

Students research, volunteer on spring break

Habitat for Humanity, Nanovic Institute for European Studies provide alternate break plans

By **MADISON JAROS**
News Writer

Many Notre Dame students chose to forego traveling back home or relaxing on the beach this spring break, deciding instead to spend the week pursuing academic research or volunteering.

Over the break, 10 students traveled to Birmingham, Ala., to volunteer with Habitat for Humanity, an organization that constructs homes for those in need. The students participated in Habitat for Humanity's annual Collegiate Challenge, making this year the 10th year that Notre Dame students have lent a hand in the program.

Charles Moore, Habitat for Humanity president and CEO, said the Collegiate Challenge provides students with an

opportunity to build affordable houses on a local scale.

"The work they'll do during their spring break will have a lasting impact in our community," Moore said.

While some students stayed relatively close to home, others traveled to Europe with grants from the University's Nanovic Institute for European Studies, which supports undergraduate research. The Nanovic Institute provided \$51,695 this year to 23 students interested in spring break travel and research, the Institute's student coordinator Jennifer Fulton said.

Sophomore Connor Hayes, who received a grant from the Nanovic Institute, spent his spring break in Dublin, researching how early

see BREAK **PAGE 3**



Photo courtesy of Jaqueline Wyman

Ten Notre Dame students traveled to Birmingham, Ala., to help build houses for those in need through Habitat for Humanity, marking the 10th year that Notre Dame students have been involved.

SMC student named Maid of Erin

By **ALEX WINEGAR**
News Writer

Saint Mary's sophomore Kaitlin Nelson earned the 56th Maid of Erin title in a Detroit Irish scholarship competition on Feb. 22, earning the right to represent the Detroit United Irish Society for one year.

Nelson, a communications and theatre major, said the Maid of Erin is required to make public appearances and speeches at local Detroit events, especially during the Saint Patrick's Day season.

She said she discovered the competition through her

family, which has been involved in the Detroit Irish community for generations.

"My cousins have been a part of the competition and I always knew I would compete," Nelson said. "I am also a part of a women's Irish group in Detroit called the Daughters of Erin which is very involved in the competition."

The competition requires any girl of Irish descent between the ages of 16-23 to make two speeches, take part in an interview and perform win talent portion in front of judges,

see MAID **PAGE 3**



Photo courtesy of Kaitlin Nelson

Sophomore Kaitlin Nelson won the 56th Maid of Erin title on Feb. 22 to represent the Detroit United Irish Society for one year.

Show to address sexual issues on campus

By **GABRIELA MALESPIN**
News Writer

This Friday, the Gender Studies department will host their annual production "Loyal Daughters & Sons" at the Carey Auditorium in Hesburgh Library.

"Loyal Daughters & Sons," originally a thesis project from the Gender Studies department, is a series of monologues and theatrical performances detailing experiences from Notre Dame students regarding sexuality, gender and sexual assault on campus.

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Alum details ND relations in Washington

By **JESSICA MERDES**
News Writer

Tuesday evening, Notre Dame alum and lobbyist John Stern hosted an informal dialogue with students in the Coleman-Morse lounge, which highlighted the relations between the

University and Washington

Stern said he acts as a lobbyist for the University in Washington, where he has chosen to reside after attending Indiana University for law school. Throughout his career, he has worked as a lawyer for NBC, a lobbyist for CBS and for

the Newspaper Association of America, the latter of which he was also CEO.

The goal of the dialogue was to discuss his goals in advancing interest in Notre Dame in Washington, Stern said. He works with associations focused on higher education, such

as the National Association of Independent Colleges.

"One of the most important aspects of my job is to be informed," Stern said. "In order to maximize benefit of what Notre Dame does, it is good to have

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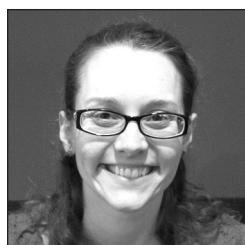
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QUESTION OF THE DAY:

What is your favorite spring activity?

Have a question you want answered?

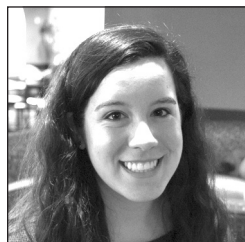
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Annamarie Dibley

junior
Holy Cross Hall

"Picnics on the quad."



Claire O'Neill

freshman
Lyons Hall

"Interhall softball."



Katie Paige

freshman
Lyons Hall

"Running around the lakes."



Kim Halstead

senior
Ryan Hall

"Running outside."



Leandro Lichtenfelz

graduate student
off campus

"Traveling to warmer places."



Ryan Duffy

junior
Morrissey Manor

"Running outside."



LESLEY STEVENSON | The Observer

The Notre Dame Bagpipe Band, comprised of students and faculty from the University of Notre Dame, St. Mary's College and Holy Cross College, participated in the Chicago Saint Patrick's Day parade for the first time Saturday.

Today's Staff

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Corrections

In the March 18 issue of The Observer, a photo accompanying the article "Sprint CEO donates to University" was mistakenly credited to Jory Fitzgerald Kelly instead of Lindsay Saunders. The Observer regrets this error.

THE NEXT FIVE DAYS:

Want your event included here?

Email news@ndsmcobserver.com

Wednesday

Living on One Dollar

Geddes Hall

7 p.m.

Film and discussion.

Black Took Collective

Jordan Hall of Science
7:30 p.m.-9 p.m.

Reading sponsored by the creative writing program.

Thursday

Poetry Slam

Snite Museum of Art
5 p.m.-7 p.m.

Held by Spoken Word ND.

Loyal Daughters & Sons

Hesburgh Library

9:30 p.m.-11 p.m.

Tickets \$3.

Friday

Art Therapy

St. Liam Hall

1:30 p.m.-2:30 p.m.

Stress buster Friday.

Glee Club Concert

DeBartolo Performing Arts Center

8 p.m.-9 p.m.

Annual spring concert.

Saturday

Women's Softball

Melissa Cook Stadium

12 p.m.-4 p.m.

The Irish take on Pittsburgh.

Saturday Vigil Mass

Basilica of the Sacred Heart

5 p.m.-6 p.m.

Music by the Women's Liturgical Choir.

Sunday

Zen Meditation

Coleman-Morse Center

6:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m.

Open to all.

12 Angry Men

DeBartolo Performing Arts Center

3 p.m.

Part of the Classic Films series.

Author discusses international relations

By **GABRIELA MALESPIN**
News Writer

Emine Segvi Özdamar, Turkish-German author, actress and director, presented a reading of her novel "The Bridge of the Golden Horn" in a lecture titled "Turkey to Germany, A Passport for the World: Emine Segvi Özdamar's Literary Journey" on Monday in McKenna Hall.

The Department of German and Russian Languages organized the event, which included a reading of Özdamar's novel and a question-and-answer portion about her

presentation of Turkish and German relations.

Özdamar said the novel focuses on the journey of a young Turkish woman in 1960s Germany.

"It's a developmental novel about this young Turkish woman who comes to Germany and how she becomes an adult," Özdamar said. "It is intertwined with her love for the theatre and the role that her love for the theatre plays in her development."

Although Özdamar said her own migration to East Berlin differed from her main character's, she could still easily relate

to the character's journey.

"The late 1960s and 1970s were characterized by the influx of Turkish migrant workers in Germany, who later formed a permanent minority group," Özdamar said. "Frequent clashes between Turks and Germans existed mainly due to the guest worker status of Turks in the country."

"The general cultural exchange between Germany and Turkey was hindered by the fact that the migrant workers who went from Turkey to Germany were proletarians. The migrant workers were seen by the intellectuals in Germany as a

population who gave the wrong impression of what Turkish culture was like in Germany."

Osamar said Turkish elite had difficulties with accepting the impact of Turkish proletariats.

"It took a long time for the elite in Turkey to accept the products of Turkish migrant literature as something that enriched Turkish culture," Özdamar said.

Özdamar also said the Social Democratic movement within Turkey was key to the growth and influence of Turkish language and culture.

"The left wing political movement in Turkey was a very

necessary movement for unification and rights of women," Özdamar said. "It was also a movement that did a lot for the development of the Turkish language."

Özdamar said the conflicts between German and Turkish language during the 1960s still influence German and Turkish culture today.

"We always say we lose our mother tongue when we go abroad," Özdamar said. "It is possible to lose our mother tongue at home as well."

Contact **Gabriela Malespin** at gmalespi@nd.edu

Break

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

nationalist newspapers in Ireland responded to various sodomy trials in the 1880's and 1890's.

Hayes said traveling to Dublin was necessary to pursue the research, as the documents he needed were contained within Dublin archives. However, traveling to Dublin allowed him to view his research in another light.

"Being there made it feel less like a pure academic pursuit [and] much more connected to the stories, because instead of just being in the United States I was actually in Dublin — in the location that this happened," Hayes said.

Freshman Khaoula Morchid traveled to Germany to research the influence of Arab migrants on German economic growth and to inquire whether they wished

to return to their home countries.

She said her interest in the subject began with research for her writing and rhetoric class, yet traveling to Germany gave the research a new dimension.

"I could have probably interviewed people over Skype, but being there, seeing the small details that people wouldn't usually tell you, I think was very helpful in understanding the

general context of the research," Morchid said.

Sophomore Steven Fisher, who researched the role of politics and the influence in the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY) court proceedings in The Hague, The Netherlands, echoed this sentiment.

"Whenever I would sit down in a cafe and study my research, I'd happen to share tables and bump elbows with politicians debating over a

beer and legal students with books fresh from Jongbloed Juridische Boekhandel, a famous bookstore specialized in legal literature," Fisher said.

"Thus a culture of international politics and legal justice enveloped my experience not only inside the courtroom, but also in the very streets of the city."

Contact **Madison Jaros** at mjaros@nd.edu

Maid

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Nelson said. The panel of four judges is composed of dignitaries in the community.

"My first speech focused on my work with a program called Girls on the Run, a non-profit organization which teaches middle-school girls self confidence while training them for a 5K," Nelson said. "My second question was an Irish history question and for my talent portion, I Irish danced. I have been Irish dancing for over 16

years now, and it has been a major part of my life, taking me all the way to the championship level."

Nelson said the Saint Patrick's Day season is the busiest for the Maid. Parties and fundraisers lead up to the largest event, the annual Detroit Saint Patrick's Day parade.

"The parade day begins at 4:30 a.m. with interviews with all the local news stations and radio shows, then off to Mass at 9 a.m.," Nelson said. "The next part of the day is the Cork Town Races which is the city's

5K, then the parade begins.

"The Maid of Erin starts the parade and is driven by a horse and carriage. When I reach the end of the parade I go to the grand stand with the dignitaries and watch the rest of the parade.

"There are many parties after the parade as well to celebrate Cork Town as it is Detroit's oldest neighborhood, established in 1834."

Detroit's 56th annual parade was Sunday, and participants marched in the second coldest winter on record, Nelson said.

"Our faces were frozen but our Irish blood was flowing strong, keeping us warm," Nelson said. "The parade was spectacular, and a lot of people came out despite the cold weather."

While Nelson reigns as queen, one of her many ambitions is to start a Detroit Irish organization for kids. There is a lack of opportunity for children, Nelson said.

"I think Detroit exemplifies how diverse our community is and how proud we are of culture," Nelson said. "As the Irish

community, I think it is our responsibility to share this pride with the generations to come. We are proud of our heritage and the hard working people that got us where we are today and that should be passed down."

Nelson said she is most looking forward to being able to

"I have been Irish dancing for over 16 years now, and it has been a major part of my life, taking me all the way to the championship level."

Kaitlin Nelson
sophomore

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represent the United Irish Society at various community events in Detroit and to show Irish pride.

"No matter how tiring the events get, I remind myself how lucky I am to be a part of such a dedicated and hard working culture," Nelson said. "Detroit's Irish history dates back to 1834 and, through all the hardships, exemplifies how strong the Irish are. I am truly proud to be Detroit Irish."

Contact **Alex Winegar** at awineg01@saintmarys.edu

OCEANS, CLIMATE, AND HUMAN HEALTH: The Cholera Paradigm Rita Colwell, Ph.D.

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Rita Colwell, Ph.D.

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Show

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Senior Marissa Vos, director of "Loyal Daughters & Sons," said this year's production aims to link sexual assault prevention with the concept of the Notre Dame community.

"This year we tried to revamp things a bit with the gender relations and gender studies departments. Our tagline this year is 'Is this how you would treat your family?'" Vos said.

"We want to be true to what we always say, that we are a [Notre Dame] family. We can't say that we are a family when people are suffering on campus."

Vos said this year's script includes both old and new monologues from students who have experienced problems with sexual assault or sexuality on campus.

"With all of the increased reporting, students felt like they could just come forward and tell their stories," Vos said. "I'm hopeful that it's something that people are more aware of, because [we] want to create a community where we feel comfortable talking about these kinds of things and [where] we are more active bystanders."

Vos said the increased awareness of sexual assault through freshman orientation activities has garnered an increased awareness and a

greater understanding of the need to report sexual assault.

"We want to be true to what we always say, that we are a [Notre Dame] family. We can't say that we are a family when people are suffering on campus."

Marissa Vos
director
"Loyal Daughters & Sons"

"The way we revamped the [freshman orientation]

education program has made it clear to incoming freshman that reporting [assaults] is essential," Vos said.

She said she is hopeful that this year's show will be a follow up to the many sexual-assault-awareness campaigns on campus and will foster a greater sense of community regarding gender issues and acceptance.

"The purpose of the show is not to blame anyone," Vos said. "The purpose is to come together and make it clear that we want to create a community where we prevent sexual assault and discrimination."

Shelly Chapman, a writer for the show this year, said many of the interviews from

students were left unchanged.

"A lot of the monologues are [a] literal word-for-word of what a person said, and some of the words are so powerful that I felt that they stood on their own," Chapman said. "The purpose is to understand what [the person] wants us to take away from their stories and making that clear."

"It's a show that tries to illustrate these issues in a way that's very creative and helps start a dialogue. I feel that every single member of the Notre Dame community could learn something from this show."

Contact Gabriela Malespin at gmalespi@nd.edu

Dialogue

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

advanced knowledge of

what is going on."

Specifically, Stern described his work with Notre Dame professors Bill Evans

and Joe Sullivan and the Lab for Economic Opportunities at Notre Dame. The lab has a contract with Catholic

Charities that allows it to access valuable antipoverty data, Stern said.

"The human resources

subcommittee took special interest in this research [and] I helped to connect them with [professor] Evans and [professor] Sullivan," Stern said.

Stern said he is also part of a science coalition and a sports coalition in Washington.

"As a representative of a major research university, I work to help the [public relations] aspect of research at Notre Dame and to remind the federal government of the importance of funding science," he said.

As a member of the sports coalition, Stern said he works with the University of Michigan and the NCAA to keep an eye on legislation that affects sports.

Stern described another project that he is working on, which involves a task force in the U.S. Senate that focuses on making universities more efficient in accreditation processes.

In response to one student's question, Stern offered advice for Notre Dame students who are interested in a career in Washington.

"If you are interested in Washington, look at the government, look at the hill, and get an area of expertise that you can call your own, a sort of home base. This will help you in the long run."

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INSIDE COLUMN

Follow your inner child



Aaron Sant-Miller
Sports Writer

When I started to decorate my room at the start of this year, I didn't begin by setting up a TV or covering the wall in posters. I sat down at my computer and ordered glow-in-the-dark stars for my ceiling.

When I was a kid, I had one glow-in-the-dark star in the corner of my bedroom. I remember lying in bed wondering what my room would look like covered in stars. Finally, as a senior in college, I decided to actually find out. In doing so, I started to embrace the kid in me again.

I'm not writing this because I'm a nostalgic senior. I'm writing this because it took me until senior year to figure it out. I spent the first three years of college doing everything I could to position myself for life after college. My eyes were always forward, thinking ahead, considering what the next best step would be.

Finally, I reached that point. Less than a year from graduation, I had an unofficial job offer from the employer of my dreams (or what I thought was the employer of my dreams). The last three years had put me there. Then, with it all finally at my fingertips, I realized I had made a mistake. So, I ordered glow-in-the-dark stars. Then I went back to the drawing board.

I had been ready to move onto the next big thing: a pretty cool corporate job. In doing all of that, I lost sight of part of me. The childhood version of me was naïve in so many ways, but he was also genuine. He knew what he really cared about, regardless of what that meant for his future.

I'm a blind and foolish optimist, who always holds out hope for the ideal. As a kid, I just wanted to make everyone happy and do good things for people. In all honesty, I still wanted that, and my path wasn't going to lead me there.

So did I figure it all out? Do I know where to go with my life? Nope, I've got nothing. That's part of the conundrum. I always had a plan and an answer. When I didn't, I made something up and ran with it.

As a kid, if I didn't have an answer, I said, "I don't know" and accepted it. Sometimes, you have to go back to the drawing board and get to work with only two things. First, you know what you want to do, but, second, you don't know how to do it.

I'm all about staying in touch with one's childhood and never growing up. Oftentimes, that takes the shape of jumping into a shopping cart and riding it through the parking lot. Sometimes, it's going through the carwash simply for fun. Or jumping in leaf piles. Or walking in the snow because the sound of it crunching is cool.

On occasion, I have to dig deeper into what being a child means to me. For me, it's getting back in touch with my irrationally optimistic side. Where does that lead me? I don't know, but it's kind of picking a direction, jumping into a shopping cart in a parking lot and then seeing where you end up.

Contact Aaron Sant-Miller at asantmil@nd.edu

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

My phone and I

Robert Alvarez
Man on a Nag

A couple of weeks ago, I lost my phone. My phone and I are tight. I've had it for the last five years, getting it as a brand new iPhone 3GS my senior year of high school. Back then, America was still adjusting from those prehistoric times when smartphones with touchscreens weren't ubiquitous towards the modern day where everyone has at least one for each hand.

My phone and I have since had many adventures across the world and our relationship has endured many of the travails long-term relationships usually endure.

That is why, when I lost my phone, I was in mourning for all of two seconds until I realized all of the cool new phones I could get with a new contract. Yes, it turns out I wasn't into my phone because of its personality, but for its body only.

I quickly found my phone again, though (the Find My iPhone app online is really cool). Apparently, I left it in a cab the night before. I went and picked my phone up from the cab company's office, and that was that. Yet, because of my brief bout of infidelity with the other phones online, my old phone — despite the fact that I was perfectly happy with it before — lost its

luster. When I gazed upon its LCD touchscreen, I no longer saw it for what it was, but for what it wasn't. I wanted a new phone.

When I realized this fact, I was upset with myself. Why was I so ready to move on from my phone? Did our relationship mean nothing to me? Was it simply a piece of meat I took advantage of for its "benefits" but didn't truly care for?

AT&T seems to think so. With their new "Next" program, I could get a new phone every single year and quite literally create my own smartphone harem. It is consumerism at its finest.

That, however, is the exact reason why I ultimately didn't get a new phone. I'm tired of consumerism. There is nothing inherently wrong with me getting a new phone. It wouldn't cost me a dime and would probably be a lot of fun.

I didn't choose not to get a new phone for the sake of simplicity. I didn't get a new phone because I want to practice simplicity to avoid the consumer mentality. I don't want to view things as only means to an end, or as some variable in a utilitarian equation.

Granted, my phone is a tool and utility is what tools are for, but in my experience I've found this thought process tends to spill over to other evaluations of worth, like with people for instance. Because I

want to avoid this, I decided to keep my old phone as a discipline for living deliberately. There are other good reasons to oppose consumerism, like environmental consequences and sustainability, but this is my reason. I just want to want things for themselves, rather than as pieces of meat.

My phone and I have been back together now for several weeks. At first it was tough for it to forgive me for my infidelity, but eventually it took me back. I must confess, sometimes I am tempted to go back to the AT&T website to ogle over other new phones, or to browse CNET to fantasize what my new phone will be once my current one inevitably meets its demise.

But right now, I'm happy. It makes phone calls, it texts, it checks my emails and fortunately it's been phased out of the most recent iOS update so it doesn't have those horrible new aesthetics. All that's enough for me.

Robert Alvarez is a senior studying in the Program of Liberal Studies. He is living in Zahm House. He welcomes all dialogue on the viewpoints he expresses. He can be reached at ralvare4@nd.edu

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

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'Frozen' and the decline of animation

Ryne Quinlan
Guest Columnist

You've seen it; I've seen it; everyone you talk to raves about Disney's "Frozen", the latest release from Disney Animation Studios. Recently, the Academy of Motion Pictures awarded the Oscar for Best Animated Film to "Frozen", which only adds fuel to the raging fire of hype behind "Frozen", which is ironic. But what is it that makes "Frozen" so popular? Is it the music?

Certainly the music was good too, since the Oscar for Best Original Song was also awarded to "Frozen". Is it the love between the two sisters? Possibly, but that's a hard argument to make since almost every Disney movie is centralized around the theme of love. In my opinion, it's hard to analyze "Frozen" based on its content, since surprisingly, when it comes to meaningful content, it's sufficiently lacking.

"Frozen" follows the story of two sisters who are separated at an early age, because the older sister, Elsa, has magical ice powers that are beautiful but also dangerous. Elsa then spends the majority of her young life alone, locked away in her room to prevent herself from revealing her powers to anyone.

In the end of this film, Elsa learns to let go of her inhibitions about her powers and is proclaimed as queen of her land and her sister spiritually sacrifices herself for Elsa, as a

symbol of familial love. There's a lot more to this film, but you know the story since you have probably seen this movie.

So let's analyze this plot based on praise commonly associated with this movie. "Frozen" teaches women they don't need a man to save them." Alright, this might be true for Elsa, but since she isn't an object of a love plot line, this claim doesn't really apply. Of course she doesn't need a man to save her, it's clear throughout the majority of the film that she doesn't need to be saved at all, she lets go of all her inhibitions.

Her sister Anna, on the other hand, thinks she needs "true love's kiss" to save her from her freezing heart, and instead, her love for her sister saves her, not a man. I'd like to interject that the film doesn't suggest she doesn't need a man, but rather the theme of familial love is more present, and is not gender exclusive.

Besides, the Disney film "Mulan" more than adequately shows the dignity and power of women, who "don't need to be saved by a man."

From what I've gathered then, "Frozen" is a film primarily trying to teach the viewer about familial love and loyalty. Yet, let's take another look at the plot.

Elsa accidentally hurts Anna while playing as a child, and Anna almost dies. After Elsa reveals her powers and flees from her city, she once again hurts her sister and almost kills her, which is the main problem for the remainder of the film.

If anything, "Frozen" fails to develop this theme on the pretense that Anna literally has no reason to love her sister, or even like her for that matter, since they were isolated from each other for years and Elsa does nothing for her sister but hurt her, although unintentionally.

Overall, "Frozen" is a decently entertaining movie. The music is great, the humor is funny and the animation is beautiful, but the meaning is absent.

With Frozen's recent winning of the Academy Award, it is obvious to see the decline in animation and the Academy itself. When the Academy reviewed "Frozen" for the Oscar, what did they see? It's clear to me "Frozen" is mostly a popcorn movie, a movie simply for entertainment rather than meaning.

Unfortunately, this shows animation is not taken seriously as a contender for meaningful themes and lessons, where perhaps it once was. Animation was once the pinnacle of filmmaking, giving artists a way to express themselves both creatively and wholly, bringing to life wonders and imagination that could never be fully realized using live action.

Animation greats such as Walt Disney himself, Pixar Animation or Hayao Miyazaki all realize this potential for animation and have created masterpieces of animation that surpass many great live action films.

Pixar's "Up" had more heart and greater love than most films in the last two decades. Miyazaki, the

legendary animator, who is admittedly a major source of inspiration for Disney animators, created his final film this past year called "The Wind Rises" and it was also nominated along-side "Frozen" for Best Animated feature.

This film, which shows the act of following dreams despite obstacles and adversity, is considered to be among the finest works of Miyazaki's career (which is in fact saying a lot, since his films "Spirited Away" (2001) and "Princess Mononoke" (1999) are considered by many to be the best animated features of all time). It is disappointing to say the least, then, that an entertaining, yet somewhat hollow film such as "Frozen" would win an Academy Award over as meaningful a film as "The Wind Rises".

For anyone who disagrees, do yourself and me a favor. Watch "Frozen" once more and really search for true themes and meaning. Then, go watch "Princess Mononoke", "Spirited Away" or "The Wind Rises", and tell me "Frozen" deserved an Oscar. I think you'll find (much like I have) that animation as a form of true filmmaking and story telling is perhaps a way of the past.

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

Immigration and morality: beyond politics

Hannah Legatzke
Guest Columnist

As Congress continues to debate immigration reform, I find myself increasingly frustrated that the humanitarian issues with illegal immigration are so often overshadowed by a political debate.

While questions about whether illegal immigrants pay taxes, which, incidentally, many do, as suggested by Douglass M. Massey, a sociology and public affairs professor at Princeton, in his article, "Five Myths about Immigration," and whether migrants take jobs that would otherwise have been taken by low-income Americans are legitimate, these concerns pale in comparison to the humanitarian crisis at the border.

Hundreds of migrants die attempting to enter the United States each year. This large number of fatalities is due to the fact that the border wall and border security tend to funnel migration to the most remote and dangerous portions of the desert. In addition to the dangers presented by crossing in the desert, migrants face cartel violence, human trafficking and even abuse by U.S. border patrol agents.

Conceptually, U.S. policy towards illegal immigration has been to heighten the penalties of illegal entry enough to dissuade migrants from crossing the desert. In practice however, these policies of dissuasion serve as a death sentence for hundreds of people a year. Somewhere in designing policy to prevent illegal immigration, we have lost track of the humanity and

dignity of the individuals who, in the face of limited visas and long wait periods for those able to obtain them, make the choice to cross illegally.

Living in the United States, we may not know or understand the social, political or economic reasons people migrate, but we have to live with the reality that people do make that choice.

To continue to turn a blind eye toward the plight of migrants is inconsistent with the rhetoric of "the right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness," upon which this nation was founded, incompatible with Catholic social teaching on human dignity and irreconcilable with the morality underlying our shared humanity.

Migration reform will not be quick nor easy. However, it is a mistake to

allow the complexity of migration to prevent proposed solutions from addressing the moral issues surrounding illegal immigration, such as the methods of dissuading illegal immigration and the treatment of illegal immigrants living in the U.S.

Reform should actively seek to prevent migrant death, end human rights abuses, ensure that those who are about to be deported receive a fair trial and work to prevent the separation of families. This kind of reform should not be a political issue, but one directed at upholding human rights.

Hannah Legatzke is a freshman.

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

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'THE AMERICANS'

BIDS FOR BEST TV DRAMA

By **KEVIN SALAT**
Scene Writer

"True Detective" quickly came and went, a new season of "Mad Men" is still a month away, and now there are shoes to fill for TV's best drama. Thankfully, creators Joe Weisberg and Joel Fields have come to the rescue with their excellent FX series "The Americans." This Cold War drama about KGB spies posing as a married couple flew under the radar in its first season, but the first few episodes of Season 2 prove the show's intent to avoid a sophomore slump and become a 2014 standout.

Keri Russell and Matthew Rhys star as Elizabeth and Philip Jennings, two Soviet KGB officers sent to the States in their early twenties as strangers to live as a married couple and work at a travel agency in the suburbs of northern Virginia. In the pilot, the couple and their unsuspecting children Paige and Henry (the terrific Holly Taylor and Keidrich Sellati) meet their new neighbor Stan Beeman (Noah Emmerich), an FBI agent assigned to take down the KGB.

This premise allows for some very complicated and gripping narratives (and I didn't even mention Nina, Agent Beeman's Soviet mole), but "The Americans" is

ultimately a show about relationships and family. In an interview in Slate, Fields himself has asserted, "at its core [it's] a marriage story. International relations are just an allegory for the human relations. Sometimes, when you're struggling in your marriage or with your kid, it feels like life or death. For Philip and Elizabeth, it often is."

These multi-layered themes make "The Americans" an incredibly smart show, achieving the perfect balance of thrilling spy stories and compelling tension on the home front. As an attestation to the superb character development, viewers are shaped to cheer for Russian spies and American FBI agents simultaneously, a seemingly impossible task that "The Americans" accomplishes skillfully. And as a period piece, it's absolutely dynamite; the use of pop music in particular is effective in capturing the early '80s Reagan-era feel (or so I'm told).

That's not to say that there weren't some bumps in the road in the first season of the show: some of the pacing and use of flashbacks were awkward, it took a while to gain momentum and the writers failed to incorporate Paige and Henry as more than just inconveniences in most cases. However, just as you would hope for any show that transitions from its first season to the second,

"The Americans" played to its strengths and fixed what didn't work.

For instance, the show quickly finds multiple ways to emphasize how important Paige and Henry are to both their parents and the series as a whole. In the premiere of this season, Philip and Elizabeth's comrades get into serious danger on a mission that ends up with them murdered in their hotel room and their only son walking in to see the dead bodies. This is a huge wake-up call for Philip and Elizabeth: as the stakes get higher, they have to protect their children from not only the continuing danger, but also from the truth of who they really are.

All of these ramifications that are coming to a head in this season of "The Americans" make it the most compelling drama of the year thus far. If you were waiting to see if it was a show worth catching up on, let me assure you that the first three episodes of this year alone prove it to be so. History may have already written the end for Philip and Elizabeth, but it's certain to be quite a ride.

Season one of "The Americans" is available for streaming on Amazon Instant, and you can catch new episodes on Wednesday nights at 10 p.m. on FX.

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a LOOK at BLACK TOOK COLLECTIVE

By **CAELIN MILTKO**
Scene Writer

Part of a movement to redefine concepts of race, gender and sexuality through poetry, the Black Took Collective comes to Notre Dame on Wednesday. The Black Took Collective is made up of three notable African-American poets who have been writing and performing together since 1999.

The English department's creative writing program will host the Black Took Collective on Wednesday night at 7:30 p.m. in the Digital Visualization Theater. According to the creative writing program, the Black Took Collective is "a group of Black post-theorists who perform and write in hybrid experimental forms, embracing radical poetics and cutting-edge critical theory about race, gender and sexuality."

The performance will be a combination of poetry reading and multimedia. The Black Took Collective tries to challenge their audience's perception of Black identity through their poetry and the presentation of that poetry.

They challenge both popular conceptions of racial identity as well as conventional poetic standards in regards to stanza, lyric and pattern.

The Black Took Collective is comprised of three members: Duriel E. Harris, Dawn Lundy Martin and Ronaldo V. Wilson.

Harris is an associate professor of English at Illinois State University as well as the author of two print poetry collections and a sound compilation. She is known for her work in both written, aural and visual poetry collections.

Martin works as an associate professor of English in the writing program at the University of Pittsburgh and is known for her poetry collections, most recently "DISCIPLINE" which won the Nightbook Books Poetry Prize and was a finalist for the Los Angeles Times Book Prize and the Lambda Literary Award.

Wilson is a Visiting Assistant Professor of Poetry, Fiction and Literature in the literature department of the University of California, Santa Cruz. He is known for his poetry collections "Narrative of the Life of the Brown Boy and the White Man" and "Poems of the Black Object,"

both of which were awarded literary prizes.

The three founded the Black Took Collective in 1999 while attending Cave Canem, a retreat for African-American poets. In their "Call for Dissonance" in Fence magazine, they wrote that they established the group "to challenge how people think about representation forms of Black identity and the poetics that they engender."

"Experiencing our work, audiences are encouraged to question and interrogate experience, representation, pleasure and agency among other things, to think critically about things we often accept at face value," Harris said.

"Through our work, I hope that audiences are inspired to experiment and explore, to re-envision Black poetry and poetry in general in actuality and potential."

The hope of the Black Took Collective is to redefine stereotypes of Black identity through new media in conjunction with poetry. The performance includes dancing, props and video in conjunction with poetry.

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By **JOHN DARR**
Scene Writer

People are weird. It's not difficult to prove this: just put a bunch of them in a room with loud music and watch their faces. Pretentious non-dancers raising eyebrows, crossing arms as if their ability to have less fun than the average Joe somehow makes them superior. Hesitant, silent bobbers afraid of looking silly and, in the process, looking incredibly silly. And then, happy dancing people, who might be the weirdest of them all. It's as if someone deemed jumping around in a high-school gymnasium the highest accomplishment a young man could hope to achieve.

That seems to be exactly the message Thumpers has in store with their debut "Galore." Most art is usually designed to reveal some sort of truth or display an original idea; it finds the treasures and explores the trenches of the ocean of life. "Galore," however, sails out into the middle of the ocean and just yells "This is a great ocean!" until you believe it. There is no deep or new message in Thumpers' music. It simply wants to get you jumping.

Now, that can sound like a description of pop music in general. But this sentiment is unusually strong in Thumpers' music, especially for what is essentially an indie rock record. Most indie rock is tempered by some sort of weightier message or musical restraint. But Thumpers

brings its stock guitars and heavy drums to the table with no sense of subtlety. The drums are constantly turned up to 11, evoking the band's name with driving, relentless beats throughout the record.

However, they're still very much acoustic — not hip-hop 808's blaring from a speaker, but your brother going ape on the old set in the garage. Similarly, the guitars and synths in the record are given reverb that gives them a spacious, acoustic feel throughout the record, even when they're eardrum-threatening. In this way, Thumpers preserve a rock feel while turning up volume loud enough to compete with electro-pop competitors.

While Thumpers' sound is fresh and exciting, the accompanying songwriting is somewhat behind. "Galore" does succeed immensely when it plays to its strengths. The first half of the record, from "Marvel" to "Come on Strong," is unabashed ear candy complete with accessible song structures and unforgettable hooks. "Sound of Screams" is an especially notable highlight and an early candidate for song of the year, completely with glitchy samples, punching drums and an ecstatic, yet smooth, chorus.

The latter half attempts to turn down the tempo and energy but ends up losing much of what makes Thumpers appealing. "Now We Are Sixteen" is a pretty, but rather unremarkable little ballad, and "The Wilder Wise" barrels

by hook-free, near-epic and very forgettable. Concluding songs "Running Rope" and "Together Now" return to brightness, but the hooks and choruses are simply less compelling. It's as if Thumpers perfected a sound and ended their record with its B-sides.

Thumpers have hit on a fresh sound in a crowded indie-pop scene, and on "Galore," they give us several songs that make the most of it. However, the record as a whole is front-loaded, with the back end boasting rather forgettable material. It will definitely be exciting to see Thumpers develop as a band. It's clear they have the potential to be a big name but they're yet to make an album that demands it.

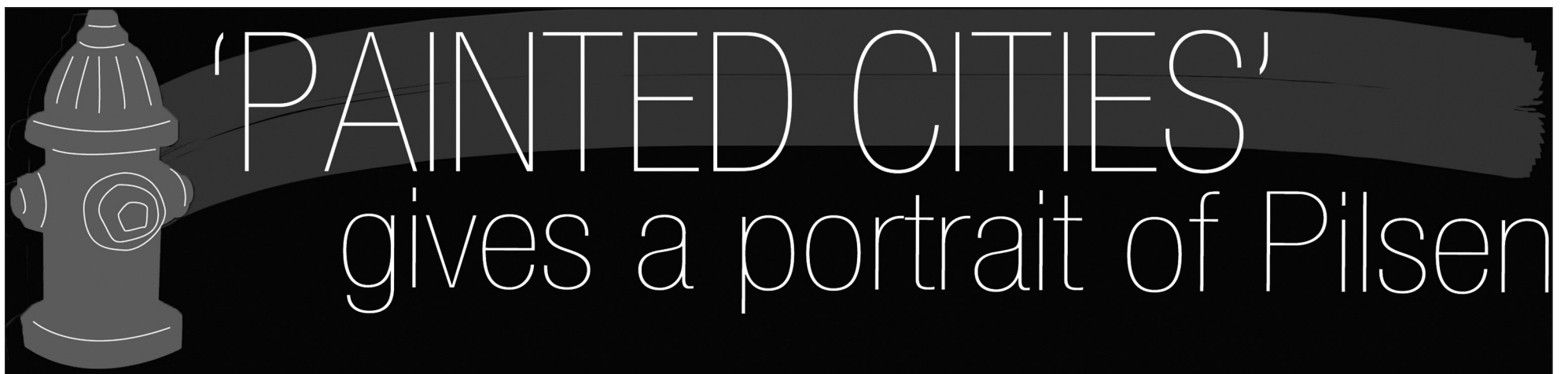
Contact John Darr at jdarr@nd.edu

"Galore" Thumpers

Label: Sub Pop Records

Tracks: "Marvel," "Sound of Screams"

If you like: The Drums, Foster the People, Cults



By **ALLIE TOLLAKEN**
Scene Editor

Saul Bellow's novel "The Adventures of Augie March," opens with its title character narrating, "I am an American, Chicago born — Chicago, that somber city — and go at things as I have taught myself, free-style, and will make the record in my own way: first to knock, first admitted; sometimes an innocent knock, sometimes a not so innocent."

Though Augie March may be a Chicago-born American, his creator, Bellow, is not. Still, Chicago, Bellow's adopted hometown, serves as the vivid and detailed backdrop to his novels. In "Adventures," Augie navigates the streets of his Humboldt Park neighborhood with passages so detailed, you can trace his paths and nearly feel the city air in his words.

Author Alexai Galalviz-Budziszewski, on the other hand, is Chicago born, and his debut book, "Painted Cities," explores life in a Chicago neighborhood just a few miles south of Bellow's. Born and raised in the Chicago neighborhood of Pilsen, Galalviz-Budziszewski has

released a collection of stories that span heartbreaking, funny and beautiful, all while vividly rooted in the history and geography of the south-side neighborhood.

In a recent book reading at the Book Cellar, an independent bookstore in Chicago, Galalviz-Budziszewski spoke with fellow writer Adam Levin about the city and writing "place narratives."

"I don't know if it is because of the way Chicago is just set up, Chicago is a really segregated city ... But I think out of that you come up with people wanted to express isolation, but at the same time, unity within these little pockets," Galalviz-Budziszewski said.

Told through the eyes of Pilsen's residents and looking back on his own experiences growing up in the then-notably-rough neighborhood, Galalviz-Budziszewski shares tales of "ghetto miracles" and gangs, families and apartment fires. He reflects on the innocence of childhood without sugarcoated nostalgia, instead examining an upbringing in Pilsen with brutal honesty and poetic voice.

In the collection of stories, Galalviz-Budziszewski blends autobiography and fiction, telling accounts of weddings, tragedies, childhood adventures and even the

supernatural, all while giving glimpses into the heart of the neighborhood hosting these tales and memories. When asked about whether the book is a memoir, Galalviz-Budziszewski shared that he wanted to explore storytelling and fiction in "Painted Cities," and avoided the memoir title.

"These stories are, on purpose, floating, and I don't want to tie it down," Galalviz-Budziszewski said.

The stories range from short accounts, flashbacks, snapshots and anecdotes that run only a few pages, to longer pieces, including an excellent, fantastical story of a kid who may or may not have the power to bring the dead back to life.

"Painted Cities" is a fantastic collection of pieces that show Galalviz-Budziszewski's talent as a storyteller and master of the place narrative. The only problem with the book is it is too short, and it will leave you wanting more of this author who is sure to join that group of writers, with Bellow and Stuart Dybeck, who tell the stories of Chicago with a combination of grit and beauty.

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SPORTS AUTHORITY

March Madness predictions



Jack Hefferon
Sports Writer

To quote Forrest Gump, "I'm not a smart man."

I came into this school as a naïve math major four years ago (an honors math major, at that), but struggled mightily in the collegiate big leagues. Suffice it to say, the attempts I required to pass Calculus III was an integer greater than one.

So it pained me yesterday to see that on his brand-new, ESPN-backed FiveThirtyEight website, predictive genius Nate Silver named Louisville his favorite to win the NCAA tournament, but estimated that there was an 85 percent chance that his pick was wrong. If that were the case, what kind of odds could a fingers-and-toes-counter like myself possibly have of picking a winner?

Luckily, what I lack in any sort of mathematical prowess, I more than make up for in blind optimism. So here are some 100 percent, sure-fire, suck-it-Nate-Silver predictions about the upcoming NCAA Tournament — the best three weeks in sports:

Shockers' run stops this weekend

Wichita State has put itself on the map by entering the tournament undefeated, making it the first team to do so in over two decades. But the quirkily-named Shockers compiled their record against the lowly Missouri Valley Conference and are now saddled with the toughest road to the Final Four of any No. 1-seed. Analysts have focused mostly on the other foreboding top teams in the region: No. 2 Michigan, No. 3 Duke and No. 4 Louisville. But Wichita State will likely have to get past No. 8-seed Kentucky first, and the Wildcats are coming in off a last-second loss to the top team in the country, Florida. The Shockers have yet to see major conference competition, and I predict their undefeated season will come to an end at the hands of Coach Calipari's Wildcats come Sunday.

Big East left out of Final Four

For decades, the Big East was the deepest conference in the country, and for the last five years it has placed at least one team among the tournament's Final Four teams. However, due to conference realignment, that streak is in jeopardy. No. 2-seed Villanova and No. 3-seed Creighton might have something to say about it, but their runs will come up short on the second weekend of the tournament. And without former members like Louisville and Syracuse, the new-look Big East, a shell of its former self, will be left out in the cold.

Someone will cut down the nets

Shoot guys, maybe Nate Silver had it right: this bracket stuff is hard. I mean, there are 68 teams, 67 games and literally quintillions of permutations of how you might fill out your pool. Florida's looked good, Arizona's played well out West and perennial powerhouses like Michigan State, Duke, Michigan and Louisville are all lurking, as well. Maybe 15 percent is the best anyone can hope to do.

Actually, forget that. Lock it down and bet your life that Virginia will enjoy one shining moment as NCAA Champions. The late-charging Cavaliers have survived a tough ACC schedule and will absolutely, without-a-doubt cut down the nets on April 7. Best of luck with your bracket, I'll be more than happy to share the billion dollars from my perfect bracket with you. Maybe.

Football Predictions: Report Card

Back in August, I made some predictions for the upcoming football season as well. For the sake of clarity and public embarrassment, my results follow.

First off, I told you Jadeveon Clowney would win the Heisman. That was a huge miss, as the South Carolina defensive end was often called into question for his work ethic and effort, and didn't finish in the top 10.

However, the picks weren't entirely a loss. I predicted that Johnny Manziel would emerge from the NCAA's investigation into his suspicious autograph signing and wouldn't miss time, and that Tyrann "Honey Badger" Mathieu would bounce back in the NFL after marijuana problems. Johnny Football was suspended by A&M coach Kevin Sumlin for just the first half of his opener against Rice, and Mathieu had 68 tackles and two interceptions in 13 games before a season ending injury — I'd call those both moderate successes.

And after rushing back from a knee in 2012, I predicted that former rookie-phenom Robert Griffin III would struggle in 2013 and never be the same elite quarterback again. Griffin returned from his injury with almost half as many touchdowns and twice as many turnovers as his standout rookie season, and was inactivated at the end of the year in favor of Kirk Cousins. The jury's still out on RGIII, but this season proved that, at the very least, I can't be wrong all the time.

On the off chance any of these predictions don't work out, feel free to contact Jack Hefferon at jheffer@nd.edu

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

SMC LACROSSE

Belles lose first four games of program history

ANDREW ROBINSON
Sports Writer

The Belles traveled to Memphis, Tenn., on March 9 to begin their inaugural season as a varsity program, and the inexperienced team faced some difficulties, dropping four games on consecutive days to Hendrix, Rhodes, Millsaps and Defiance.

Saint Mary's (0-4) fell behind 3-0 in its debut matchup against Hendrix (4-5, 1-2 SAA), but freshman midfielder Aubrey Golembieski found the back of the net 10 minutes into the game for the team's first-ever goal to cut the lead to 3-1.

However, the Warrior offense proved too much for the Belles to handle and by halftime the lead was 13-1. The game ended in a lopsided 18-2 loss for Saint Mary's. Belles' coach Amy Long cited the team's lack of outdoor practices as a major obstacle to start the season.

"Our first game was the first time we were on a field all winter," she said. "There will always be challenges ... [such as] getting spacing down on the large lacrosse field when the team is used

to a gym."

The Belles faced Rhodes (5-2, 1-2 SAA) the following day and again found themselves in an early hole, trailing 9-0 after the first 20 minutes. A goal by sophomore defender Sarah Neeser was the lone tally for the Belles in a 13-1 first half.

The second half was a major improvement for the Belles. Although they lost 19-4, they cut their 15 first-half turnovers to six and were outscored by a narrower 6-3 margin in the second half. Long said she was impressed with how her team battled back after falling behind.

"Our team persevered ... and continued to work hard each game," she said. "We played better in the second half and our stats show that."

The Belles, who played without subs because of their limited roster, had their endurance tested as the week wore on, Long said.

They again fell behind early in an eventual 17-4 loss to Millsaps (2-3, 1-1 SAA), but they showed improvement with 17 shots and 11 of 14 successful clearances in the game. Golembieski and sophomore attack Tess Guerrero each contributed two goals for the

Belles.

Saint Mary's continued to show development in its final game against Defiance (1-3), in which early goals by freshman midfielder Cathy Baxter and freshman defender Jackie Loesch gave the Belles a 2-0 lead midway through the first half. A flurry of goals by the Yellow Jackets put them up 4-3 at halftime, however, and the game ended 9-5 in favor of Defiance to conclude the Belles' winless trip.

"Our first four games were definitely a learning experience," Long said. "We improved each game, and the coaching staff was very impressed with the change from the first game to the fourth game of the week."

Saint Mary's had 49 unforced turnovers, picked up just 19 ground balls and had 58 shots while allowing 120, all problems which Long said she hopes to address in the upcoming practices. Golembieski netted six goals on 18 shots for the week.

The Belles' next game will be Thursday at 4:30 p.m. at Aurora.

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NCAA WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

UConn eyes ninth title

Associated Press

Geno Auriemma and his UConn Huskies have run through their opponents all season.

Few teams have been able to challenge the Hall of Fame coach and the Huskies, who have gone 34-0 while winning by an average of 36 points.

But now is when it matters. Auriemma has always considered a season's success on winning championships, instilling that in his teams. Six more victories would cap off another perfect season and give the Huskies a record ninth NCAA championship.

"We know what we want to do," UConn sophomore star Breanna Stewart said. "We

know that this is the best time for basketball and it's the most important time for basketball, but we keep it to ourself most of the time."

For that to happen, Stewart and the Huskies may have to beat longtime rival Notre Dame. The Irish also finished the regular season unbeaten and have felt almost unappreciated with most of the talk centered on the Huskies despite being the 13th women's team to go undefeated in the regular season.

"I like it because we can get a chip on our shoulder and head into the tournament with a bit of chip," she said.

Even though UConn and Notre Dame didn't play this season, the two teams know plenty about each other

having met 12 times over the previous three seasons. Notre Dame isn't intimidated by Connecticut; the Irish have won seven of the past nine meetings with the Huskies.

"It was very unusual to go through a whole season without playing them, we're so used to it, three times every year," McGraw said. "We've gotten pretty good at beating them the last couple of years."

Before the potential meeting of unbeaten, the two might have to go through SEC powers Tennessee and South Carolina, who also earned No. 1 seeds. While it's the 22nd time that the Lady Vols have earned a top spot, it's the first for the Gamecocks.

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"Champions aren't made in the gym, Champions are made from something they have deep inside them - a desire, a dream, a vision." - Muhammad Ali

WOMEN'S ROWING | OAK RIDGE CARDINAL INVITATIONAL

Irish row to fast season start at Invitational

Observer Staff Report

Notre Dame took to the water and had a strong showing in its first event of the season at the Oak Ridge Cardinal Invitational this past weekend.

The Irish swept West Virginia, would split their six races with Louisville, and scored three event

victories against Duke over the two-day event.

Notre Dame's first varsity eight captured a victory in its opening race Saturday morning, clocking in at 6:31.70, ahead of Louisville (6:39.64) and West Virginia (7:03.14).

The second varsity eight secured another victory for the Irish in the

second Notre Dame event of the day. Their time of 6:37.70 just edged those of the Cardinals (6:41.52) and Mountaineers (7:15.99).

Notre Dame's first varsity four finished at 7:22.10 in its first action of the season, handily beating Louisville (7:34.64) and West Virginia (8:00.48).

The victory streak for the Irish would be broken at three, as Louisville would capture victories in the second varsity four and third varsity four.

Notre Dame would receive strong performances from both the first varsity eight and first varsity four, as both teams came in second behind Virginia in afternoon races.

The Irish took three straight races against the Blue Devils on Sunday.

Under the steady guidance of senior coxswain Christina Dines, the first varsity eight scored a blistering time of 6:40.50, as Notre Dame defeated the second-place Blue Devils by almost 10 seconds (6:50.13).



GRANT TOBIN | The Observer

Junior Ailish Sheehan, along with the first varsity eight, rows at the Oak Ridge Invitational on March 16 against Duke.

The second eight took a victory in 6:48.70 over the Blue Devils (7:02.95) as well.

Notre Dame's last victory Sunday came from its first varsity four.

Under the watch of their steady coxswain, junior Mikaela Prego,

the first varsity four clocked in a time of 7:31.70, ahead of second-place finisher Duke's time of 7:57.50 by almost thirty seconds.

The Irish next race at the Lake Natoma Invitational, which will begin on April 12 in Folsom, Calif.

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SMC SOFTBALL | GENE CUSIC CLASSIC

Belles win four in a row

Observer Staff Report

Over spring break, Saint Mary's

began its season by capturing wins in six out of 10 contests in the Gene Cusic Classic in Cape Coral, Fla. The Belles (6-4) started the Classic by losing four of their first six matchups, but finished with four straight wins while allowing just four runs and scoring 28 of their own.

Belles sophomore first baseman Jillian Busfield, sophomore third baseman Kayla Chapman, freshman shortstop Caitlyn Migawa and senior pitcher Callie Selner led Saint Mary's offensively.

The four Belles hit a combined batting average of .385 and delivered 16 RBIs.

Selner finished the week with five doubles and five RBIs while Busfield hit three doubles and had seven RBIs, including Saint Mary's only home run of the games.

Selner had success from the mound, as well. In six appearances on the rubber, Selner won four of her five starts while posting a 1.98 ERA and 47 strikeouts,

Selner's strikeout total currently ranks third in the MIAA conference.

Moreover, Selner won the 40th game of her career, ranking her first overall in the program history.

The Belles also got a strong performance from sophomore pitcher Sarah Burke, who won two of her five starts and struck out 45 batters.

The Belles most lopsided victory of the trip came in a 13-1 win against Wentworth Institute on March 12. The Belles followed up that victory by unleashing an offensive attack against their next three opponents, winning 8-0 against Bethany Lutheran on the same day, and 3-0 against Wooster and 4-3 against Curry on Thursday.

Sitting in the third spot in the MIAA conference standings, the Belles trail Trine University (10-1) and Olivet College (10-1).

Saint Mary's will play its home opener against Wheaton on Saturday at the Saint Mary's College softball field at 1 p.m.

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SMC TENNIS

Belles win three of four in Orlando

By **ALEX CARSON**
Sports Writer

The Belles headed south looking to break some early-season woes and came away with three wins in four tries last week in Orlando, Fla.

Saint Mary's (4-3) entered the spring break trip coming off consecutive losses to Ohio Northern and Aquinas but righted the ship with victories over Cornell (Iowa), St. Scholastica and Illinois Wesleyan.

The Belles got off to a hot start in the opening match March 9 with a 9-0 sweep of Cornell (6-14, 3-2 MWC). Saint Mary's coach Dale Campbell said the effort against the Rams was a result of the team's improvement over the course of the season.

"It was nice to have a team win," Campbell said. "We have improved, so it was nice to get a reward for that."

The Belles followed the week's first win up with a second March 10 when they took down St. Scholastica (7-5), 7-2. The Saints won the No. 2 singles and the No.

2 doubles, but the Belles were able to secure the victory with wins at every other position.

Saint Mary's suffered its only loss of the trip March 12 when it dropped a 9-0 decision to Wheaton (Ill.) (11-4, 5-1 CCIW). While the Thunder might have swept all the flights, they did not do so comfortably, with two doubles matches being decided by a single break and three singles matches being decided by a tiebreaker.

"We found [dropping each close flight] frustrating and that we had opportunities again in doubles," Campbell said. "I don't think it is anything magical, just that we are making too many mistakes and not being assertive enough in the net positions."

Saint Mary's returned home on a high note after picking

up a 7-2 triumph over Illinois Wesleyan (2-11, 2-4 CCIW). The Belles led 2-1 after the doubles matches and carried the momentum forward to pick up five of the six singles flights.

Prior to the trip, the Belles switched up their lineup as junior Jackie Kjolhede and sophomore Andrea Fetters moved up one spot each, to the No. 3 and No. 5 singles, respectively.

"[Kjolhede and Fetters] have played real well in practice lately so they were deserving of trying a higher level," Campbell said. "I think it has an impact any time players push higher up into the lineup. You hope that all players keep working hard, but sometimes a player is going to be confident and make an upward move."

The Belles are back in

action Sunday when they travel to Battle Creek, Mich., to take on Olivet in their opening Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic

Association match of the season.

Contact Alex Carson at acarson1@nd.edu

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MEN'S SWIMMING

Coumos qualifies for national championships

Observer Staff Report

Notre Dame will send four representatives to next week's NCAA national championships to be held March 27-29 at the Lee and Joe Jamail Texas Swimming Center in Austin, Texas. Over the weekend, Irish freshman diver Joe Coumos earned a

bid to the event by participating in the NCAA Zone Diving Qualifier, joining swimmers senior Frank Dyer, junior Zach Stephens and junior John Williamson.

Dyer, a two-time All-American, will become the first four-time participant in the National Championships in Irish swimming history.

He will swim the 500-yard freestyle, the 200-yard freestyle and the 100-yard freestyle for Notre Dame at the event.

Joining Dyer in the 500-yard freestyle will be fellow All-American Williamson. He is also slated to swim the 100-yard and 200-yard butterfly events. He earned automatic

qualifying times in his 200-yard butterfly event, with a time of 1:43:09, and received invitations for his other events from the selection committee.

Rounding out the individual entrants is Stephens, another All-American, who will swim the 200-yard individual medley, the 100-yard breaststroke and the 200-yard breaststroke. Stephens will return to competition after sweeping both the 100-yard and 200-yard breaststroke events in the ACC Championships. His 52:59 mark in the 100-yard breaststroke set a new ACC record the event.

On the diving boards, Coumos qualified for the NCAA Championships this past weekend at the NCAA Zone C Diving Championships. He finished the weekend in third place with 683.20 points, just two points shy of first place.

Coumos' top performance was his third-place finish in the 1-meter dive event. He will be the first Notre Dame diver to participate in the national championships since 2008. Irish junior

diver Nick Nemetz narrowly missed qualifying for the national championships with a seventh-place finish in the 1-meter dive, scoring 611.0. Nemetz finished 18th in the qualification rankings, one spot outside the automatic qualifiers.

Along with its individual qualifiers, Notre Dame is also eligible to send relay participants to competition next week. Their 200-yard and 400-yard medley relay teams and their 200-yard, 400-yard and 800-yard freestyle relay teams have all earned national championships invitations.

Swimmers for the Irish relay teams can be drawn from their individual qualifiers as well as four relay-only participants.

Notre Dame will enter the national championships just more than four weeks after their last competition, their inaugural ACC Championships performance, held Feb. 26-March 1 in Greensboro, N.C. The four-day event saw 15 Notre Dame records fall, three individual victories and one runner-up finish.

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SMC GOLF | SMSU INVITATIONAL

Belles place fifth in spring opener

Observer Staff Report

In the first action of the spring season, the Belles finished in fifth place at the SMSU Invitational at LPGA International in Daytona Beach, Fla. Saint Mary's sat in

sixth place Thursday after turning in a team score of 372, but moved up a spot in the final standings Friday with a 28-stroke improvement, scoring 344.

Saint Mary's was the lone Div-III squad competing in the invitational against Div-II programs. Two Belles finished in the top 25 individually at the event. Senior co-captain Alexi Bown, the winner of the MIAA sportsmanship award in the fall, scored an 89 on her first day and an 87 on her second day to finish in 15th place with an overall score of 176, and the other senior co-captain, Paige Pollak, tied for 17th by scoring a combined 177 in the event.

All of Saint Mary's eligible golfers in the SMSU Invitational improved on day two from their first-round scores on day one.

In addition to the team-play portion of the event, which took into account the four highest scores of the five eligible golfers, freshman Courtney Carlson and sophomore Katie Zielinski competed in the SMSU Invitational for the Belles as individuals. Carlson finished in 24th with a total score of 181 on both days and Zielinski finished in 34th place with a final score of 205.

The Belles will next tee off at the Saint Joseph Spring Invitational at Sandy Pines Golf Course in DeMotte, Ind., on March 28-29.

Baseball

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

game.”

Junior left-hander Robert Youngdahl started for Notre Dame and walked two batters and struck out one in two innings of work while allowing no hits.

“We need to get Robert Youngdahl going,” Aoki said. “Robert’s just too talented a kid to languish on our bench so hopefully we can get him going. I thought he showed signs of being a little bit more in the strike zone, a little bit more impressive in the strike zone.”

Junior right-hander Matt Ternowchek (1-0) earned the win by throwing three innings of one-hit ball and striking out three.

Irish senior right-hander Donnie Hissa, sophomore right-hander Joey Cresta and junior right-hander Christian Torres yielded just one hit in the final four innings to secure the shut-out. Torres finished the game in the ninth after surrendering a walk-off walk in his last outing Friday against Duke.

None of the Irish pitchers threw more than three innings or more than 41 pitches.

“I think we wanted to make sure we were getting some guys the work that they need,” Aoki said. “You don’t want to have them go too, too long in between outings.”

Fiala extended his hit streak to 11 games with a

1-for-2 night at the plate. Since entering the starting lineup against Santa Clara in the Irish Baseball Classic, Fiala has failed to get a hit in just three of Notre Dame’s 16 games.

Freshman right-hander Joey Gajda (0-1) took the loss for Robert Morris while junior left fielder Clayton Johannes and junior second baseman Andrew Sebastian each had a hit for the Eagles.

Tuesday’s game was originally scheduled to be played at Notre Dame but was moved to Cougar Stadium due to the installation of FieldTurf at Frank Eck Stadium.

“It’s a nice new artificial surface and they’ve done a nice job with it. ... It was great and we’re certainly

thankful to them that they’ve gracious enough to open up their brand new stadium to us.”

The Irish had moved all games from Frank Eck Stadium until their series with Clemson from May 9-11.

Notre Dame will try to

earn its first ACC win when it hosts Virginia Tech this weekend. Friday’s game will be at Four Winds Field in South Bend while the other two games will be at the U.S. Steel Yard in Gary, Ind.

Contact Matthew DeFranks at mdefrank@nd.edu

WTennis

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

doubles point in every one. Against the Seminoles, the first doubles team of senior Sanders and junior Quinn Gleason earned an 8-6 victory and Kellner and Sabacinski clinched the doubles point with an 8-5 win in the second spot, while Robinson and Fennelly’s match went unfinished. The same Irish duos would provide the victories for the doubles point against the College of Charleston on March 11 with Sanders/Gleason and Kellner/Sabacinski getting it done against the Eagles on Saturday.

In its battle with the Seminoles, Notre Dame dropped only one point en route to a 6-1 victory, with Gleason once again clinching a match, coming back from a first-set loss to earn a 2-6, 6-2, 6-1 win. Kellner,

Robinson, Closs and Vrabel also earned singles victories for the Irish.

“We played very well,” said Louderback of the win over the Seminoles. “[Florida State] has been good this year.”

The Irish took a quick break from ACC play to take a trip to South Carolina in a non-conference match against the College of Charleston. As they cruised to a 7-0 win, the team also gained important experience playing outdoors again.

“Right now weather looks like we’ll be outside for most of our trips south for the rest of the year,” said Louderback, with his team practicing behind him during a 50-degree South Bend afternoon. “We’ve got to get out.”

In Boston on Saturday, the Irish capitalized on their early advantage from the doubles win to fight

and claw their way to a 6-1 win over the Eagles. Although the score ended up lopsided, all but one singles match went to three sets. Sanders epitomized the fight displayed all day by the Irish, coming from a set down to win, 5-7, 6-2, 6-2.

“We played really well last weekend,” said Louderback. “We knew it was going to a close match. ... Sanders came back and ended up clinching the match for us. We ended up 6-1, but it was definitely closer than that.”

The Irish will look to continue their winning ways on their last big road trip for a while, but ACC play does not get any easier for them this weekend. Notre Dame travels to No. 5 Virginia on Friday and then No. 6 North Carolina on Sunday.

Contact Zach Klonsinski at zklonsin@nd.edu

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BASEBALL | ND 3, ROBERT MORRIS 0

Feeling right at home

Team snaps losing streak with shutout over Robert Morris in Chicago

By **MATTHEW DeFRANKS**
Senior Sports Writer

Notre Dame snapped a three-game losing streak with a 3-0 win over Robert Morris at Chicago State's Cougar Stadium on Tuesday night.

"It was important for our guys to go out there and to play fairly well and come up with a good result to start feeling a little better about ourselves," Irish coach Mik Aoki said.

The Irish (7-12, 0-6 ACC) scored three runs in the third inning and used five

pitchers to limit the Eagles (7-5) to just two hits.

In the third, Irish junior right fielder Mac Hudgins led off with an infield single before sophomore center fielder Kyle Richardson moved him to second with a sacrifice bunt. Sophomore left fielder Zak Kutsulis reached on another infield single before freshman third baseman Kyle Fiala ripped an RBI single.

Freshman second baseman Cavan Biggio drove in Kutsulis with a sacrifice fly and junior designated hitter Blaise Lezynski brought in



ALLY DARRAGH | The Observer

Irish junior outfielder Conor Biggio slides into home during Notre Dame's 5-1 home victory over Quinnipiac on April 21 last season.

Fiala with single.

"You've got to be able to situationally hit and we

were able to do that," Aoki

said. "To be able to hit situationally and to be able to

get two-out RBIs is a pretty critical component of this

see BASEBALL PAGE 14

ND WOMEN'S TENNIS

ND wins three of four over break

By **ZACH KLONSINSKI**
Sports Writer

While most students were taking full advantage of spring break, the Irish were still swinging away, as the team played four matches over break. After dropping a hard-fought match to No. 15 Clemson on March 7, the Irish (8-6, 2-4 ACC) earned their first ever ACC win, defeating No. 25 Florida State on March 9 at the Eck Tennis Pavilion. Notre Dame continued the momentum over the break, going on a three-game winning streak with victories on the road over the College of Charleston and Boston College.

Although the team fell 5-2 to Clemson, Irish sophomore Julie Vrabel and seniors Jennifer Kellner and Brittany Sanders all lost in three-set matches. Both seniors got their matches to a tiebreaker in their respective third sets but could not come out on top.

"The kids have been fighting hard," Irish coach Jay Louderback said. "[Clemson] has been up in the top 10 at times this year."

Notre Dame did have two bright spots on the day,

as freshmen Mary Closs and Monica Robinson came away victorious in their singles matches. Closs defeated sophomore Yuilynn Maio, 6-2, 6-3, and Robinson, with her parents in the stands, came from behind to defeat Tigers sophomore Tristen Dewar, 3-6, 7-6(5), 6-4.

Early in the year, the Irish were able to win a number of doubles points that proved important in close victories, but since ACC play started, they had failed to win a single doubles point. The lack of production led Louderback to switch up the doubles teams, pairing seniors Kellner and Julie Sabacinski and freshmen Robinson and Jane Fennelly at the two and three positions, respectively.

"The biggest factor with us right now is our doubles is getting better," said Louderback. "We've got good combinations right now. They've played well, which really helps us if we can go up 1-0 into the singles."

The shake-up worked for the Irish and during the remaining three matches of break, they earned the

see WTENNIS PAGE 14

ND WOMEN'S LACROSSE

Irish prepare to host Golden Eagles



ZACH LLORENS | The Observer

Irish sophomore attacker Rachel Sexton, 5, carries the ball during Notre Dame's 19-7 home win over Michigan in exhibition play Feb. 8.

Observer Staff Report

No. 6 Notre Dame will host Marquette tonight at Arlotta Stadium in a battle of former Big East foes.

The Irish (6-3, 1-3 ACC) are coming off a 16-10 loss to Maryland on Saturday but have yet to lose to an opponent from outside the ACC this season. Behind leading scorers freshman midfielder Cortney Fortunato and sophomore

attacker Rachel Sexton, Notre Dame has won four of its last five contests. Fortunato leads the Irish with 24 goals on the season, while junior midfielder Caitlin Gargan's eight assists also pace the squad.

Meanwhile, the Golden Eagles (3-4) come to South Bend off a 15-6 loss against Harvard on Saturday, despite two goals from sophomore attacker Claire Costanza. Costanza and leading scorer

freshman attacker Amanda Bochiak, who has a total of 18 points on the season, will be taking aim at first-year Irish starter junior Allie Murray. Meanwhile, the Golden Eagles start sophomore Sarah Priem in goal, where she has a .320 save percentage this season.

The Irish and Marquette will face off at 6 p.m. at Arlotta Stadium, with both teams attempting to get back in the win column.

YESTERDAY'S SCOREBOARD

Baseball vs. Robert Morris

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