didn't necessarily know what level it would be at, but I think just because my experience at Notre Dame and playing for [Irish coach Muffet] McGraw was so positive, it just fueled me into the desire and dream to be successful at the college coaching level."

Duffy served as an assistant at St. John's from 2009 to 2012, helping guide the Red Storm to three consecutive NCAA tournament appearances. In May 2012, former Notre Dame assistant and current George Washington head coach Jonathan Tsipis hired her to be the Colonials' associate head coach.

"[Tsipis] coached me for three years when I was at Notre Dame and is a great friend of mine," she said. "I knew another part of this journey with coaching was to get different kinds of experiences. While my time at St. John's was really good and beneficial, I



The Observer File Photo

Former Irish guard Megan Duffy defends a Panther guard during Notre Dame's 72-65 victory over Pittsburgh on Feb. 28, 2006.

needed to take a different kind of step, and I'm so thrilled to be with Jonathan and help him rebuild this program at George Washington."

As part of her role as associate head coach, Duffy helps oversee recruiting, player development, scouting and student-athletes' academic performance. She said her recruiting responsibilities are time-consuming but worthwhile.

"My job is to spend half my time with our team and the other

half scouring the country for top student-athletes," Duffy said. "When we're not playing games and practicing, we're on the road recruiting and talking to coaches and watching prospects."

Although she has put her own spin on her coaching style, Duffy admitted that she draws heavily on the lessons she learned under McGraw in her time at Notre Dame.

"Coach McGraw is definitely a mentor to me," she said. "She is definitely the epitome of a first-class coach. Her competitiveness is one thing that I really use with my own team. She's one of those people who does everything she can to find ways to make her players better."

Although Duffy is only in her fourth season as a coach, she said she hopes to one day achieve the position her mentor has succeeded in.

At the moment, however, Duffy said she is more focused on her role of leading her players, a role with which she is quite familiar.

"I would eventually like to be a head coach if that opportunity presents itself," she said. "But right now, I'm just trying to get a little bit better every day, get our players better and learn a lot. I'm still young and in this unique stage of finding my way in coaching, but one thing I know I'm passionate about is basketball and another thing I know I'm passionate about is helping student-athletes."

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MICHAEL KRAMM | The Observer

Irish senior forward Jack Cooley goes up for a dunk during Notre Dame's 65-60 victory over Villanova on Wednesday.

Biedscheid

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 20

Irish pull away in the 65-60 victory; it was a youth resurgence.

Freshman forward Cam Biedscheid drilled a critical 3-pointer with 40 seconds left in the first half to pull the Irish within two points. It proved to be just the spark of Biedscheid's blaze to give the Irish their fifth conference win.

"They feel I'm a gamer and can make shots when I have them," said Biedscheid, who scored 18 points behind a 5-of-7 effort from beyond the arc. "Even when I miss them, they give me the confidence to keep shooting them."

He scored 15 of Notre Dame's 23 points in a stretch totaling just under 13 minutes in which the Irish turned a five-point deficit into a four-point lead. He shined in the second half after playing just six minutes in the first.

Brey embraced change Wednesday evening, and not only by ditching the typical mock-turtleneck look. Struggling senior center Garrick Sherman remained in his doghouse with just three minutes and sophomore forward Pat Connaughton failed to score in 20 minutes. Brey chose youth over experience with Biedscheid and freshman forward Zach Auguste for much of the second half, which proved to be the difference in a tight five-point win. After Biedscheid went on

his tear, Auguste contributed with a couple of key plays that are unlikely to be remembered but were crucial in the Irish win.

Notre Dame led by four points with just under eight minutes to play when junior guard Jerian Grant found the wide-open Auguste on a fast break. The freshman pulled it in and made the layup to corral a six-point lead. On the next Irish possession, he received a pass underneath the basket, but he bobbled it before controlling possession just in front of the baseline. He made up for his freshman miscue by readjusting to gain position underneath the basket and used the glass to give Notre Dame a 54-48 lead.

Brey raved about Auguste's fearlessness on the court.

"I love the energy Zach gave us tonight," said Brey, who added that the freshman can risk fouling more often because he's expendable.

Where the Irish go from here is anyone's guess. Bottling the youth and energy might just give Notre Dame its best opportunity to remain among the top half of the Big East moving forward, as it did with Connaughton and Grant last year.

A new cast of characters has emerged as Brey turns to an alternate script once again.

Contact Andrew Owens at aowens2@nd.edu.

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

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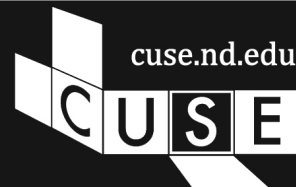
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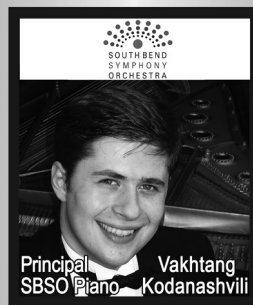
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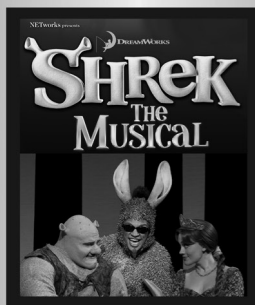
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MEN'S BASKETBALL | ND 65, VILLANOVA 60

Biedscheid breaks out

*Irish defeat Big East rival Villanova
65-60 in physical matchup*

By CHRIS ALLEN
Sports Editor

As its oldest player and team leader cheered from the bench in dress clothes, Notre Dame's freshman forward Cam Biedscheid stepped into the spotlight Wednesday night at Purcell Pavilion.

In the first home game since graduate student forward Scott Martin was shut down due to injury, Biedscheid scored 18 points in 24 minutes and led Notre Dame (17-4, 5-3 Big East) to a 65-60 win over Villanova (13-8, 4-4).

Irish coach Mike Brey said Biedscheid's breakout performance was due.

"It was a matter of time until [Cam] gets going," Brey said. "I love the energy [freshman forward Zach Auguste] gave us off the bench. We're kind of re-inventing here. We're finding some new stuff. It was a little bit of Cam tonight, who knows who'll be giving us energy Saturday?"

Villanova scored the first points of the second half to put Notre Dame in a five-point hole at 34-29 with 18 minutes left in the game.

With the whole Irish squad mired in a shooting slump, Biedscheid began his run of hot shooting from deep with three free throws after being fouled on a shot attempt.

Over the next ten minutes, Biedscheid drilled four 3-pointers to help Notre Dame pull away in a back-and-forth affair. The Wildcats mounted a late comeback to draw within three with under a minute left in the game, but senior forward Jack Cooley hit two free throws to ice the game and move Notre Dame to 5-3 in the Big East.

After the game, Brey raved about the confidence of his freshman sharpshooter.

"[Biedscheid] apologized to me after the Georgetown game, saying, 'Coach, I've got to make those for us,'" Brey said. "The one thing about our program, guys who can shoot it, I don't want them ever sheepish about it or looking over their shoulder. We just tell them to keep taking it if they're good shots."

The Irish started the game 2-of-12 from behind the arc,

see COOLEY **PAGE 16**



MICHAEL KRAMM | The Observer

Irish freshman forward Cam Biedscheid takes a 3-point shot during Notre Dame's 65-60 victory over Villanova on Wednesday.

*Young players
dominate against
Wildcat defense*



Andrew Owens
Assistant Managing Editor

During the preseason, "experience" was the buzzword surrounding Notre Dame. Following an out-of-nowhere 10-2 Big East finish last season after a 3-3 start, the Irish returned every key contributor for the 2012-13 slate.

Like last year, the Big East portion of the schedule has hardly stayed true to the script, but this time in a negative way. Injured graduate student guard Scott Martin represents Notre Dame's issues with his play this season, but it isn't just him. As a whole, the squad has not played with the same over-achieving mentality it carried last year.

Trailing by five late in the first half to Villanova in a game that could have landed Notre Dame anywhere from third to 10th in the Big East "dogfight" as Irish coach Mike Brey called it, it wasn't experience that helped the

see BIEDSCHEID **PAGE 18**

WAKING THE ECHOES | MEGAN DUFFY

Duffy bases coaching style on McGraw



Observer File Photo

Former Irish guard Megan Duffy battles for the ball against DePaul's Rachael Carney during Notre Dame's 78-75 victory over the Blue Demons on Jan. 17, 2006. Duffy is currently an associate head coach at George Washington.

By BRIAN HARNETT
Sports Writer

Many basketball players have made their greatest memories under the immense spotlight of Madison Square Garden in Manhattan, New York, N.Y., but former Irish guard Megan Duffy's favorite recollection came from another Manhattan — Manhattan, Kan.

"One of my fondest memories was when we went out to Kansas State to play in front of a sold-out 'Purple Nation' crowd in the NCAA Tournament," Duffy said in a phone interview with The Observer. "We were the 11th seed and ended up knocking [No. 3-seed] Kansas State off. It was a chance for me to go to the Sweet Sixteen and play back in my home town, which was really cool."

The win not only allowed the 2006 graduate to return to her native Dayton, Ohio, for the NCAA Regionals but also displayed some of her impressive potential. A true freshman

at the time, Duffy came off the bench to score 10 points, including four free throws down the stretch, and grab five rebounds in Notre Dame's 59-53 victory.

Viewers watching the game would have seen the recipe for Duffy's future success: a capable scorer mixed with a near-perfect free-throw shooter, an all-around scrappy player who played taller than her five-foot-seven frame.

Duffy commanded the floor as a point guard for the Irish from 2002 to 2006, serving as team captain for her final two seasons. Despite the pressures of her position and leadership role, Duffy said she welcomed the additional duties.

"Being a point guard, you have a lot of responsibility in general, and being at a place like Notre Dame makes you want to embrace that responsibility to lead others and help be a smaller part of a bigger cause," she said. "I really embraced that role and

see DUFFY **PAGE 17**