

## Corps recognizes University

*Notre Dame places 18th in Peace Corps' internal review of top volunteer universities*

By **AUBREY BUTTS**  
News Writer

Notre Dame graduates again swelled the ranks of Peace Corps volunteers during the past year, earning the University the 18th slot on the Peace Corps' annual review of the top volunteer-producing mid-sized colleges and universities across the country.

The University website reports that about 80 percent of Notre Dame students are involved in service through the Center for Social Concerns, while at least 10 percent of graduates spend a year or more volunteering.

Mike Hebbeler, a director in the Center for Social Concerns said this culture of service at the university as a principle reason

see CORP **PAGE 3**



*Maureen Mathias, a member of Notre Dame's Class of 2011, stands with her students in Namibia. Mathias has taught math, science and computer literacy in the village of Okahitua since August 2011.*

Photo courtesy of Maureen Mathias

## Tuition increases by 3.8 percent

Observer Staff Report

Undergraduate tuition will increase to \$44,605 for the 2013-14 academic year, according to a Feb. 13 University press release.

The rise in tuition amounts to a 3.8 percent increase over the current cost, an uptick consistent with the previous three years' tuition rate increases. This 3.8 rate of increase is the lowest since 1960. Including average on-campus room and board rates of

see TUITION **PAGE 3**

## Campus prepares for Junior Parents Weekend

By **NICOLE McALEE**  
News Writer

Parents of Notre Dame juniors will flock to campus for this weekend's Junior Parents Weekend (JPW) festivities to celebrate their child's time at Notre Dame, starting tonight with the Opening Gala.

Elizabeth Owers, chairperson of the Junior Parents Weekend Executive Committee, said months of hard work, planning

and organization by the committee have gone into making this weekend a memorable one. The committee has taken care of everything: from organizing mailings to setting up a hospitality room staffed by freshmen and sophomores in LaFortune Student Center.

"My job has been working with the committee to coordinate all the activities of the weekend [by] communicating with other students, staff, and faculty, and also

communicating with parents to answer questions they might have," Owers said.

Vice Chairperson Melissa Hallihan noted that groups from all over campus come together to help make JPW a success.

"We've been in contact with decorators, catering, DJs, the staff of the Joyce Center, Campus Ministry," Hallihan said. "It's amazing how many departments and groups on campus are involved with Junior Parents

Weekend."

After tonight's Opening Gala, events continue tomorrow with Collegiate Workshops hosted by each of the four colleges, hall luncheons at each residence hall, Mass in the Purcell Pavilion, and the President's Dinner in the Joyce Center Fieldhouse.

The last event of the weekend is Sunday's Closing Brunch, which will feature a speech by Dr. James McKenna of the Department of Anthropology.

Hallihan said juniors and their parents will be able to find unstructured activities as well throughout the weekend.

"Activities around campus are not limited just to these events," Hallihan said. "There are numerous band and choral concerts, sporting events, CSC events and academic events put on by various groups and departments. Students and their parents

see WEEKEND **PAGE 3**

## Immigration advocates speak



*No More Deaths representative Kate Morgan-Olsen describes the challenges immigrants face in Geddes Hall on Thursday.*

JODI LO | The Observer

By **CHRISTIAN MYERS**  
News Writer

While immigration reform proposals work their way through Congress, representatives of the all-volunteer humanitarian group No More Deaths (NMD) visited Notre Dame as part of a national speaking tour Thursday.

NMD is a faith-based coalition formed in 2004 that is focused on addressing human

see LECTURE **PAGE 5**

## Belles explore College's past

By **KELLY KONYA**  
News Writer

Saint Mary's students will have the opportunity to trace the footsteps of earlier Belles during Heritage Week, to be held this year Feb. 18 to 22. Heritage Week celebrates Saint Mary's history, giving students insight into the traditions of the College.

Heritage Week will feature

tours of Saint Mary's landmarks and speakers from around campus.

Senior student government vice president Meghan Casey said she hopes students take the time to enjoy the events offered during the week.

"I am hoping for good attendance at events because they

see HERITAGE **PAGE 3**

CLUELESS  
IN ROMANCE

VIEWPOINT **PAGE 9**

'SIDE EFFECTS'

SCENE **PAGE 11**

NICHOLAS SPARKS

SCENE **PAGE 11**



HOCKEY **PAGE 20**



SPRING SPORTS **WITHIN**

# THE OBSERVER

ndsmcobserver.com

P.O. Box 779, Notre Dame, IN 46556  
024 South Dining Hall, Notre Dame, IN 46556

## Editor-in-Chief

Allan Joseph

## Managing Editor

Megan Doyle

## Business Manager

Jeff Liptak

Asst. Managing Editor: Andrew Owens

Asst. Managing Editor: Sam Stryker

News Editor: John Cameron

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Multimedia Editor: Sarah O'Connor

Advertising Manager: Monica McCormack

Ad Design Manager: Sara Hilstrom

Controller: Peter Woo

Systems Administrator: William Heineman

## Office Manager & General Info

Ph: (574) 631-7471

Fax: (574) 631-6927

## Advertising

(574) 631-6900 ads@ndsmcobserver.com

## Editor-in-Chief

(574) 631-4542 ajoseph2@nd.edu

## Managing Editor

(574) 631-4542 mdoyle11@nd.edu

## Assistant Managing Editors

(574) 631-4541 aowens2@nd.edu

sstrykel@nd.edu

## Business Office

(574) 631-5313

## News Desk

(574) 631-5323 obsnews.nd@gmail.com

## Viewpoint Desk

(574) 631-5303 obsviewpoint@gmail.com

## Sports Desk

(574) 631-4543 observersports@gmail.com

## Scene Desk

(574) 631-4540 Observer.Scene.Editor@gmail.com

## Saint Mary's Desk

jbarwi01@saintmarys.edu

## Photo Desk

(574) 631-8767 obsphoto@gmail.com

## Systems & Web Administrators

(574) 631-8839

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The Observer is the independent, daily newspaper published in print and online by the students of the University of Notre Dame du Lac and Saint Mary's College. Editorial content, including advertisements, is not governed by policies of the administration of either institution. The Observer reserves the right to refuse advertisements based on content.

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

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

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

## Post Office Information

The Observer (USPS 599 2-4000) is published Monday through Friday except during exam and vacation periods. A subscription to The Observer is \$130 for one academic year; \$75 for one semester.

The Observer is published at:

024 South Dining Hall

Notre Dame, IN 46556-0779

Periodical postage paid at Notre Dame and additional mailing offices

POSTMASTER

Send address corrections to:

The Observer

P.O. Box 779

024 South Dining Hall

Notre Dame, IN 46556-0777

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## QUESTION OF THE DAY:

What time is your alarm set for?

Have a question you want answered?

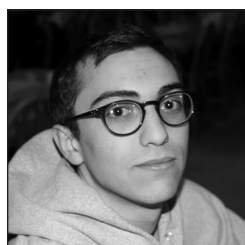
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**Clare O'Mara**

sophomore  
McGlinn Hall

"7:30 a.m."



**Max Brown**

sophomore  
Duncan Hall

"5:28 a.m."



**Roshan Dutta**

freshman  
Sorin Hall

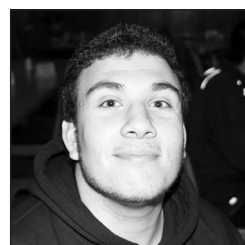
"Alternating between 7:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m."



**Grace Girardot**

sophomore  
Howard Hall

"7:45 a.m."



**Nick Brebete**

junior  
Dillon Hall

"10:00 a.m."



**Sabine Mosal**

sophomore  
Lyons Hall

"8:15 a.m."



WEI LIN | The Observer

Students gathered at LaFortune last night to participate in the Notre Dame version of the viral video "Harlem Shake." The video of the dance, which is the newest dance craze to sweep the nation, was filmed and organized by Patrick A. Matthews and was edited by Bobby Reichle.

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## THE NEXT FIVE DAYS:

Want your event included here?

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

### Friday

#### Junior Parents Weekend

Campus-wide through Sunday  
Contact [jpw@nd.edu](mailto:jpw@nd.edu)

#### Notre Dame Band JPW Concert

DeBartolo Performing Arts Center  
6 p.m. - 7 p.m.  
Annual JPW concert.

### Saturday

#### Men's Tennis

Eck Pavilion  
12 p.m. - 2 p.m.  
Notre Dame vs. Michigan.

#### Saturday Vigil Mass

Basilica of the Sacred Heart  
5 p.m. - 6 p.m.  
Mass at the Basilica.

### Sunday

#### Mass at the Basilica

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

#### Family First Classes

Rockne Memorial  
1 p.m. - 2 p.m.  
Family Climbing to improve well-being.

### Monday

#### Blood Drive

Rolfs Sports Recreation Center  
11 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.  
Call 574-631-6100.

#### Lecture: "Modeling Invasive Processes in Biology"

Raclin- Carmichael Hall.  
4 p.m. - 5 p.m.  
Lead by Philip Maini.

### Tuesday

#### Four: 7 Catholic Fellowship

Cavanaugh Hall  
8:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.  
Student-led fellowship.

#### Workshop: "Exploring Career Options."

Flanner Hall  
12 p.m. - 1 p.m.  
For graduate students.

## Corps

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

for Notre Dame's 18th spot on the list.

"A good number of students are actively engaged in service learning projects, community service, and international development. Many students come in with these interests, and the university does a great job of deepening those interests," Hebbeler said.

In a press release announcing celebrations for the 50th anniversary of the Peace Corps, Rok Teasley, a Peace Corps recruiter, also commended Notre Dame students for their ability to translate their classroom learning into practice.

"Notre Dame students enter into service with an excellent

understanding of the issues global communities are facing," Teasley said. "I am constantly inspired by the students I speak with and their passion and commitment to social justice, sustainable change and working to bring peace into the world."

This is the 13th consecutive year Notre Dame has made the Corps' list. Since the Peace Corps was formed in 1961, 865 Notre Dame alumni have served as Peace Corps volunteers. Twenty-three graduates currently volunteer with the Corps abroad.

Still, Hebbeler said students often fear entering into post-graduate service programs because of their perceived effect on their future careers.

"So often, I hear students say, 'I'm falling behind' or 'my

friends are advancing their careers,'" Hebbeler said. "They see it as taking a year off. As our recruiter likes to say, if you spend two years though doing project development in Moldova and you return to the States to find friends working for a certain firm, you're going to come back and be their boss."

Rather than viewing post-graduate service as time off, Hebbeler said students should embrace these programs as opportunities for maturation and becoming more independent and creative, all skills transferable to the American workforce.

"You can call it a job or you can call it service. The work doesn't change," Hebbeler said.

Patrick Starr, a recent graduate of the Peace Corps, explained in a press release how

his time in Benin helped clarify his future professional goals.

"My service still resonates very powerfully with me today. I decided to attend business school immediately following the Peace Corps to hone my financial skills in preparation for a career in impact investing," Starr said. "I hope that by targeting investments of capital to the people most in need, I can marry my background in finance with my love of serving others."

Post-graduate service does not suit everybody, however, and Hebbeler ensures students fully consider their motivations for entering into a service program.

"The first step is taking a moment to think more deeply about what they feel called to and

what is stirring within them," Hebbeler said. "I challenge them to think about the mission of the University and how that might be a guide for them as they enter into the world."

The Peace Corps has opportunities for students from all disciplines, and Hebbeler encourages students from across the university to consider post-graduate service.

"Take the time to listen to what's stirring within you and think deeply about how you might live out the gospel, how you might work for justice and contribute to the common good," Hebbeler said. "The Peace Corps allows you to live out these motivations daily."

Contact Aubrey Butts at [abutts@nd.edu](mailto:abutts@nd.edu)

## Tuition

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

\$12,512, total student charges for next year tuition will be an estimated \$57,117. The release paraphrased University President Fr. John Jenkins' statement in a recent letter to parents of returning students.

"Fr. Jenkins wrote that Notre Dame seeks to return the highest value for the students' educational investment. He said new resources will help Notre Dame grow in areas such as internships, study abroad programs and undergraduate research," the release stated.

Jenkins pointed to a high four-year graduation rate, average salaries and average satisfaction from post-graduate surveys as metrics proving the tuition to be a worthwhile investment.

In the statement, Jenkins assured students the University will make the best use of these funds to continue to offer an excellent education and experience.

"We are committed to careful stewardship of the University's resources so that we may offer your student the best possible educational experience and prepare them well for life beyond Notre Dame," Jenkins said.

## Weekend

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

certainly won't be in want of things to do."

With most of the hard work behind them, Owers said members of the JPW Executive Committee can relax and enjoy the fruits of their labor this weekend. "As far as the Junior Parents Weekend itself is concerned, the Executive Committee takes a step back to enjoy the weekend with our families and friends," Hallihan said.

Though Owers acknowledged the standard has been set high, she said she is

confident in the efforts of the committee.

"All the upperclassmen we've talked to and even some alumni parents have said that this was one of their favorite weekends during their time at Notre Dame, so the bar has been set really high, but I think we have a great event planned," Owers said. "The committee has put in a lot of hard work and I think the junior class is really going to enjoy it."

Junior Parents Weekend will allow the junior class and their parents to reconvene for the first time since First Year Orientation and see how the

class has matured, Owers said.

"The last time our class and our parents were together was the weekend of Frosh-O, and now, two-and-a-half years later, I think it's going to be a lot of fun to see everybody come together again, to see the friends that people have made, the relationships that people have formed," Owers said. "They told us at Frosh-O that we were part of the Notre Dame family and so to see how that family has grown over the past two and a half years is going to be really, really cool."

Contact Nicole McAlee at [nmcalee@nd.edu](mailto:nmcalee@nd.edu)

## Heritage

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

are really awesome this year," she said. "It's nice that we have different time slots for different events so more students can join us. They are all awesome opportunities for our students at Saint Mary's. They really show the true nature and past of the College."

The week kicks off Monday with Heritage Room tours with Sr. Veronique Wiedower, Casey said.

Tuesday will feature Tea Tours at the Riedinger House. The Riedinger House once played host to some of the College's classes but now is only used for special events and socials.

Sophomore Grace McSorley

said she is "most excited" for tea at the Riedinger House.

"I have always wondered what the inside of that little house looks like because it's so cute from the outside," she said.

Saint Mary's students will tour the archive rooms in Madeleva on Wednesday, Casey said.

On Thursday the Belles will gather for dinner during dining

hall hours, where chair of the board of trustees Mary L. Burke and Wiedower are speaking, Casey said.

"I am really looking forward to the dinner to hear from Sr. Veronique," Casey said. "I am excited to hear her speak and I just love the whole week. It really shows the importance of knowing the history of the College and

the support that students, faculty and staff give to college. It's been really fun to plan and get ready for."

On Friday the Belles will conclude the week by congregating for Mass in the Holy Spirit Chapel of LeMans Hall, Casey said.

Student government vice president of external affairs Katherine Sullivan said the week offers students ways to learn about achievements of former Saint Mary's students.

"I think that Heritage Week is so important because it embodies the past, present and future stories of Saint Mary's College," she said. "By signing up for our events and attending things like the History of Social Events featuring alumna and author Kimberly Dunlap Andren [of the class of 2004], students will learn about past Belles and their journeys."

Sullivan said the week's events not only serve as a bonding experience but a learning one as well.

"Heritage Week strengthens our community and teaches students about the College's great journey," she said. "I truly hope that we see many students attend these events and learn about how this wonderful place came to be and continues to grow."

Saint Mary's editor Jillian Barwick contributed to this report.

Contact Kelly Kony at [kkony01@saintmarys.edu](mailto:kkony01@saintmarys.edu)

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## Lecture

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

rights issues taking place at the Mexican-American border, NMD representative Kate Morgan-Olsen said.

Morgan-Olsen said NMD provides immigrants with much-needed medical assistance and material goods, both by walking along desert paths to find migrants and leaving supplies in various sites where migrants hopefully will find them.

"What we do is effective. We walk the trails that migrants walk. We don't run into everyone, but for those we do run into, it changes their lives," she said.

NMD operates at two sites along the border: a Desert Aid project camp near Arivaca, Ariz., and a site in Nogales, Ariz. Nogales site is a city split by the border wall and NMD provides services on both the American and Mexican sides.

Morgan-Olsen said the group provides medical treatment for many minor injuries that can prove deadly in the harsh desert environment.

"To treat more serious injuries we have to call 911 and that means deportation. We consider it an abuse of human rights that someone is forced to consider walking through the desert instead of receiving adequate medical attention," she said.

Morgan-Olsen said government immigration and immigration-related policies contribute to the conditions underlying the many deaths that occur in the desert along the border.

"The Secure Fence Act is the nail in the coffin on border militarization. ... There are seven mountain ranges in the portion of the desert where we have our Desert Aid camp and checkpoints on all paved roads," she said.

Morgan-Olsen said Operation Streamline is especially problematic because it does not give immigrants the legal rights they deserve, including a chance to apply for asylum. She said the program involves presenting immigrants 10-at-a-time before a judge, asking them if they plead guilty and sentencing them on the spot.

"One of the worst policies on the border is the Department of Justice's program called Operation Streamline," she said. "It's something we really believe is not an example of justice."

Morgan-Olsen said NMD used motion sensor cameras to document border patrol agents vandalizing an NMD aid drop sight.

"We consider destroying life-saving supplies in this hostile environment to be murder," she said.

She said there are also cases in which Border Patrol agents

shoot or taze migrants to death. She cited one such case when a young man was killed on the Mexican side of Nogales when he was not attempting to cross the border.

Morgan-Olsen said her group's efforts to work with the Border Patrol are thwarted by the high turnover rate among agents — especially among the leadership — and the lack of independent oversight.

Sophomore Lucas Garcia shared his own experience during the question-and-answer portion of the lecture. Garcia said he was pulled over in his car while traveling in New Mexico with his family for "driving a little too fast."

Garcia said the behavior and the questions asked by the police officer indicated the stop was a case of the profiling Morgan-Olsen had mentioned.

"He wouldn't tell us how fast we had been going, and he seemed to be searching for a

reason to ask us to step out of the car. He asked us if we had any weapons, he asked how we got the car, where we were from, where we were going. ... This really does happen. It's not just that thing going on down in Arizona," Garcia said.

Junior Shannon Lewry, who worked with NMD in January as part of the Center for Social Concerns' Border Issues seminar, said she was glad the speaking tour included a stop at Geddes Hall and found the plight of migrants affected her as powerfully as ever.

"It was great to see No More Deaths at Notre Dame after working closely with them in January. Even after seeing the human rights violations firsthand in Tucson, it's still just as disturbing and troublesome each time you hear about them," she said.

Contact Christian Myers at [cmeyers8@nd.edu](mailto:cmeyers8@nd.edu)

# Afghanistan's army trains female special forces

Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — The Afghan army is training female special forces to take part in night raids against insurgents, breaking new ground in an ultraconservative society and filling a vacuum left by departing international forces.

"If men can carry out this duty why not women?" asks Lena Abdali, a 23-year-old Afghan soldier who was one of the first women to join one of the special units in 2011.

Night raids have long been a divisive issue between Afghan President Hamid Karzai, who doesn't want foreign troops entering Afghan homes, and the U.S.-led coalition that says the raids are essential to capturing Taliban commanders.

Many Afghans, however, have complained that the house raids are culturally offensive. Having male troops search Afghan females is taboo. So is touching a family's Quran, the Muslim holy book, or entering a home without being invited. Another focus of anger has been the disregard for privacy and Afghan culture because women and children are usually home during the raids.

The raids now are conducted jointly by U.S. and Afghan forces, but the female Afghan special forces soldiers play an important role. Their job: Round up women and children and get them to safety while guarding against the potential dangers of female suicide bombers or militants disguised in women's clothes.

The missions have taken on increasing importance and the Afghan government and the U.S.-led coalition have stepped up training of the Afghan special forces as international troops prepare to end their combat mission in 23 months.

President Barack Obama announced earlier this week that he will withdraw about half of the 66,000 U.S. troops now in Afghanistan within a year. He did not spell out what U.S. military presence would remain after 2014.

Afghan women have been part of their nation's security forces for years, but they didn't start being recruited for the special forces until 2011. Defense Ministry spokesman Gen. Mohammad Zahir Azimi said more than 1,000 women were in the army — a small fraction of the total force of 195,000.

The role of female soldiers also has come under debate in the United States after the Pentagon decided last month to open up front-line combat jobs to women.

Col. Jalaluddin Yaftaly, the commander of the joint Special Unit of the Afghan National Army, said villagers don't like foreign forces to carry out operations in their homes, but they have welcomed the Afghan special forces units and cooperated with them in many operations.

"We were faced with so many problems when we didn't have female special forces in our units," Yaftaly said. "Female special forces are quite useful."

On a recent frigid winter morning, an Afghan special forces unit, comprising 30 men and women soldiers, drilled at a training center in Kabul.

As part of the exercise, the unit was told that an insurgent leader was hiding in a house and women and children were inside with him.



A woman in the Afghan special forces stands guard during a training exercise on the outskirts of Kabul, Afghanistan on Jan. 14, 2013.

The men on the team prepared to raid the house and arrest or kill the target. Abdali and two other female colleagues were tasked with making sure no women or children were harmed during the operation.

The most dangerous part of their assignment was the possibility that the main target was hiding among the women — perhaps in disguise — so Abdali and her colleagues had to stay alert to make sure they themselves were not attacked while getting innocent women and children out of harm's way.

The military advantages to having Afghan female special forces soldiers, however, have not yet offset the social issues women like Abdali face in doing their jobs.

A woman conducting night raids with male soldiers in a conservative country like Afghanistan is still not socially acceptable. Before she starts to fight the enemy in military operations she has to struggle

with her family, relatives and others who might disapprove.

Abdali said that while she hides her occupation from many family members because of security concerns, she is proud to fulfill a duty she feels is important to her homeland.

"If I will not come and put my life in danger for the women and culture in Afghanistan, then who will do this?" she asked.

Abdali wears a traditional Afghan headscarf under her helmet, but otherwise she is clad in an army uniform and heavy flak jacket just like the men. Her weapon and equipment is heavy, but she runs with it along the peaks of snow-covered mountains, unpaved roads under the hot summer sun and on rugged paths in remote areas of the country.

"Women must show their bravery and power by carrying out this duty as men do," Abdali said as she loaded her weapon to take part in the drill.

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**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 3:00 PM**

Filmed over a period of almost five years and in twenty-five countries, it transports us to sacred grounds, disaster zones, industrial sites, and natural wonders. Created by an acclaimed director and producer pairing, "Samsara" is a Sanskrit word that means "the ever turning wheel of life" and is the point of departure for the filmmakers as they search for the elusive current of interconnection that runs through our lives.






# Airlines merge for \$11 billion

Associated Press

CHICAGO — A merged American Airlines and US Airways will carry more passengers around the world than any other, but even the biggest airline flying doesn't need eight hub airports on the ground.

That means amid the hoopla of Thursday's merger announcement, there are a few mayors, a handful of chambers of commerce leaders and lots of frequent flyers worried about what's to come. Expect their sales pitches to start soon about why their city should remain a hub.

"Nobody has that many hubs," said Robert Poole, an aviation expert and director of transportation policy at the Reason Foundation. "Eight hubs for the merged American would just not be sustainable — too complex and not really meeting enough of the travel needs."

Hubs aren't just civic icons — think Chicago's O'Hare or New York's John F. Kennedy Airport — they are also major economic engines. The frequent flights to hundreds of destinations are an attractive enticement for executives deciding where to locate a business.

But while local governments can build airports to support hubs — helping airlines come up with the billions of dollars needed for new terminals, parking garages and runways — it's up to the airlines to set up homes inside. When an airline decides to leave town, the loss of hub status can erase the value of that investment, leaving behind empty terminals.

US Airways CEO Doug Parker says the combined airline will keep all eight hubs, but the results of past mergers suggest that's unlikely in the long run.

Whole terminals at Pittsburgh International Airport have been abandoned since US Airways began winding down its hub there in 2001. Thousands of jobs have vanished, and an airport that once served more than 20 million passengers a year had just 8 million last year.

Also in 2001, American Airlines parent AMR Corp. bought Trans World Airlines out of bankruptcy. It didn't take long for American to shut down TWA's hub in St. Louis, where officials had moved major roads and bulldozed hundreds of homes to build a \$1.1 billion runway that's no longer needed.

"These are risks for cities, particularly when they do airport expansions based on having a large transfer hub," Poole said. "You get an airport configured for something that's way more than the size of your community justifies in terms of origin and destination traffic, and then if the hub goes away — Whoops! You are really



US Airways employees assist travelers at the Charlotte/Douglas International airport in Charlotte, N.C.

stuck."

In the shakeout of American's merger with US Airways, experts believe American's hubs in Chicago, Dallas-Fort Worth, New York, Los Angeles and Miami are likely to emerge as winners, if only because those markets can support a large amount of traffic on their own. That leaves US Airways' facilities in Philadelphia, Phoenix and, most especially, Charlotte, N.C., most at risk.

Roughly 60 percent of the 40 million travelers who pass through Charlotte-Douglas International Airport transfer to another flight, including direct flights to more than 30 destinations in Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean.

Airport officials said the city has prospered from hub status, with 8,000 new companies investing more than \$5 billion in the area to create more than 78,000 jobs since the current terminal opened in 1982. Among them is Chiquita Brands International, which announced in 2011 it was abandoning Cincinnati in large part because of greater access to foreign flights from Charlotte. Cincinnati's airport had been hit hard by Delta's decision to shift flights to other hubs after merging with Northwest Airlines in 2007.

Charlotte-Douglas also benefits from its location outside of the Northeast Corridor, where congestion in New York and Philadelphia's overlapping airspace is a frequent problem.

But all of that may not be enough to ensure Charlotte's future, said Adie Tomer, an associate fellow at the Brookings Institution. With 1.8 million people, the city just isn't big enough.

"There's a lot of advantages to Charlotte, but they don't have the local base to fall back on, so they have to constantly incentivize the airline itself to keep flying through there," he said. "They just really have a

connectivity that vastly outranks their metropolitan, economic standing."

The merger comes at a critical time for Philadelphia International Airport, which is about to begin a \$6.5 billion expansion that includes a runway extension that will allow it to serve the biggest jets currently flying. Officials in Philadelphia have been preparing for the merger for months, getting ready to make a case for the combined airline to move some international air traffic from the American hub at New York's JFK.

"If the new airline would place some of those long-haul aircraft into Philadelphia, we might be able to gain access to those markets," airport CEO Mark Gale said.

The new airline will be based in Texas, near American's hub at Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport. That's already a loss for Phoenix, as US Airways was headquartered in suburban Tempe, Ariz.

While Arizona Gov. Jan Brewer says she has assurances from Parker, the US Airways CEO, that the company will keep most of its local jobs, some believe its airport would be downsized if the new airline decided to base its West Coast hub at the nearby and much larger Los Angeles International Airport.

Deborah Ostreicher, the deputy aviation director at Sky Harbor International Airport, said she's confident it can entice the airline to stay with low per passenger fees, more space and a willingness to expand facilities, as well as great weather, which means far fewer delays.

"And if they do cut service in some areas, again we have such a strong market here we're confident that another airline either existing or a new one that maybe hasn't come into the market... would say, 'That looks like a good profit for us, let's come into Phoenix,'" she said.

# Horsemeat sold as beef in France

Associated Press

PARIS — The price, smell and color should have been clear tipoffs something was wrong with shipments of horsemeat that were fraudulently labeled as beef, French authorities said Thursday. The government pinned the bulk of the blame on a French wholesaler at the heart of a growing scandal in Europe.

Police in the U.K., meanwhile, announced the arrests Thursday of three men on suspicion of fraud at two meat plants inspected earlier this week by the country's Food Standards Agency.

The two separate developments were part of an escalating scare that has raised questions about food controls in the European Union — and highlighted how little consumers know about the complex trading operations that get food from producers to wholesalers to processors to stores and onto their dinner table.

Europol, the European Union police agency, is coordinating a broad continent-wide fraud investigation amid allegations of an international criminal conspiracy to substitute horse for more expensive beef.

In Paris, Benoit Hamon, the government's consumer affairs minister, said it appeared that in the most prominent case fraudulent meat sales had been going on for several months, and reached across 13 countries and 28 companies. He did not name the countries or companies.

He said there was plenty of blame to go around, but most of it rested with Spanghero, a

wholesaler based in southern France.

Officials at Spanghero denied knowingly buying and reselling horsemeat but French authorities immediately suspended their trading activities.

Hamon said Spanghero was one company in a chain that started with two Romanian slaughterhouses that says they clearly labeled their meat as horse.

The meat was then bought by a Cyprus-registered trader and sent to a warehouse in the Netherlands.

Spanghero bought the meat from the trader, then resold it to the French frozen food processor Comigel. The resulting food was marketed under the Sweden-based Findus brand as lasagna and other products as containing ground beef.

Hamon said Spanghero was well aware that the meat was mislabeled when it sold it to Comigel.

"Spanghero knew," Hamon said. "One thing that should have attracted Spanghero's attention? The price."

Hamon said the meat from Romania cost far below the market rate for beef.

A representative for Spanghero said company officials have been interrogated by authorities, who have raided Spanghero headquarters several times in recent days, but no one has been arrested.

The representative insisted the company acted "in good faith" and that it never knew the meat it bought and sold was horsemeat. The representative said he was not authorized to be publicly named according to his contract with Spanghero.

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# State of the Union Address provokes NRA

## Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — National Rifle Association leader Wayne LaPierre renewed his call Thursday for armed guards in schools and urged gun owners to “stand and fight” for the Second Amendment.

In a speech billed as the NRA response to President Barack Obama’s State of the Union call for new gun regulations, LaPierre noted in remarks to the National Wild Turkey Federation in Nashville that the speech didn’t mention school security. He dismissed Obama’s calls for background checks for all firearms purchases and bans on assault weapons and ammunition magazines that hold more than 10 rounds.

“We will not be duped by the hypocrisy in the White House or the Congress who would deny our right to semi-automatic technology, and the magazines we need to defend ourselves and our families,” he said.

LaPierre said the proponents’ real intentions would be to “ban every gun they can, tax every gun sold and register every gun owner.”

George Thornton, the CEO of the National Wild Turkey Federation, said his group agrees with LaPierre’s positions, even though not all of the gun-control proposals would directly affect hunters.

“You really don’t need large clips for hunting,” he said. “However, I have a very strong belief when you start to limit things, that the limits continue

to chip away.”

LaPierre also said a universal background check would not stop criminals or the mentally ill from getting firearms.

“Even when prohibited people are flagged by the system now, they are almost never stopped,” he said.

Mark Kelly, husband of former Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords, who was shot in the head in 2011, said in a statement that background checks are a simple and fair way to keep children safe.

“If a dangerous criminal can’t buy a gun in a store, they shouldn’t be able to buy a gun at a gun show or on the Internet,” he said. “That’s just common sense.”

While LaPierre was critical of the president in the speech, the remarks were milder than



LaPierre sits at a witness table on Capitol Hill in Washington during the Senate Judiciary Committee hearing on gun violence.

sentiments he expressed in an opinion piece published this

week by The Daily Caller, a conservative website, in which he predicted the president’s financial policies will lead to chaos.

“Nobody knows if or when the fiscal collapse will come, but if the country is broke, there likely won’t be enough money to pay for police protection. And the American people know it,” LaPierre wrote.

“Hurricanes. Tornadoes. Riots. Terrorists. Gangs. Lone criminals. These are perils we are sure to face — not just maybe,” he said. “It’s not paranoia to buy a gun. It’s survival.”

Don Robinson, a turkey hunter from Dyersburg who attended the speech, said he supported LaPierre’s call for armed school security and agreed that universal background checks wouldn’t catch criminals and people with mental illness.

“Mentally ill folks that have no right or reason to have firearms in their hands, we should have a system in place to prohibit that, rather than a law-abiding person having whatever they need to protect themselves and their country,” he said.

Fellow hunter Steve Gage of LaGrange, Ind., said he’s concerned that politicians “don’t have a full understanding of the weapons that are being discussed,” which he said could lead to unintended consequences for recreational firearms.

“As an example, my shotgun that I carry for turkey hunting would be illegal in New York because it has a pistol-grip stock,” he said. “So the laws they’re talking about passing have an effect on the guns that we’re using.”

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INSIDE COLUMN

## I got a fever



**Mel Flanagan**  
News Writer

As I sit here trying to think of something to write about for this column, I can't focus. I've been incredibly distracted all day, unable to concentrate on even the miniscule amount of homework I have, and I know exactly why. It's because of the Broken Hearts Party at Club Fever, Michiana's hottest nightclub and my favorite place in South Bend.

My friends and I are Fever people. Each week we look forward to dressing up, pregaming way too hard and running around Feve's three glorious floors. The place has everything you could ask for in a bar. It's large enough that it never gets crowded, with the exceptions of syllabus and finals week. It has the basement for socializing, the main floor for dancing and the side bars for doing shot-skis. And for the truly adventurous spirits, it has the cage.

All of Fever's perks result in Thursday being my favorite night of the week. Unlike a large portion of the senior class, I am not particularly a Finny's person. I do enjoy Wednesdays there, but I'd still rather stay in on a Wednesday in order to mentally and physically prepare for the next night rather than risk being too tired or hungover to make it to Feve. And after Thursday, the weekend often feels like it's winding down regardless of the fact it hasn't actually began.

I really don't understand why everyone doesn't have a similar love affair with Fever. Thank God I was abroad last spring when everyone started going to Brothers on Thursdays instead, but every once in a while someone still asks if I'm going to the Eddy Street bar instead of Feve. I usually can't help the look that comes on my face when this happens, a hideous mixture of disgust and disbelief. As one of my roommates put it, "If you like going to Brothers over Fever, you're not someone I ever want to hang out with."

The great part about Fever is that it's the only night of the week we do something different. Every other bar in South Bend is pretty similar; I always wonder why we choose certain bars over others since they're all sort of the same. Feve stands out in the crowd. It's the only place where it's acceptable to not remember seeing half your friends. Where you can DFMO with multiple people in one night. Where you can dance in a cage without becoming a stripper. And I don't know about anyone else, but I'm certainly not about to pass that up. So if you're wondering where I am right now, I'm willing to bet I could be found in my bed, nursing a hangover and lamenting over the fact I need to wait seven more days before returning to Feve.

Contact Mel Flanagan at [mflanag3@nd.edu](mailto:mflanag3@nd.edu)

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

## The gift of education

### THE OBSERVER EDITORIAL

Stop. Look around you. Where are you? Maybe you're somewhere on the Notre Dame or Saint Mary's campuses. You might be sitting at your desk in the offices of a major financial firm in New York or Chicago. Or you could be using medical expertise to provide health care to people in need in another country.

How did you get there? Not in the literal sense of modes of transportation, but in terms of the experiential journey you took to arrive at this particular physical location and moment in your life.

Now ask yourself — could you have gotten to that place without an excellent education?

Chances are the answer is a resounding "no."

From the time most of us began preschool, higher education and career aspirations were probably a topic of occasional dinnertime discussion or at least casual thought. Whether you dreamed of being a doctor or lawyer, a teacher or CEO, those dreams were predicated on progressing through at least 18 years of education before attaining your respective goal. We understood such long-term goals couldn't be achieved overnight, and hard work and perseverance in school were necessary means to the end of realizing our personal ambitions.

No matter where we grew up, we were lucky to have access to the kind of educational experiences that paved the path to where we find ourselves right now.

But for too many young people in the United States today, those educational opportunities are declining in number and quality every day. Too many students graduate high school unable to read at an 8th grade level. Schools all over the country fail to meet expectations set by standardized testing.

This is a serious problem in need of equally serious attention.

For those schools unable to fully meet the needs of their students, the impact of such a lack of resources and opportunities is felt years and decades after children leave school and become adults. These limitations hinder students' ability to succeed in every field of the workforce, from engineering and medicine to business and journalism.

Our nation, exceptional in many measurable areas, ranks only 17th in education among its developed peers,

according to a 2012 global report by the education firm Pearson. We are losing educational ground quickly, and this trend bears negative implications for American innovation, technological advancement and global participation.

President Barack Obama acknowledged the unsettling decline of American education in recent years and pledged to take action to improve educational shortcomings during his State of the Union address Tuesday. But he alone can't bring the entire nation to a higher standard of academic excellence.

That's where we, as Notre Dame and Saint Mary's students, come in.

Sound like a lofty goal? It is. But we're not telling everyone that we have to commit our lives to teaching or serving as school principals. We can have a tangible impact on children's futures even during our undergraduate years. Since the earliest years of education are arguably the most formative, we can take it upon ourselves to start tutoring at the Robinson Center or La Casa de Amistad. We can work as camp counselors during the summer. Notre Dame and Saint Mary's partner with local schools and organizations to run mentoring programs for young people in the South Bend community. Even the simple act of a friendly hug can mean more than you know.

If teaching seems like a feasible career path for you, apply for Teach for America or the Alliance for Catholic Education to make a difference in both public and private underserved schools across the country.

Even if we don't see teaching or school administration in our career paths, we have countless opportunities to contribute our own voices to the education debate. Whether we realize it or not, education will continue to affect us even after our own formal educational experiences end. And whether we pledge to volunteer in local schools, dedicate our lives to shaping education policy or even just serve on the local PTA, we can make a difference.

It's not enough to sit on the sidelines while the education debate rages on before our eyes once we leave the education system. We have been educated at a world-class institution of higher learning, and we have the power to use the broad base of knowledge we've gained in college to change the future of American education. So how will you share the gift of education that has been given to you with the rest of the country?

### EDITORIAL CARTOON



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## Clueless in romance

**Gary Caruso**  
Capitol Comments

Midnight's toll officially ended Valentine's Day — the most romantic day of the year — dividing us into two camps: those nursing a love-induced hangover versus those still starved for affection. For the famished on campus nibbling on half-priced chocolates today, coincidentally National Gum Drop Day, alarms begin blaring to step up your romantic game or face another failed flirtatious semester. This moment establishes your deadline for a short-term, semester-long game plan to catch someone for whom you currently have a crush. Otherwise, your chances precipitously dwindle each passing day beyond tomorrow, "Do a Grouch a Favor Day."

Avoid procrastination when conceiving a plan to snag your crush. Until my last semester at Notre Dame, I mistakenly overthought my romance dance roadmap into a conundrum until each semester's waning weeks. I repeatedly failed to entangle potential love interests into noticing me. Seven long-gone, sub-par semesters passed before I hatched my plan early enough to succeed senior year. I began on the Ides of February (today), the semester's two-minute warning that pushes limits on yielding dates, romances or even an "MRS" degree.

Romantic gameplans are like any in sports. They evolve with the times, but the premise remains constant — to score. A good generic model plays to your strengths, studies the opposition,

exploits your opponent's weaknesses, employs accomplices and utilizes cutting-edge technologies. The perfect gameplan wins with enjoyably convincing scores like last month's BCS National Championship Game won by a team whose name shall not be mentioned here.

After completing your opposition research homework, pick your home field. The hardwood becomes a great basketball player's romantic domain, especially if she beats him one-on-one playing a game of "R-E-S-P-E-C-T." Most every subtler environment can equally conquer your crush. A classroom is the most conducive milieu to draw your battlefield lines, followed by the dining halls, campus activities (where your interests already intersect) and with social opportunities rounding out the field. Regardless of your chosen turf, arrive ready to impress your potential companions with humor or knowledge while sprinkling a few mild-mannered academic, religious and sports challenges to pique their interests.

Employ the military's two-pronged pincer strategy along your front line in the classroom. First, find a signature item other than your smartphone's annoying ring tones or your neon paisley patterned rain boots worn on drizzly days. Carry a conversational piece to class to tempt your targeted crush, but avoid acting like Cher Horowitz (Alicia Silverstone), the good-natured, but superficial girl in the movie "Clueless" who sent herself chocolates. Rather, utilize something that doubles to divert your eyes from your professor's searching glare.

You could defensively control eye contact from either your crush or professor through sips from a boring Starbucks thermos. It would be better to fully utilize your offensive and defensive arsenals simultaneously with a star-powered prop like a premium organic Kombucha mug displaying icons of its live bacteria and yeast components — mushroom cultures, acids, scoby and mother ingredients — summoning images of a wonder drink that detoxifies and energizes bodies. That uniqueness can conjure conversations but possibly limit your pool of potential interests to the health-seeking crowd. So anticipate potential pitfalls in your tricky trek that tries to rely on a fad featuring a concoction of effervescent fermentation in a sweetened tea.

Your remaining double envelopment tactic requires studying your crush's schedule without becoming a stalker to find optimal opportunities to interact. Entice your crush to interact on topics of mutual interest, most notably homework, that may eventually lead to hanging out together. Interaction before class assures less awkward moments when you can complain about your agonizing homework. After-class encounters, however, heavily rely on pacing yourself to your crush's tempo, which can wildly vary from chill to frenetic. Ideally, when your crush is less rushed or lingers to speak with the professor, you may slowly gather your Kombucha mug or loudly text or adjust your ducky boots while awaiting a conversational opportunity.

Finally, masterminding a comprehensive game plan must also

incorporate human allies and technologies. Find a sidekick — not fatalistic Thelma and Louise, perhaps Sonny and Cher (not Silverstone's "Clueless" character), or simply like Kelly Rowland and her BFF Beyoncé — any relationship complements your ability to triangulate against your targeted crush. Moreover, making friends in class further lessens your social awkwardness to ask a crush to hang out. Friends also advance your three-degrees of separation through the dormitories and on Facebook where obtaining a coveted Facebook friend request with your crush is like making a first down a foot from the goal line.

Classmates become great allies in facilitating your social networking. On Facebook they stand as decoys to distract your crush depending on how desperate you are or how late it is in the semester. These new mutual friends create a common bond to help clarify homework assignments, initiate party invitations and with that, provide a way for your crush to more easily friend-request you directly.

Master your game plan now, and by semester's end you will speak a new Romance language, "Adios solitarios."

*Gary J. Caruso, Notre Dame '73, serves in the Department of Homeland Security and was a legislative and public affairs director at the U.S. House of Representatives and in President Clinton's administration. His column appears every other Friday. Contact him at GaryJCaruso@alumni.nd.edu*

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

## No labels

**Jack Rooney**  
The Liberal Medium

Last week, President Barack Obama signed a rather peculiar piece of legislation into law. This law is not odd in the sense that it provides pork barrel spending for projects that neither need nor deserve the money. Neither does this law establish an obscure holiday, such as National Grapefruit Month (which, by the way, is this month). Rather, this law, commonly known as "No Budget No Pay," is a rarity in Washington these days because it contains a genuine and innovative idea that ultimately aims to make Congress work better and more efficiently.

At its most basic level, the law states that if Congress does not pass a budget, then representatives do not receive their salary until a budget is passed. The law, which won't take effect until 2014, is beautiful in its simplicity and fundamentally aims to force our elected officials to do their jobs. Let's face it; if I, as a student, were to stop doing my homework or assigned reading, I could not reasonably expect to receive the same grades as if I were doing all of my work. In the same way, this law requires representatives do perhaps the most important part of their job before they receive

any payment.

Now, of course this law does not change the political landscape completely. It is, however, a step toward progress, which is always the right direction. The law will not affect many representatives, who rely very little on their government paycheck (the median net worth for a member of Congress in 2011 was \$913,000). Representatives will not lose any of their pay (which is \$174,000 for rank and file members and \$193,500 for leadership positions), either, but rather it will simply be withheld until they pass a budget. Furthermore, the law only applies to the April deadline for a budget resolution, and not the 12 appropriations bills that must follow to allocate the money.

Despite these shortcomings of the bill, I nevertheless believe this law could be a watershed moment for Congress. It is an undeniable step in the right direction because it presents an innovative idea that solely aims to make Congress work. I truly feel this is a moment that needs to be seized, though, because of where the idea for No Budget No Pay began. The concept behind the law is the brainchild of a "non-partisan" group called No Labels, and it is only one point in a 12-point plan to "make Congress work."

A statement on the group's website describes No Labels as "a growing citizens' movement of Democrats, Republicans and everything in between dedicated to promoting a new politics of problem solving." No Labels is not a lobbying group. Nor is it a special interest group. And it is certainly not a Super PAC. It is simply a group that wants for our country what all of us should demand from our leaders. No Labels is not confined to one party or ideology and neither does it care about political issues. Their only concern is stopping the political gridlock we have all become far too accustomed to and making the government focus on actual achievement and progress.

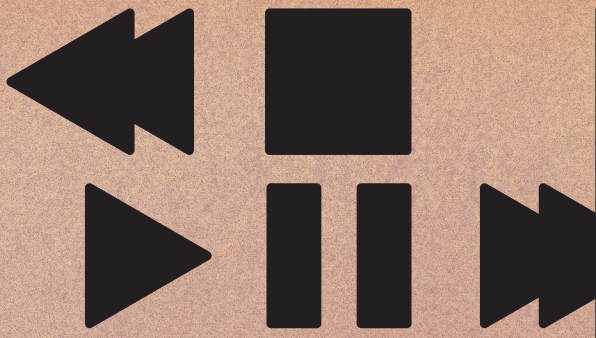
The best part about No Labels, though, is that No Budget No Pay is only the tip of the iceberg. In Dec. of 2011, the group released its 12-point plan to "Make Congress Work!" and has not looked back since. Aside from No Budget No Pay, this plan includes other creative ideas designed to foster increased Congressional productivity such as banning all pledges (like pledging to never raise taxes) other than the oath of office and allowing a "sensible majority" to override a committee chair's refusal to put a bill before the whole House or Senate. Other proposals put forth by No Labels range

from the simple (bipartisan seating) to the more controversial (requiring a straight up or down vote on all presidential appointments within 90 days) to the downright intriguing (a monthly question and answer session between Congress and the President, similar to the UK's Prime Minister's Questions).

All of the proposals, no matter how feasible, put the issue of political efficiency and effectiveness in a more prominent position, which is something we desperately need. Somehow, we as Americans have grown complacent enough to accept Congress's inability to do actual work. We have come to accept the gridlock and division as business as usual. We have put ourselves in a dangerous place by accepting unacceptable work. The only way to reverse this culture of stalemate politics is to demand more of our leaders and more of ourselves. We need to shed our political labels in the pursuit of progress. In order to secure a better tomorrow, we need to work together today.

*Jack Rooney is a freshman studying political science. He can be contacted at jrooney1@nd.edu*

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



## GOT SOUL? PLAYLIST

By **LIZZY SCHROFF**  
Scene Writer

### 01 “Just Ain’t Gonna Work Out” Mayer Hawthorne

I remember the first time I heard Mayer Hawthorne. It was my sophomore year and I attended Notre Dame’s kickoff Block Party concert. I was there mainly because I was excited about seeing Guster, but when Mayer Hawthorne came out in his thick-framed glasses and belted soulful songs of love and heartache with his multi-piece band, I was pleasantly surprised. Since then, I have fallen more in love with his music which exudes a 60s soul vibe with its brass accompaniment and catchy choruses.

### 02 “Sleep” Allen Stone

This song certainly won’t be putting you to sleep. It’s infectiously upbeat, aided by a blues organ, great backing vocals, and the melodic and expressive voice of Allen Stone, a singer/songwriter who defines himself as “a hippie with soul.” You can hear the influences of gospel and vintage R&B music that Stone grew up listening to in his songs.

### 03 “Stay Away” Charles Bradley

I was taken aback when I first heard this song on the radio on a summer afternoon drive from Maryland to south Virginia. Fans of Nirvana may recognize the title from their 1991 album “Nevermind.” This cover is so far from the original (I know what you’re probably thinking, “A SOUL cover of a Nirvana song?”), but it surprisingly works. Really well. The “waahs” of the guitar, Bradley’s screams, the keyboard and bass — it’s just fantastic. It definitely ranks among my favorite covers.

### 04 “Hold On” Alabama Shakes

When Brittany Howard sings, she doesn’t hold back. And this track is no exception. The Alabama Shakes, who were nominated for best new artist at this year’s Grammys, put out songs that make you feel like you’re going back in time to the good old days of bluesy-rock and soul. And if you haven’t seen the Levon Helm tribute “The Weight” at the Grammys featuring Brittany Howard, watch it now.

### 05 “Hospital Beds” Cold War Kids

Don’t get me wrong, I love synths and keyboards (especially when used in my beloved dream pop), but I do feel like there’s not enough piano featured in its beautiful pure form. I think that’s what really grabs me about “Hospital Beds.” That and singer Nathan Willett’s wailing vocals makes me want to go get sick enough to go to the hospital and have this song playing while I wallow in my misery. Make sure to look out for the Cold War Kids’ new album, “Dear Miss Lonelyhearts” which hits the shelves April 1.

### 06 “She’s Long Gone” The Black Keys

The Black Keys have been cranking out tunes since 2002, but their 2010 album “Brothers” was the first I heard from them. “She’s Long Gone” has become one of my favorites. Vocalist and guitarist Dan Auerbach lays it all out on the table, especially with his shredding bluesy guitar solo. I can’t help but feel like I’ve got soul when I’m riding down the highway in my sunglasses with this song blasting.

### 07 “Put the Gun Down” ZZ Ward

From the first note, you know that you’re going to be singing this song to yourself for the rest of the day. ZZ Ward’s unique vocals and blend of various musical styles, from blues to hip-hop and neo-soul, are really special.

### 08 “I’m Shakin” Jack White

I wasn’t really sure how Jack White was going to do when he left The White Stripes to go solo, but when “Blunderbuss” came out, all doubts were quickly wiped away; he deserved every nomination that he got at this year’s Grammys. “I’m Shakin” is chock full of elements that make it great — White’s fantastic guitar playing (which never disappoints), lovely backing vocals and an upbeat tempo.

### 09 “Tightrope” Janelle Monáe

This song makes you want to get up and dance. Plain and simple. There’s even a special dance to go along with it that I still can’t get right (check out the YouTube video to try it out for yourself). Monáe provides soulful vocals accompanied by a great beat and a “classy brass” section for a real feel-good track.

### 10 “MoneyGrabber” Fitz and the Tantrums

When I first played this song for my mom she promptly asked me “Is Motown making a comeback?” You would certainly think so with the vibe that this tune exudes. There’s saxophone, piano and a general groove-iness expressed in Michael Fitzpatrick and Noelle Scaggs’ vocals. And even though there are no guitars (shocking!) you won’t be missing them.

### 11 “Three More Days” Ray Lamontagne

This track is a bit of a departure from Ray Lamontagne’s generally folksy, acoustic style, but I can’t help but dig it. Lamontagne can never go wrong with that beautifully raspy voice. If I were a guy, I’d want a voice like his. Or Sting’s.

### 12 “Nothing But a Miracle” Diana Birch

Opening with a wonderful keyboard solo, “Nothing But a Miracle” is a gem of a heartbreak song. Diane Birch has a voice that is distinctly hers and she owns it. She brings the lyrics to life with interesting runs and articulation for a retro sound.

### 13 “Bones” Michael Kiwanuka

You may have a difficult time believing that this song was recorded just this year. Michael Kiwanuka’s voice is rich and timeless, enhanced all the more by a wonderful musical arrangement. This winner of the BBC Sound of 2012 poll is not to be missed.

Contact **Lizzie Schroff** at [eschro01@saintmarys.edu](mailto:eschro01@saintmarys.edu)

## NICHOLAS SPARKS: THE MASTER OF CATHARSIS

By **GABRIELA LESKUR**  
Scene Writer

Three generations of women huddled in front of the TV in a small living room, sobbing like there was no tomorrow. As my mom and grandma wept on, I paused for a moment and cursed the man behind this story — darn you, Notre Dame alum Nicholas Sparks, and your films. I was perfectly content not being in touch with my emotions, thank you.

I still remember when I finally watched “The Notebook” in 2011. I knew I was arriving a little late to the party — people of both the male and female persuasion had been telling me to watch it since the days when instant messaging was the latest trend and my email address was gabsterella@aol.com.

Although at first I was impressed by Nicholas Sparks’ work, I realized that he was far from a one hit wonder. As a stand-alone story, I had lauded “The Notebook.” However, as “The Last Song,” “Dear John” and “A Walk to Remember” swirled around my lovesick head, I suddenly realized this Sparks guy has a monopoly on sappy romance stories.

What is it that makes Nicholas Sparks’

romances stand out? Why do we keep coming back to read and watch them?

Like an investigative reporter, I was set on getting to the bottom of the Sparks romance formula.

Imagine me on a Thursday night, reviewing the evidence: On the TV “A Walk to Remember” blares, on my Mac plays “The Last Song,” on my friend’s old, nearly dead Toshiba rings “Dear John” and still hanging out in my head is “The Notebook.”

As any typical sleuth would, I examined these movies carefully to find out exactly what makes a Nicholas Sparks love story tick. After years of intense preparation, I feel as if I gathered enough evidence to present my findings.

### What You Watch/Read

Assume whatever new couple graces the pages of a Nicholas Sparks novel will be made up of two B-list Hollywood stars.

These two hotties will have lots of baggage — I’m talking two huge suitcases and a carry-on.

Ten minutes in, they will begin to unpack said metaphorical baggage onto each other. But boy, love is not easy.

Slowly but surely though, the couple

overcomes all these pesky obstacles. Love prevails. You get that same feeling as when you watch cute kitten videos on YouTube; I believe it’s called happiness.

Then BAM! Tragedy strikes. Someone — dad, spouse or friend — usually gets a fatal disease and dies.

You didn’t see that one coming. I mean, unless you’ve seen a Nicholas Sparks film before.

### Why You Watch It

Everyone loves a love story. Even us cynics who spent Valentine’s Day shut up in our room reading Herodotus and folding laundry melt from the cuteness when Phil and Claire Dunphy share a tender moment. That’s true “Modern Family” love right there, folks.

Yet, what makes Nicholas Sparks novels and their subsequent films stand out is how they end. No happy endings in the novels of this Notre Dame grad. And this is where the true genius of Nicholas Sparks comes in.

Sparks plays up on the idea of catharsis, the traditional notion from Greek tragedy. Catharsis, in the classical sense, relies on a heartbreaking event in an attempt to let out all the suppressed emotions in the

audience.

For example, we walk into a Nicholas Sparks movie stressed about midterms, sans PW carnations, feeling a little down in the dumps. However, we walk out thinking, “That’s the saddest thing I’ve ever seen,” wipe away a tear, and then smile. You realize, “Hey, my life really isn’t that bad.”

The day looks a little brighter. Homework seems more manageable. You feel refreshed and ready for another date night at the library with your study guides. For this renewed pep in your step, you can thank catharsis — and Nichols Sparks.

### His Latest Flick

“Safe Haven” is the latest Nicholas Sparks film to open in theaters. If you’re looking to leave all your Valentine’s Day woes behind or if you’re just looking for some good catharsis, then “Safe Haven” is a good choice. But if you’re thinking of going to this film for a surprising original romance, I’m guessing that perhaps you should check out “Silver Linings Playbook” instead.

Contact **Gabriela Leskur** at [gleskur@nd.edu](mailto:gleskur@nd.edu)

## SEE ‘SIDE EFFECTS’

By **CLAIRE STEPHENS**  
Scene Writer

“Side Effects” is a diamond in the rough of movies currently in theaters, made up of a compelling storyline among a lot of iffy dramas and outright bad action and comedy flick moments.

While the plot is certainly an intriguing story to follow and unravel, the incredible performances by Jude Law, Rooney Mara and Catherine Zeta-Jones make the movie (with an appropriately limited amount of Channing Tatum as well). Most of all, “Side Effects” resembles director Steven Soderbergh’s film “Contagion,” using the incredible star power of the actors to sell the size and complexity of the plot.

Soderbergh creates an atmosphere that blurs the line between sanity and delusion, putting the audience in a place very similar to the main characters’: under the influence of the drug-like style that gives the action a sense of urgency and

suspense throughout the film. The movie is evenly paced, leaving the audience in a constant state of mystery, wonder and subtle fear.

The story follows Emily (Rooney Mara), who becomes anxious and depressed around the time her husband Martin (Channing Tatum) is finally released from four years of prison for insider trading. After Emily’s suicide attempt, Dr. Banks (Jude Law) takes her in as a patient, prescribing a new experimental anti-depressant suggested by Emily’s former psychiatrist, Dr. Victoria Siebert (Catherine Zeta-Jones).

The side effects of the medication change the lives of the people around her and bring to light the tricky questions of morality and legality surrounding the treatment of the mentally unwell. The main character’s actions and state of mind leave the audience constantly on edge in a state of suspense, wondering what she might do next in her fragile state

of mind.

While Law and Zeta-Jones can be relied on for well-played dramatic performances (in this case, convincing doctors), Mara continues to rise in the critics’ eyes and show her talent in each Hollywood performance. Law’s role as the protagonist brings in the audience’s emotions, vicariously trying to understand the truth, morality and mystery of what is happening. Mara draws in the audience like a moth to the flame, just as her character Emily does to all those around her in the movie. After “Girl with the Dragon Tattoo,” Mara has found another chance to shine alongside the big stars well known for their acting chops.

Credit for the subtle suspense and intrigue of the film must also be given to the composer. The accompanying score sounds like a fairy tale spinning out of control, the clock tinkering out of time to understand what is going wrong. A quiet darkness and a hazy, looming cloud of

doubt pervades every scene, making the audience constantly wonder what is really happening and who to believe.

If you’re going to hit the movie theaters and are looking for an engaging and entertaining drama, “Side Effects” is your best bet, especially in the current dry spell of high quality films following the flood of Oscar nominees from winter break.

Contact **Claire Stephens** at [cstephe4@nd.edu](mailto:cstephe4@nd.edu)

### “Side Effects”

Open Road Films

**Director:** Steven Soderbergh

**Starring:** Jude Law, Rooney Mara, Catherine Zeta-Jones, Channing Tatum



## SPORTS AUTHORITY

# Professionals, not role models



Mary Green  
Sports Writer

Yesterday morning, I woke up with a gasp to breaking news: "Oscar Pistorius, double-amputee Olympic runner, arrested on charge of murdering his girlfriend."

Was this the same Pistorius who inspired millions of viewers, handicapped and able-bodied alike, this summer with his performance on the track in London? How could the Blade Runner be the lone suspect thus far in a case in which his girlfriend was shot four times inside his home?

Now, I'm not going to berate Pistorius for a crime for which he has yet to be found guilty. But this situation does bring up a pertinent truth that we must address, especially here in America: We glorify our athletes too much.

For the things which athletes do within the arena of competition, they deserve our unending praise. We should be in awe of both a star's success in games or races and the amount of work he put in to place himself in that position. The best and most decorated handle pressure so well that it makes me wonder how they have yet to explode.

But this expectation for them to be perfect is not fair to us, the fans and admirers and certainly not fair to the athletes themselves.

The players we idolize have

**"I am not a role model ... just because I can dunk a basketball doesn't mean I should raise your kids."**

Charles Barkley

NBA Hall of Famer

better-than-average genes, an incredible work ethic and an unabating will to win that propels them to victory. At their core, though, they are still human and therefore still prone to err. Regardless of how many MVP titles they've earned or how many championships they've won, they are flawed creatures like everyone else.

Whether a person is a movie star, pop star, or all-star, we shouldn't trust that he or she will remain perfect and mistake-free, and we shouldn't be shocked when they finally do stumble.

A fall from grace wouldn't be

as devastating for fans if we stop idealizing every aspect of our favorite athletes' lives. They face temptation as much as we do, and for many, it is only a matter of time before this temptation gets the best of them.

Imagine yourself 10 years ago, and think of which sports figures you loved and admired most at that time. This list undoubtedly includes a few now-shadowy names for a lot of fans. Tiger Woods. Lance Armstrong. Mark McGwire. Just a decade back, it seemed that these athletes offered the best side of America, the side we wanted to show the world. They were talented, hard-working, and successful. Today, it's difficult to think of them without calling to mind their most recent transgressions.

Of course, there are plenty of players who avoid scandal and offer glimmers of hope for the rest of their contemporaries. Larry Fitzgerald, Drew Brees and Sidney Crosby come to mind immediately, and there are still many more like them.

But we cannot count on every athlete to live an exemplary lifestyle on which we can base our own. Any person, athletically-inclined or not, can fall prey to temptation, can make mistakes, and can turn out to be a different person than we originally thought or maybe just hoped.

Charles Barkley summed it up perfectly in his now-infamous 1993 Nike Air commercial. He stated, "I am not a role model ...

just because I can dunk a basketball doesn't mean I should raise your kids."

But perhaps Barkley is one of the best models we have. He understands his limitations and his flaws and accepts them as a natural part of his life. He thrived while knowing that he, and no other athlete, is perfect. It's time that we stopped expecting them to be.

Contact Mary Green at [mgreen8@nd.edu](mailto:mgreen8@nd.edu)

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

## NFL

# Despite turnover, Bears look similar under Trestman

## Associated Press

LAKE FOREST — The Chicago Bears' defense will likely have a similar look next season, with or without Brian Urlacher.

New coach Marc Trestman and defensive coordinator Mel Tucker said the Bears will stick with a 4-3 set and won't change much schematically with a defense that ranked among the league's best under Lovie Smith.

The big question is whether Urlacher will be a part of it. The eight-time Pro Bowl linebacker has an expiring contract and missed the last four games with a hamstring injury after being slowed by a knee problem.

"I'm excited to come here because Brian Urlacher's been such an important part of this (organization)," Trestman said Thursday. "To talk about where that thing is going, it would be premature for me to talk about at this time."

Trestman said he and Urlacher recently spoke on the phone for about 30 to 40 minutes about the team, not his situation.

"I don't think there was any question that he loves Chicago and this is a place that he would like to be," Trestman said. "There was no question there. I'll leave it at that. I don't think it's any more than that. Coming in here as I have, I'm not as attuned to the entire situation, certainly the economics and all the things that go into it. That's the thing that is going to be a process between Brian and the organization as we move forward."

At 34, Urlacher is coming off a difficult season in which he hardly resembled the explosive player who's been causing havoc for 13 seasons.

If this is the end for him in Chicago, he goes down as one of the best linebackers in franchise history, right there with Dick Butkus and Mike Singletary. But it remains to be seen if he is finished with the Bears.

Even though he wasn't at full



New Bears coach Marc Trestman poses during his introductory press conference at Halas Hall on Jan. 17.

strength, teammates valued his leadership. And with Nick Roach's contract also up, the Bears could have a shortage of linebackers.

That's just one issue facing them after missing the playoffs for the fifth time in six years.

It was a scenario few would have envisioned after Chicago got off to a 7-1 start, but the Bears collapsed for the second straight year, costing Smith his job. They hired Trestman from the CFL's Montreal Alouettes to get the most out of quarterback Jay Cutler and fix an offense that had consistently struggled under the previous regime.

On defense, it's more about continuity than change. Tucker will add a few touches, but the Bears aren't in for an overhaul in that area. They're keeping the same terminology.

"I really think that it's important to hit the ground running," said Tucker, who spent the past four years as Jacksonville's defensive coordinator. "Because of my background — I've done 4-3, I've done 3-4 — you want to look at the group of guys you have and say, 'How can we get this group up and running as fast as possible?' It's not about me. It's about the players and what they can do right now. I felt like these guys were playing at a fairly high level here in the scheme they were

playing. We need to get better. Obviously, we'll do that, but ... I think they'll be more productive for me to learn their terminology than for me to come in and scrap everything they've done and then bring in something totally new."

Tucker wouldn't say if he envisions last year's first-round draft pick, Shea McClellin, staying at defensive end or moving to linebacker at some point.

"Now is not the time for that," Tucker said.

Another issue for the Bears is Devin Hester. The receiver and record-setting return specialist was so upset by Smith's firing that he said at the time he was considering retirement.

It's not clear what his role on offense would be if he comes back. The bigger concern is that he didn't return a punt or kickoff for a touchdown last season.

As for retirement? New special teams coordinator Joe DeCamillis said they spoke, and he's under the impression Hester wants to play next season.

"I'm sure he was emotional afterward," DeCamillis said. "And I'm sure he wants to still compete. That's really what we talked about — was competing. Hopefully, that's what comes about."

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The 57 on Heinz ketchup bottles represents the number of varieties of pickles the company once had.

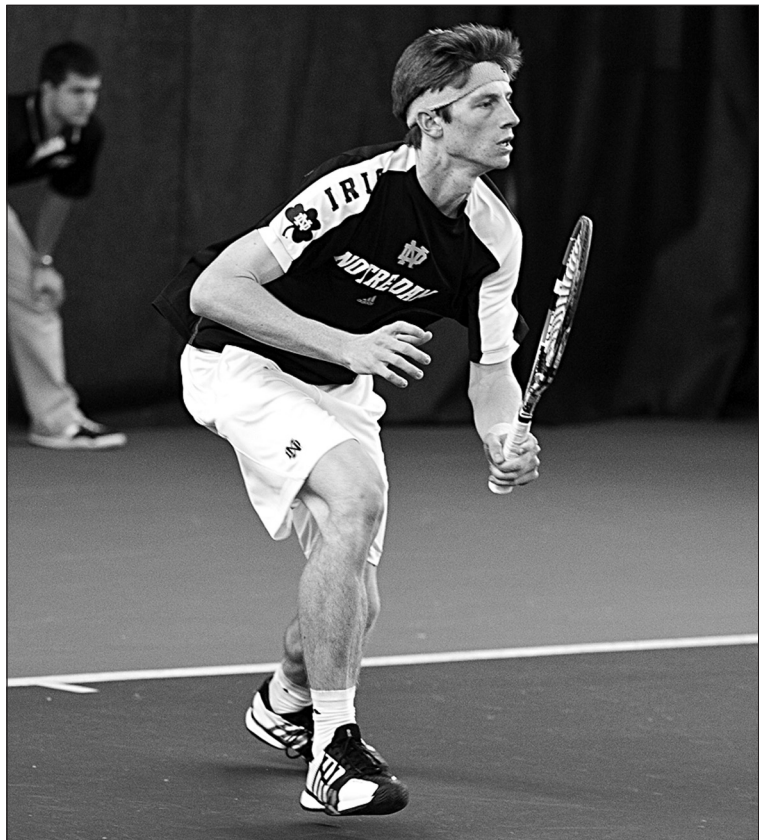
Karaoke means "empty orchestra" in Japanese.

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## MEN'S TENNIS

# Notre Dame hosts No. 21 Wolverines on Saturday



DE KENESEY | The Observer

Irish freshman Alex Lawson prepares to return a serve during his doubles match on Feb. 3 against Duke. The Irish lost the match 4-3.

By MEGAN FINNERAN  
Sports Writer

Coming off a thrilling 4-3 loss in the final set to No. 7 Kentucky, No. 29 Notre Dame will next host No. 21 Michigan on Saturday. This weekend will present the 74th meeting of the two squads. While the Wolverines (4-2) have the historical advantage at 44-29 overall, the Irish (5-4) have won seven of the last 10 contests.

The two teams both present a wide range of leadership. Notre Dame's junior Greg Andrews was named Big East Player of the Week

on Tuesday, gathering his second time with the title this season. Andrews recently moved up in the ranking from No. 80 to No. 71 in singles play. Michigan's senior Evan King received the Big Ten Athlete of the Week award Feb. 6. King stands ranked No. 16.

Beyond these two individuals, both squads bring deeper rankings to the court. In singles play, junior Vlad Stefan stands at No. 50 for Michigan. The No. 9 duo of King and junior Shaun Bernstein will compete in the No. 1 slot this weekend, facing the No. 1 Irish

tandem of Andrews and senior Spencer Talmadge.

When comparing losses, both Notre Dame and Michigan have only fallen to ranked opponents. Notre Dame carries losses from No. 9 Duke (No. 5 at the time of play), No. 33 Northwestern (No. 37 at the time of play), No. 47 Harvard (No. 28 at the time of play) and No. 7 Kentucky. Michigan has also fallen to Duke and to No. 14 California.

Most recently, Notre Dame and Kentucky battled set by set, alternating the leading team multiple times. While the match ended in a loss, the acquisition of the doubles point was a crucial step for a squad that was put focus on it the last few weeks.

"We came out ready to go and that was apparent when we captured the doubles point," Moros said. "We knew we were still a long way from a win but it was a great start."

Despite Tuesday's loss to Kentucky, Notre Dame is looking forward to using this opportunity to continue what they learned against the Wildcats.

"It was a tough loss but I think we all know now that we are right there with a top ten team," Moros said. "I'm proud of our guys and look forward to hosting Michigan."

Doubles play will begin Saturday afternoon at 1 p.m. in the Eck Tennis Pavilion.

Contact Megan Finneran at [mfinnera@nd.edu](mailto:mfinnera@nd.edu)

## ND SOFTBALL

# Team travels for second tourney

By MEGAN FINNERAN  
Sports Writer

With one tournament of outdoor competition under their belts, the Irish next travel to San Diego, for the Campbell/Cartier Classic. This will be Notre Dame's third appearance at the tournament, where the squad has gone 2-4 overall.

The biggest challenge of the weekend will be Oklahoma, a team ranked No. 1/2. The Irish have never beaten a No. 1-ranked foe in program history, but are looking forward to the opportunity.

Undefeated Oklahoma will be the final game of

*"We have been focusing on our bats lately and breaking down our fundamentals."*

Amy Buntin  
senior catcher

the five-game weekend. The squad will also face Washington (4-2), Cal Poly (1-4) and San Diego State (3-2).

"Our focus going into this weekend is going to be energy and stringing some hits together to keep our momentum going," senior catcher Amy Buntin said. "I think if we can do that we'll end the weekend on a very positive note."

Last weekend the Irish took two big wins at the Charlotte Fast Pitch Classic. Notre Dame beat Charlotte 5-1 and Presbyterian 8-5, led by senior pitcher Brittany O'Donnell. Sophomore catcher Cassidy Whidden hit a three-run home run against Charlotte on Saturday afternoon to fuel the Irish offense. Sophomore infielder Jenna Simon led in the final game of the tournament against Presbyterian with six hits, four stolen bases and four runs.

In each of its two losses, the squad only fell by one run. This weekend the Irish look to make minor improvements to finish close games similar to the 1-0 and 6-5 losses to Wisconsin last weekend. The concentration will be more on offense this weekend as the team works toward scoring more runs.

"We have been focusing on our bats lately and breaking down our fundamentals," Buntin said. "Our defense is solid."

The weekend will begin with the first pitch against Washington at 9 a.m. PST Friday morning. Friday afternoon the Irish will face Cal Poly at 1:30 p.m. Saturday will bring Cal Poly again at 11:15 a.m., followed by San Diego State at 6 p.m. The weekend will conclude with Oklahoma Sunday morning at 9 a.m.

Contact Megan Finneran at [mfinnera@nd.edu](mailto:mfinnera@nd.edu)

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## Write Sports.

Email Chris at [callen10@nd.edu](mailto:callen10@nd.edu)

## FENCING

# Irish ready for USFA National Junior Olympics

By **JOHN SANDBERG**  
Sports Writer

Notre Dame fencers return to the mats today for another East Coast event as they square off in the USFA National Junior Olympics in Baltimore, one week removed from competing in the Duke Duals.

The Junior Olympic Championship, which runs today through Monday, is open only to those fencers ages 20 and under, providing a good test for several of the underclassmen fencers.

Freshmen epeeists Garrett McGrath and John Poremski will start things off for the Irish today on the men's side. McGrath is ranked third in the preliminary seeding of 227 fencers. Poremski is seeded No. 61.

On the women's side, the top ranked Irish are coming off a 2-1 performance last weekend. Freshman Sarah Followill will compete today in the women's foil, which begins at 1 p.m.

Saturday's highlights will include the men's saber competition. Freshman John Hallsten will take the mat for the Irish. Hallsten has been a solid contributor for the men's team all season.

Last weekend at Duke Hallsten combined with senior teammate Jason Choy in leading the men's saber team to a 17-10 record on the day.

Hallsten has set his personal goal for the weekend high, as he said he is aiming to win the men's saber competition. He has some experience in that category, having won this same tournament last year.

While this weekend's tournament is composed primarily of fencers with little experience at the NCAA level, the event looks to be as competitive as any other for the Irish. Hallsten said it's important to maintain the same level of focus that he's had throughout the previous competitions.

"It stays the same," Hallsten said about his mindset. "If you think about your opponent too much you take yourself out of the mindset of just winning."

Hallsten also said he and the other freshmen on this Irish team have quickly been gaining confidence throughout this season. This increasing confidence can be attributed, at least in some part, to the attitude the Notre Dame coaching staff has been promoting among all of their



KARLA MORENO | The Observer

*Irish junior foil Rachel Beck fences during the Conference Championship at the Joyce Fieldhouse on March 4. Several Notre Dame fencers will travel to Baltimore this weekend to fence individually.*

fencers.

"We've really been focusing on helping each other out," Hallsten said. "I kind of felt like last weekend some guys got down and other guys had to pick them back up. This week in practice everyone has been working a little bit harder with that."

This weekend's competition ultimately presents a prime

opportunity for the Irish men to get back on track after a frustrating tournament at Duke last weekend, in which the men went 1-2. Despite the disappointment last weekend, Hallsten said there is still value to be taken from it and applied to future bouts.

"If you're struggling just don't back off," Hallsten said. "If you just keep looking forward you're

not going to worry what's behind you and you're not going to focus on wins or losses that were in the past. If you just focus on the next bout I feel like that's the best way to keep your confidence up."

Action begins today at 8 a.m. with the men's epee competition.

Contact **John Sandberg** at [jsandbl@nd.edu](mailto:jsandbl@nd.edu)

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## Fr. Paul Kollman, C.S.C.

He conducts research to understand the historical background of the Catholic Church in East Africa.

He celebrates mass in Swahili atop of Mt. Kilimanjaro as well as in English with the men of Dillon Hall.

He teaches Notre Dame students to explore the promises and challenges facing the Church in the world today.

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Fr. Paul Kollman, CSC, is a Holy Cross priest. He serves as Associate Professor of Theology, specializing in the History of Christianity in Africa, and as the executive director of the Center for Social Concerns. Like the Founder, Blessed Basil Moreau, he serves so as to draw others to share in the work of educating minds and heart and to make God known, loved and served by all.

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## TRACK AND FIELD

# Teams head to Big East championships in Ohio



GRANT TOBIN | The Observer

Irish sophomore Jade Barber competes in the 60-meter hurdles during the Meyo Invitational at Loftus Fieldhouse on Feb. 1.

By LAURA COLETTI  
Sports Writer

Sixty-six Irish athletes will compete at the Big East championships this weekend in Geneva, Ohio. The men's side will be looking to repeat as champions, while the women's team will try to improve upon their fourth-place finish from a year ago.

Senior pole vaulter and captain Chrissy Finkel said that the teams adjusted their training this week in order to stay fresh for the weekend.

"A lot of the groups started to lighten up earlier in the week, because they really want everyone to be well-rested going into this weekend," she said. "That's something that's got to happen for us to win."

On the women's side, Finkel was confident in

their abilities based on improvement she saw from last indoor season to the outdoor season, during which they placed second at the conference championship meet.

"We're absolutely in the running this year to come in first," she said. "It's not going to be by a landslide, though. It's going to be really close."

The men are in a similar situation, facing a very competitive field. Irish coach Joe Piane said that it's going to be a great two days of action.

"There are a handful of schools on both sides that could easily bring home a title, and I feel like we are among the handful that have a great shot," he said. "If we have good solid performances throughout all the events I think we should

give ourselves a good chance to win."

Notre Dame has been using other meets thus far in the season to prepare for the Big East championships. Finkel said that all of the athletes competing this weekend have done a good job getting ready.

"The individuals that did really well [last weekend], it was absolutely reassuring to see them continuing to improve," she said. "And for those who maybe didn't have their best performances, it is okay because they got it out of their system, and hopefully will be able to put that behind them and go into this weekend really strong."

Members of the Irish who are heading into this weekend ranked in the top-25 include junior sprinter Pat Feeney (3rd) and sophomore sprinter Chris Giesting (21st) in the men's 400m, as well as senior middle distance runner Rebecca Tracy (24th) in the mile; sophomore hurdlers Jade and Kaila Barber (14th and 23rd, respectively) and senior hurdler Nevada Sorenson (17th) in the 60m hurdles; and sophomore jumper Mary Esther Gourdin in the triple jump.

"We have a lot of people who are doing exceptionally well right now," Finkel said. "It's been amazing to watch them this season. We have a large group and it's one of the major times we really feel like a cohesive team."

The Irish will open competition at the Spire Institute on Saturday morning.

Contact Laura Coletti at  
lcoletti@nd.edu

## ND WOMEN'S GOLF

# Irish open season in Tallahassee

By GREG HADLEY  
Sports Writer

After a successful fall campaign, the Irish women open their spring season this weekend in Tallahassee, Fla., at the Match-Up Invitational hosted by Florida State.

It's been nearly four months since the Irish last competed in October, but the winter weather hasn't stopped them from preparing. Instead, the team practiced indoors.

"We were able to get about three-and-a-half weeks of practice in," Irish coach Susan Holt said. "We worked a lot in our indoor golf facility. It's one of the best in the country. Also, a lot of the girls are from warmer cli-

continuing it.

"We had some pretty lofty goals at the beginning of the year," she said. "The fall season set us up well to follow through and accomplish most of our goals this spring."

A key to realizing those goals will be freshman Lindsey Weaver, who was ranked first in the nation at the midseason break, and has yet to lose to a top-50 opponent.

"Lindsey is a very solid all-around golfer," Holt said. "She's very dedicated. I just want her to keep on working and practicing hard and to stay as steady as she's been all season."

Looking ahead to this weekend, the Irish will go

**"This invite has the top competition to prepare us for tournaments later in the year, like the Big East or NCAAs."**

Susan Holt  
Irish coach

mates, so they were able to practice over winter break in addition to the three weeks."

Thus, Holt expects her squad's very best this weekend.

"We're excited to get the chance to get out and play," Holt said. "We're not making any excuses because we're from the north. That's what our facilities are for. It's time to compete."

The Irish have lots of momentum to build on. Their fall season was one of the most successful in program history, culminating in six victories over top-25 opponents and a No. 14 midseason ranking. However, Holt doesn't want to dwell on that success but instead focus on

up against top teams, including No. 6 Oklahoma and No. 21 Texas A&M. Holt thinks that this invitational will give her team valuable experience for later on in the year.

"The girls are very excited," she said. "This invite has the top competition to prepare us for tournaments later in the year, like the Big East or NCAAs."

The Irish golfers open their spring season this Friday through Sunday at the Match-Up Invitational hosted by Florida State at the Southwood Golf Club in Tallahassee, Fla.

Contact Greg Hadley at  
ghadley@nd.edu

## SMC SWIMMING

# Belles compete at MIAA championships



GRANT TOBIN | The Observer

Belles sophomore Sarah Thompson competes during Saint Mary's meet against Defiance on Nov. 12, 2011.

By D.H. KIM  
Sports Writer

The Belles began Thursday sitting in seventh place in the MIAA Swimming and Diving Championships in Jenison, Mich., but moved up to sixth place with two days of competition left. Sophomore Anna Nolan, senior Ellie Watson and freshman Carolyn Neville were key on Thursday to the Belles staying in track for qualifiers. Watson finished ninth in 500-yard freestyle with a time of 5:15.87, while Nolan finished 10th in

the 50-yard freestyle with a time of 25.19. The women's 400-yard medley relay had a phenomenal run with freshman Megan Knoblock, senior Liz Litke, senior Genevieve Spittler and senior Kristyn Gerberth finishing fifth, but could not qualify into the next round. The women's 200-yard freestyle relay team did not qualify, but Nolan, Watson and Neville, who were on the relay, contributed in other events.

"We swam really hard today and gave our best effort," Spittler said.

Friday will be the last day of the MIAA championships where qualifying teams will compete in the 200-yard freestyle relay, 500-yard freestyle, 50-yard freestyle and 400-yard medley relay.

"All of our players worked hard to get where we are and hopefully the qualifiers will step up and compete tomorrow," Spittler said.

The races at the MIAA championships will resume at 10 a.m. today in Jenison, Mich.

Contact D.H. Kim at  
dkim16@nd.edu



MICHAEL KRAMM | The Observer

Irish junior center Anders Lee looks to pass the puck during Notre Dame's 7-4 victory over Michigan on Friday.

## Irish

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 20

ponds as boys.

There will be — and has been — a lot of hype and attention paid to Sunday due solely to the novelty an outdoor game provides.

But the game in Soldier Field, it's important to remember, is not some exhibition or showcase event for fun. It's a game between two rivals that counts. A lot.

Sunday will be the second game of the weekend for Miami and Notre Dame. The two teams meet in Oxford, Ohio, on Friday, before heading to Chicago to practice Saturday in preparation for Sunday's game.

Both games are huge for Notre Dame. The Irish currently sit third in the CCHA behind Western Michigan and Miami, trailing the Broncos and RedHawks by two points and three points, respectively, with six games remaining. Notre Dame is also one of five teams tied for 12th in the PairWise rankings. The five conference

champions and top 11 at-large teams from the PairWise at the end of the season make up the NCAA tournament field.

Should Notre Dame win Friday, a win Sunday would give the Irish control of their CCHA fate with two games against the Broncos the following week, and put Notre Dame in great position to make the NCAA tournament. On the opposite end of the spectrum, a loss Friday coupled with a loss Sunday would all but eliminate the Irish from the CCHA title race and be devastating to their postseason hopes.

That's the incredible thing about Sunday's game. Yes, there is the buzz, excitement and natural elements that come into play with an outdoor game. But take all that away — imagine Sunday's game was at the Compton Family Ice Arena or Steve Cady Arena and not Soldier Field — and the first sentence of this column might still be true.

Irish players and coach Jeff Jackson alike are insistent they are solely focused on Friday's game, which is the way it should be, even if fans and the media are not. In the tangible sense,

Friday's game counts the same as Sunday's. It could be the contest that Notre Dame looks back on in March as making the difference in its season, either positively or negatively.

Friday's game will pass, however, and when it does, it will be on to Chicago. The game in Soldier Field will be particularly meaningful to the seven Illinois natives on the Irish roster — many of whom grew up fans of the Chicago Bears — but it will also provide nostalgia for players throughout the Irish roster. It will not be easy to stay focused on the game and avoid the hoopla that surrounds it.

But that's what senior defenseman Sam Calabrese, who hails from Chicago suburb Park Ridge, Ill., said the Irish will try to do.

"We can really practice and take it all in Saturday, and hopefully get all the jitters out and get the neatness of the experience out on Saturday," Calabrese said. "Hopefully, Sunday will be all business."

Ultimately, Calabrese is correct that what truly matters Sunday is whether the Irish win or lose, especially based on Notre Dame's positioning both in the CCHA standings and nationally. But it would also be a mistake for the players to not fully embrace this potentially once-in-a-lifetime event. Practicing outdoors Saturday in Soldier Field might be a cool experience, but it will pale in comparison to the game Sunday in front of a packed crowd against a top-notch opponent.

That is the balance the Irish should attempt to find: there should be enough focus to accomplish their goal, but enough looseness that the moment does not completely pass them by.

If they can find that balance, they'll enjoy Sunday's game — both the experience, but more importantly to Calabrese and the rest of the Irish — the result.

Contact Sam Gans at [sgans@nd.edu](mailto:sgans@nd.edu)

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

## Soldier Field

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 20

at this level, all the guys are going to be used to the crowd and the crowd noises and the whacky stuff that's going to be going on."

Senior defenseman Sam Calabrese, a native of Park Ridge, a suburb of Chicago, said he is excited about the opportunity to play at Soldier Field.

"I've been to a lot of games as a football fan, but I never imagined playing hockey out there," Calabrese said. "Growing up, outdoor hockey games weren't really thought of... Now that they've been doing it, for my senior year to play at Soldier Field, it's going to be an unbelievable experience."

Tynan, a native of Orland Park, another suburb of Chicago, agreed with Calabrese's sentiment.

"Obviously it's special outdoors with your teammates, but especially being from Chicago and being a Bears fan, it's going to be real special for all of us," Tynan said.

The teams arrive on Saturday in order to get a feel for the outdoor environment and venue, Tynan said.

"I think all the jitters will get out of the way Saturday when we practice and we figure out exactly what it's going to be like," he said. "The rink is still the same size. You're on the ice, between the boards. But it will be different, especially because we'll be outside and they'll be a lot more open space."

Junior goaltender Steven Summerhays, an Alaska native, said outdoor games are nothing new to him.

"Up until high school, we had practice once a week outside

usually," Summerhays said. "It's something I've grown up doing. I don't mind it too much. It's fun. It'll be fun, hopefully [I] get out there play Sunday."

Irish coach Jeff Jackson said the Hockey Classic will be an event, but the Irish should not get too caught up in the festivities.

"It'll just be the spectacle," Jackson said. "It's going to be the outdoor feel to it, which is more like we played when we were kids. We called it shinny. We can't play shinny on Sunday because there's too much on the line."

The Irish will first take on Miami (OH) in Oxford, Ohio, on Friday night and then will travel to Chicago to play Miami in the Hockey Classic at Soldier Field.

Contact Isaac Lorton at [ilorton@nd.edu](mailto:ilorton@nd.edu)

## RedHawks

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 20

junior center T.J. Tynan said. "We know how much these games mean, and we just have to focus [on Friday], that first period."

The RedHawks have won six of their last seven games, and have allowed two or fewer goals in their last eight. Their stingy defense will pose a serious challenge for an Irish offense that had been struggling before an offensive explosion versus Michigan.

"We're two similar teams. We both play up tempo, and they like to outnumber you in the D-zone," senior defenseman Sam Calabrese said. "We have to stay physical ... matching their intensity, especially on the road, will be huge."

The RedHawks lead the Irish by 3 points in the CCHA standings, and with only a few weeks left, these games will have a massive impact on the standings. The players are also hoping to bring attention to what they feel like has been an overlooked rivalry.

"We all know how big the Miami rivalry is," Tynan said. "The hockey guys know how good Miami is, and how well we have to play to beat them."

Irish coach Jeff Jackson knows that in order to beat the RedHawks, his team will have to buck recent trends.

"[The rivalry] has been really one-sided lately," Coach Jackson said. "But based on their rankings in the standings there is always that enthusiasm to play them."

The Irish seem to have solved many of their issues this past weekend, but a few persist, most noticeably the play of the special teams units. The penalty kill team

has struggled throughout the second half, while the power play team has allowed 3 short-handed goals the past two weekends.

"Special teams will be huge [this weekend]; its probably what will make or break our season," junior goaltender Steven Summerhays said. "Especially penalty kill — I think improving the penalty kill starts with me, or [senior goaltender Mike Johnson] if he's playing."

The starting goaltender is another question that needs answering. Jackson is still unsure of his starter for this weekend after each goalie gave up four goals in their starts last weekend. Regardless of which goalie starts, the team knows that these next few weeks are going to have a playoff atmosphere.

"Even though it's not playoffs, we have to win these games to stay alive and get into the tournament," Tynan said. "We just have to focus on getting wins, that's the most important thing."

According to Jackson, his team won't be the only team with a sense of urgency.

"There's no easy games anymore, we have to be prepared to play 60 min of hockey every night," Jackson said, "Everybody we play will be competing for their lives. That's what happens this time of year, and that's what makes this time of year exciting."

Notre Dame will challenge Miami at 7:35 p.m. on Friday in Oxford, Ohio, before traveling to Chicago to face the RedHawks at 1:05 p.m. Sunday in the OfficeMax Hockey City Classic at Soldier Field.

Contact Casey Karnes at [wkarnes@nd.edu](mailto:wkarnes@nd.edu)

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## ND WOMEN'S TENNIS

# Team ready for Purdue after 11-day respite



DE KENESEY | The Observer

Irish freshman Quinn Gleason prepares to return a shot during Notre Dame's 4-3 victory over Tennessee on Feb. 3.

By **KATIE HEIT**  
Sports Writer

After two close victories decided in the final point, the Irish are confident their 11-day rest has prepared them to dominate Purdue on Friday at 4 p.m. at the Eck Tennis Pavilion. Notre Dame, who is 15-0 over the Boilermakers at home.

The Irish have won eight of the last ten matches against Purdue, but are not taking the game today lightly.

Senior captain Chrissie McGaffigan said the break in play has given the Irish time to practice the weakest part of their game—doubles. Notre Dame has lost the doubles point in their last two matchups, putting them at an immediate disadvantage going into singles competition.

"The doubles point is huge," McGaffigan said. "When you come into singles already down, it's hard to gain back the momentum. It's huge getting that point. We've been working all week on the doubles game in practice so we'll be ready for Purdue."

McGaffigan said while the close matches are stressful, they are also a learning experience for the team.

"I think getting the close matches builds our confidence," McGaffigan said.

McGaffigan is one of two members of the Irish still undefeated in singles.

**"We've been working all week on the doubles game in practice so we'll be ready for Purdue."**

Chrissie McGaffigan  
senior captain

She and sophomore Molly O'Koniewski are both 5-0 in singles, with one unfinished match apiece at No. 4 and No. 6 singles respectively. Freshman Quinn Gleason is right behind the upperclassmen with a 5-1 record.

Though the Irish have won every matchup against Purdue at home, McGaffigan said the Boilermakers

should prove to be tough competition.

"Purdue is always a talented team," McGaffigan said. "They're pretty highly ranked going into this match."

McGaffigan said no matter whom they play, the Irish always come out with a winning mindset.

"We don't care who we are playing," McGaffigan said. "We go into every match wanting to win and knowing we always have a tough match ahead of us."

On Sunday, the Irish face another challenge at No. 10 Northwestern. The Irish were eliminated from the NCAA Championships by the Wildcats last May. This will be the 40th meeting in program history and the Wildcats lead the series 28-11.

The Irish will be back in action against the Boilermakers today at 4 p.m. at the Eck Tennis Pavilion. They will then travel to Evanston, Ill. to take on the No. 10 Wildcats.

Contact Katie Heit at [kheit@nd.edu](mailto:kheit@nd.edu)

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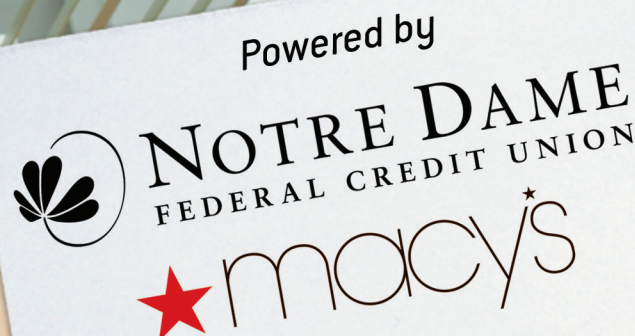
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Independent of the University



SUZANNA PRATT | The Observer

**Irish junior guard Eric Atkins brings the ball up the court during Notre Dame's 82-78 overtime victory over DePaul on Wednesday.**

## Brey

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 20

Connaughton [on] Wednesday and save him for the weekend?' I said, 'What?' I said, 'I need all my guys in this league.' ... We need all hands on deck, so everything is survive and advance. That's why we were burning one time.

"We'll do everything we need to do to get a league win. I don't care if it's against a team that's 8-2 or 2-8. Just do what you've got to do to get a league win."

Connaughton started and played 30 minutes after injuring his ankle against the Cardinals on Saturday. Notre Dame has played 110 minutes and six overtimes in the span of a week.

"He was pretty sore the last two days, but I knew he would play when I saw him Monday," Brey said of Connaughton. "There's not a tougher athlete at this school. He's a tough dude, so he will not have to sweat again until layup lines at Providence. We'll just rest him until then, and some other guys. We're back to needing some rest here almost for two days."

Providence, meanwhile, has won three straight games. The Friars eliminated an 11-point halftime deficit and defeated South Florida 76-66 on Wednesday night as junior forward Kadeem Batts poured in 24 points. Providence also downed Cincinnati 54-50 on Feb. 6 behind 25 points and nine rebounds from Batts.

Junior guard Bryce Cotton leads the Friars in scoring, averaging 20.5 points per game. Cotton buried a three-pointer with 2.2 seconds remaining to beat Villanova 55-52 on Feb. 3.

Irish junior guard Eric Atkins said it's important to not look past the Friars even though No. 16 Pittsburgh lurks for a pivotal Big East matchup on Monday night.

"This is a huge stretch for us, especially with us starting to move up in the standings," Atkins said Wednesday. "I think that we are mainly focused on just trying to get another league win on Saturday.

We will think about Monday when it comes. Providence is a good team, especially when you play them at home."

The Friars are 9-4 at home this season. The last time Notre Dame went on the road to face Providence was 2011, when the then-No. 9 Irish eked out a 94-93 victory over a Friars team that entered the game at 13-14. Providence senior guard MarShon Brooks set a Big East record with 52 points in the losing effort.

The Irish lead the all-time series against Providence with a 16-9 record. Though the Friars have not beaten Notre Dame since 2004, Brey said he expects a challenge.

"Providence is just really a good basketball team," Brey said. "I caught the second half last night against South Florida and they just exploded down there in Tampa. They have beaten good people all year. ... So we're going to be challenged against a very good team again on Saturday."

Notre Dame tips off against the Friars on Saturday at noon at the Dunkin Donuts Center in Providence, R.I.

**Contact Mike Monaco at [mjmonaco@nd.edu](mailto:mjmonaco@nd.edu)**

## McGraw

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 20

a break at all. In the final week of the season, we have four games in eight or nine days, I think, so the girls need to rest their bodies and, mentally, they need to rest."

McGraw said the additional practice time would allow the Irish (23-1, 11-0 Big East) to make some adjustments and improvements.

"I think we can put some new things on the offensive side and, defensively, I think we can work on some ideas we've had — work on our zone a little bit more," she said. "I think there's a lot of things we can fine tune."

If the Irish were in need of fine-tuning, they didn't show it Monday night, as they never trailed against the Cardinals (20-5, 8-3). Although Notre Dame only led by 10 at half-time, the Irish outscored Louisville 48-29 in the second half to win by a final margin of 29.

"It was a great win for us because I saw so much improvement on the offensive side," McGraw said of the Louisville game. "I thought we executed well, I thought we did a great job of looking into the post for [junior forward] Natalie Achonwa and I was just really pleased with how well we shot the ball — it was the best we've shot all year long."

Notre Dame dominated the boards Monday, out-rebounding Louisville 44-23. Achonwa accounted for 12 of the rebounds, but freshman guard Jewell Loyd added nine rebounds of her own.

"Natalie Achonwa's doing a great job rebounding, and I think the guards are really starting to chip in and help out on the rebounding as well," McGraw said.

Notre Dame will look to continue its in-conference success and extend its winning streak to 19 games when the Irish travel to Milwaukee to face Marquette (12-12, 4-7) on Sunday.

The Golden Eagles have shown signs of inconsistency in Big East play. The team earned victories over DePaul and Villanova but also fell to Cincinnati on Wednesday night, a game that marked the Bearcats' first



SARAH O'CONNOR | The Observer

**Irish junior guard Kayla McBride goes up for a layup during Notre Dame's 93-64 victory over Louisville on Monday.**

in-conference victory. Still, McGraw said the Al McGuire Center is always a difficult place to play.

"It's always tough to play [at Marquette] — they're always tough at home," McGraw said. "I think it's going to be a difficult game for us."

Junior forward Katherine Plouffe leads the Golden Eagles with 12.9 points per game and 7.5 rebounds per game. Marquette has also received notable contributions from sophomore guard Arlesia Morse, who is second on the team in scoring with 11.7 points per game, and freshman guard Brooklyn Pumroy, who has started 22 of 24 games in her first season. "[Marquette] has a good inside

game," McGraw said. "Plouffe is somebody that's played internationally, and she's had a lot of experience. They also have a couple of good guards."

Sunday's nationally televised contest will also be Marquette's Play4Kay pink game, an event that raises breast cancer awareness and funds for research in the memory of the late North Carolina State coach Kay Yow.

Notre Dame will take on Marquette at 2:30 p.m. on Sunday at the Al McGuire Center in Milwaukee.

**Contact Brian Hartnett at [bhartnet@nd.edu](mailto:bhartnet@nd.edu)**

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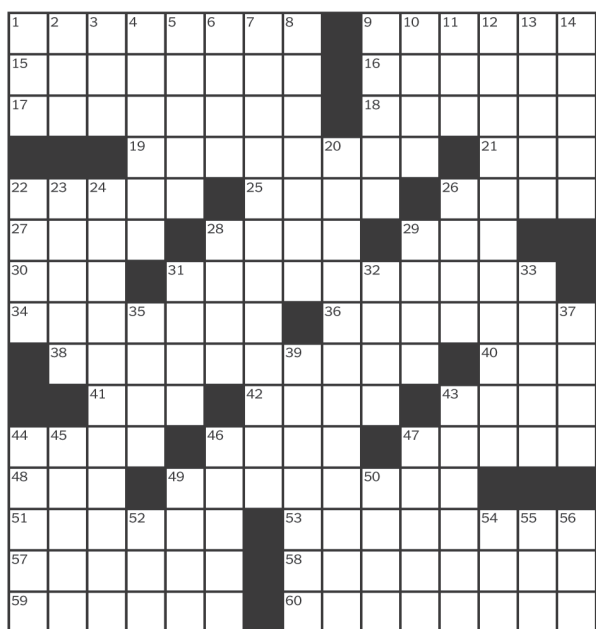
## What does it mean to be both?

Sun Feb 17. Lewis Chapel. 9pm Talk. 10pm Mass.  
All are welcome.

CROSSWORD | WILL SHORTZ

- ACROSS**
- 1 Pets named for their British Isles origin
  - 9 Anger
  - 15 Question before and after "or"
  - 16 Madrid-Barajas Airport carrier
  - 17 Fry cook's concern
  - 18 Symbols of impending trouble
  - 19 "Righto!"
  - 21 Brooklyn player
  - 22 Back covers
  - 25 Wall St. Journal news subjects
  - 26 Vegetable that's often fried
  - 27 Was short
  - 28 A.A.A. courses
  - 29 Something to chew on
  - 30 Chip, say
  - 31 Some club tunes
  - 34 Hombre's firearm
  - 36 Some crisscross patterns
  - 38 Concert memento
  - 40 Cut (off)
  - 41 Sausage king Froman in "Ferris Bueller's Day Off"
  - 42 What you might do some light reading on?
  - 43 \_\_\_ cheese
  - 44 Gaunt
  - 46 Madhouses
  - 47 Several Rodins
  - 48 1978 and 1986 World Cup winner: Abbr.
  - 49 Fearsome figure in Greek myth
  - 51 Lose a liking for
  - 53 Johnny Appleseed, e.g.
  - 57 Smitten
  - 58 Made close
  - 59 Checking account offer
  - 60 Print

- DOWN**
- 1 "No \_\_\_!"
  - 2 Raise, with "up"
  - 3 Naught
  - 4 Looked into?
  - 5 Singles out, say
  - 6 Bureau employees: Abbr.
  - 7 "Jersey Shore" co-star
  - 8 Bars
  - 9 Cubes
  - 10 \_\_\_-minded
  - 11 Hardly an old-timer
  - 12 Made a loaded romantic call to?
  - 13 Feather source
  - 14 Bob Marley, e.g.
  - 20 Key discovery of 1799
  - 22 Give for free
  - 23 Look for
  - 24 A lot of oil moves through it
  - 26 Boot
  - 28 Something to play
  - 29 Cut down
  - 31 Bunkum



Puzzle by IAN LIVENGOOD

- 32 Tennyson title lady
- 33 Big piece of cabbage
- 35 Chain selling desserts
- 37 Complimentary robe providers
- 39 Sent up
- 43 Russian dressing?
- 44 Slip site
- 45 College town on the Stillwater River
- 46 E-pubs
- 47 Like leftovers, often
- 49 Really touch
- 50 "Tower Heist" actor, 2011
- 52 Hatchery supply
- 54 Get tripped up
- 55 Mr. \_\_\_ (Clue-like board game)
- 56 Elevated lines?

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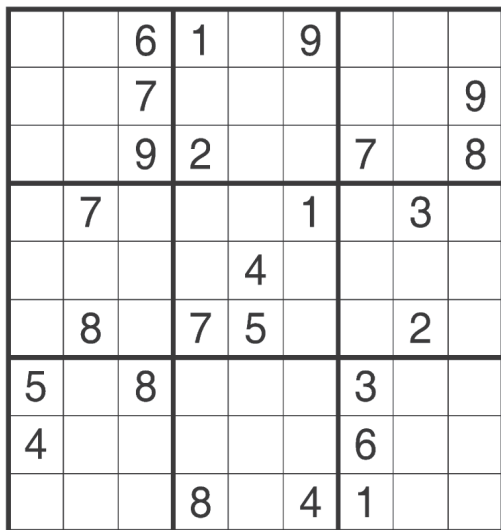


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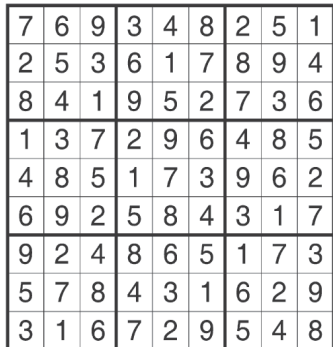


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SOLUTION TO THURSDAY'S PUZZLE 2/15/13



Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit, 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit [www.sudoku.org.uk](http://www.sudoku.org.uk)

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HOROSCOPE | EUGENIA LAST

**CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:** Drew Bledsoe, 41; Enrico Colantoni, 50; Meg Tilly, 53; Florence Henderson, 79

**Happy Birthday:** Revisit old ideas, places and people. It's time to resurrect what you lost sight of in the past due to other responsibilities and circumstances. Put your efforts into improving your finances, health and future prospects. You must make a concerted effort to make things happen the way you want. Don't shy away when you should be taking action. Your numbers are 9, 13, 25, 27, 31, 34, 46.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19):** Nurture partnerships that are under pressure. It's better to be nice than nasty if you want to get a good response. Sensitive issues that are left to fester will escalate. Taking care of past regrets or problems will help you move forward now. ★★★

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20):** Discipline and practical applications will help you solve any problem you face. Showing your concern for others will lead to an interesting alliance. Favors will be granted if you are straightforward regarding what you want and need. ★★★

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20):** Don't meddle or offer help. If you get involved in a sticky situation, you will risk being blamed. Protect your position and your reputation. Moderation is required. Love is in the stars. ★★★

**CANCER (June 21-July 22):** Don't be shy; share your thoughts and ideas and you will gain momentum and attract the help you require to excel. Let your intuition guide you when dealing with people or situations of a sensitive nature. Back away from people displaying erratic behavior. ★★

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22):** You will enhance your outlook, ideas and imagination if you visit people or places that are unusual or offer something you've never experienced before. Take care of what's necessary, then take care of you. ★★

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):** A contract or partnership can alter your financial future. A new plan or commitment coupled with pursuing a joint venture will give you a new lease on life. Details will be what separate you from the competition. ★★★

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22):** Engage in pastimes or groups that will introduce you to new and exciting people. It's time to spice up your life and put yourself first. Romance is on the rise and a chance to enhance your love life is apparent. ★★★

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):** Home is where you belong. Turn your abode into your den for both work and play. Set aside time to take care of your personal desires and to explore possibilities that will shape your future. Let your intuition guide you. ★★★

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):** Read between the lines or you may fall victim to a scam. Keep your conversations to the point and as honest as possible. You will be misunderstood if you are too exuberant. Changes at home will end up being beneficial. ★★★★★

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):** Ease into whatever you want to pursue. Making assumptions based on too few facts will lead to an emotional mess. Try to decipher the information you gather before making any sudden moves. ★★

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):** Look and you shall find. Don't mess with what's working. Focus on what you can do to improve your life, your position and your home base. Your ideas are solid -- now all you have to do is implement your plan of attack. ★★★★★

**PISCES (Feb. 19- March 20):** Take everything you do seriously and show others that you mean business. It's your attitude that will make the difference at the end of the day. Own your position and control your decision. Simplicity and moderation will lead to victory. ★★★

**Birthday Baby:** You are unpredictable and imaginative. You are outgoing, assertive and productive.

JUMBLE | DAVID HOYT AND JEFF KNUREK

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

JUMBLE

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Yesterday's Jumbles: CRUST FILMY COMMON JESTER  
 Answer: What she had when she saw her wedding cake -- "TIERS" OF JOY

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THE OBSERVER

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## HOCKEY

## On the outside, looking in

## Squad battles for first in Oxford and Windy City

By CASEY KARNES  
Sports Writer

A playoff atmosphere is building as the Irish prepare for a unique weekend faceoff with the RedHawks of Miami (OH).

Coming off a sweep of rival Michigan, the No. 12 Irish (18-11-1, 14-7-1 CCHA) must prepare for another rivalry matchup against No. 3 Miami (18-7-5, 13-5-4). Complicating matters is the exciting trip to Soldier Field for the second game of the doubleheader after Friday's matchup in Oxford. Players are looking forward to the rare opportunity to play outside, but know that Friday night is where their focus must be.

"We realize that Miami is a very good hockey team,"

see RED HAWKS PAGE 14



MICHAEL KRAMM | The Observer

Irish junior center T.J. Tynan battles for the puck in a faceoff against Michigan senior A.J. Treais during Notre Dame's 7-4 victory over the Wolverines on Friday. The Irish face Miami this weekend.

## Players must focus on critical series but enjoy experience

Sam Gans  
Sports Writer

Sunday's matchup against No. 3 Miami will be the biggest regular-season game No. 12 Notre Dame's players compete in while wearing an Irish jersey.

It seemed likely that would be the case when Notre Dame's participation in the Hockey City Classic at Soldier Field in Chicago was made official in July. Sunday marks the first outdoor game for the Irish in 45 years as a varsity program, and will be played in a stadium that seats more than 60,000 people. Though some Irish players could play outdoors again — either in future years at Notre Dame or professionally — this will be the only opportunity for many since they laced up their skates on local frozen

see IRISH PAGE 14

## Outdoor game at Soldier Field garners excitement

By ISAAC LORTON  
Sports Writer

Playing outside is nothing new to the Irish.

It's part of the history of the Notre Dame hockey program and its part of the childhood of many Notre Dame players.

Notre Dame first began fielding a hockey team in 1912. From that time until Notre Dame received

NCAA Division I status in 1968-69, practice — and even some games — were contingent on whether St. Joseph's Lake was frozen over and able to hold a hockey game. Players and coaches would have to clear off the layers of snow with shovels in order to compete.

Now instead of players and coaches readying the venue, three organizations and a team of workers have prepared Soldier

Field in Chicago for the back-to-back games of No. 12 Notre Dame (18-11-1, 14-7-1-1 CCHA) vs. No. 3 Miami (18-7-5, 13-5-4-4) and No. 2 Minnesota vs. No. 18 Wisconsin.

Intersport, a Chicago-based sports and entertainment marketing company, teamed up with Soldier Field, the home of the Bears, and the Chicago Parks District in order to host the inaugural Hockey Classic. For the past

two weeks, Soldier Field has been a hub of events in celebration and preparation for the Hockey Classic. The festivities include two days of free public ice-skating; youth, high school and adult hockey events and private ice rentals. Although the smallest venue in the NFL, Soldier Field (with a seating capacity of 61,500) is far larger than any arena the players have competed in.

Junior center T.J. Tynan said the amount of fans and the venue should not be affect Notre Dame's play.

"I think we are used to it. We've played in some pretty tough environments," Tynan said. "Obviously there's not as many fans, but it's pretty loud some places. They get pretty rowdy. I think at

see SOLDIER FIELD PAGE 14

## MEN'S BASKETBALL

## Team to face Friars on the road

By MIKE MONACO  
Sports Writer

After slogging through six overtime periods in their last two wins, the No. 21 Irish aim for their third consecutive win Saturday when they face Providence in Providence, R.I.

Notre Dame (20-5, 8-4 Big East) has won five of its last six, including its two recent overtime affairs. The Irish outlasted Louisville 104-101 on Saturday in five overtimes, the longest game in Notre Dame history. Then on Wednesday night the Irish hung on to edge DePaul 82-78 in just five extra minutes.

Notre Dame sits tied with

Pittsburgh for fourth in the conference, behind a trio of teams, Syracuse, Georgetown and Marquette, tied for first place at 8-3. The Irish now head east to square off with the Friars (13-11, 5-7 Big East) with the opportunity to keep ascending the standings.

Irish coach Mike Brey said after the win over DePaul he is solely focused on grinding out victories in a challenging league.

"I'm in that mode all the time in the Big East: survive and advance," Brey said. "Somebody said, 'Well, are you going to rest [sophomore guard/forward Pat]

see BREY PAGE 18

## ND WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

## Irish return to action at MU

By BRIAN HARTNETT  
Sports Writer

After a 93-64 thrashing of No. 10 Louisville at Purcell Pavilion on Monday, the last thing No. 2 Notre Dame probably wanted to see was a six-day layoff potentially kill its momentum.

But Irish coach Muffet McGraw said the break before Sunday's game at Marquette would go a long way toward helping her team prepare for the home stretch of the season.

"[The break] comes at a good time of the year, since February is a grind," McGraw said. "The season is long, and we've had a lot of weeks where we didn't have

see MCGRAW PAGE 18



SARAH O'CONNOR | The Observer

Irish freshman Jewell Loyd brings the ball up the court during Notre Dame's 93-64 victory over Louisville on Monday.