

Students attend White Privilege Conference

University seminar course takes scholars to Louisville, Kentucky, to explore race relations

By **SELENA PONIO**
News Writer

Notre Dame students in the White Privilege Seminar, An Introduction to the Intersections of Privilege, examined oppression and privilege at the White Privilege Conference (WPC) in Louisville, Kentucky, on March 11-14.

According to its website, WPC is committed to “understanding, respecting and connecting.” The conference — which held more than 1,500 attendees this year — seeks to confront issues beyond skin color and invite different perspectives regarding the issues of

privilege, the website said.

“I think that I wasn’t there to necessarily learn but more so to absorb and understand,” sophomore Marlen Grussi said. “I feel like more than going to learn facts, I was able to become more aware of other people’s experiences and feel more sensitive to those experiences.”

Grussi said she realized during the conference that every person plays a role in privilege and are often unaware of the injustices they may perpetuate.

“The conference itself really did allow all of us to lean into discomfort by

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16th Annual White Privilege Conference

March 11-14 2015 Louisville, KY

Promotes:

- collaboration
- consciousness-building of privilege and oppression
- challenging and supportive environments

Conference Mission:

Strive to empower and equip individuals to work for equity and justice through self and social transformation

EMILY DANAHER | The Observer

Report examines print quota

By **GABRIELA MALESPIN**
News Writer

Notre Dame’s Office of Information Technology (OIT), in conjunction with student government, released their Fall 2014 PrintND Report that highlights some of the key data on student printing in light of the printing quota controversy presented last semester.

According to the report,

90 percent of undergraduates print fewer than 1,000 pages per semester and 90 percent of graduate students print fewer than 1,500 pages without need for additional quota.

Junior Shuyang Li, student government’s director of campus technology, said findings were based on data that OIT collected from the printing systems on campus and reflects the information OIT has recollected from

student printing and printer usage on campus.

“At the beginning of this semester, we had a meeting with OIT to review printing metrics from last semester, and OIT provided us with all the data that came into the report,” Li said.

Li said student government attempted to monitor the new system throughout the past semester and has been

see QUOTA **PAGE 3**

Program partners alumni, nonprofits

By **MATTHEW MCKENNA**
News Writer

Notre Dame Impact Partners, a program run by the Mendoza College of Business’s Graduate Alumni Relations Program, pairs Notre Dame alumni who have experience in business with nonprofit organizations in the Chicago area. The alumni then use their expertise to tackle projects that range from nonprofit outreach to assistance in mergers, director of Notre Dame Impact Partners Timothy Ponisciak said.

Ponisciak said the program began a year ago when the Graduate Alumni Relations realized it offers many networking and career development opportunities to alumni but does not offer many community service opportunities.

“The Office of Graduate Alumni Relations manages the program with the goal of offering a community service activity to our alumni that allows them to utilize the business skills they gained while at Mendoza in order to assist

a nonprofit organization with tackling an organizational challenge that perhaps it would not typically have the resources and funds to handle,” Ponisciak said.

“Last year we had three projects completed for three different nonprofits,” he said. “This year, we will have four different projects for three nonprofits, as we are coordinating two projects with Catholic Charities.”

Many students choose to study at the College because of its emphasis on service, Ponisciak said. He said Notre Dame Impact Partners seeks to continue this emphasis.

“There are a number of opportunities for students to leverage their business skills while in school in order to benefit their community,” Ponisciak said. “We wanted our graduates to continue to have opportunities to do this after school.”

Alumni who participate in the program find it very rewarding — both personally and professionally, Ponisciak

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SMC to raise tuition cost

By **HALEIGH EHMSSEN**
Saint Mary’s Editor

Saint Mary’s College tuition will raise 3.9 percent for the upcoming 2015-16 academic year, according to a press release from Tuesday.

Tuition and fees will be set at \$37,400 and room and board will be \$11,320, making the cost to live on campus and attend Saint Mary’s College \$48,720, the release said.

Vice President of Finance and Administration Susan Bolt said tuition, room, board and other fees make up 78 percent of Saint

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SMC RAISES TUITION 3.9 PERCENT

\$ 37,400 tuition and fees
\$ 11,320 board
\$ 48,720 total to live on campus and attend the College.

This contributes to 78% of the College's total revenue.

EMILY DANAHER | The Observer



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THE OBSERVER

ndsmcobserver.com

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Questions regarding Observer policies should be directed to Editor-in-Chief Greg Hadley.

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QUESTION OF THE DAY:

Have a question you want answered?

Email photo@ndsmcobserver.com

What did you do to celebrate St. Patrick's Day?



Tim Moriarty

sophomore
Zahm House

"Going to the gym."



Mike Catalano

freshman
Zahm House

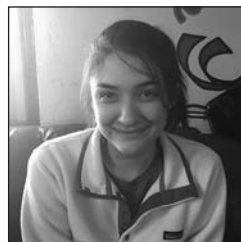
"Going bar-down."



Theresa Sagartz

sophomore
Pangborn Hall

"I wore everything green."



Clarissa Schwab

junior
Farley Hall

"Just relaxing!"



Ryan Brickner

freshman
Zahm House

"Taking a test."



Brian Kennedy

freshman
Zahm House

"Absolutely nothing."



EMILY McCONVILLE | The Observer

Residents of Cavanaugh Hall read from "Thanking Father Ted," a book commemorating Fr. Hesburgh's role in making Notre Dame a coeducational institution, after viewing the live stream of his wake service March 3.

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

THE NEXT FIVE DAYS:

Want your event included here?

Email news@ndsmcobserver.com

Wednesday

Baseball

Frank Eck Stadium
6:05 p.m. - 8:05 p.m.
The Irish take on
Central Michigan.

Film: "Sewing Hope"

DeBartolo Performing
Arts Center
8:30 p.m. - 10:30 p.m.
Film about Ugandan
school.

Thursday

Mindful Meditation

Coleman-Morse
Center
5:15 p.m. - 6:15 p.m.
Open to students,
faculty and staff.

"Loyal Daughters and Sons"

Hesburgh Library
7:30 p.m. - 9 p.m.
Student-produced
production.

Friday

Men's Tennis

Eck Tennis Pavillion
3:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.
The Irish take on
Virginia.

Graduate Student Mass

Basilica of the Sacred
Heart
5:15 p.m. - 6:15 p.m.
Worship service.

Saturday

Women's Lacrosse

Arlotta Stadium
12 p.m. - 2 p.m.
The Irish take on Ohio
State.

Saturday Vigil Mass

Basilica of the Sacred
Heart
5 p.m. - 6 p.m.
Worship service.

Sunday

Softball

Melissa Cook Stadium
12 p.m. - 2 p.m.
The Irish take on
Georgia Tech.

Film: "Selma"

DeBartolo Performing
Arts Center
3:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.
Film about 1965 Civil
Rights March.

SMC to implement home recipe program

By **MARTHA REILLY**
News Writer

Instead of complaining for a weekend away or a good night's sleep at home, students can now cure homesickness with a simple trip to the dining hall. Saint Mary's new "Recipes from Home" initiative will introduce some students' favorite foods to the rest of the school, as the dining hall will now serve a different requested meal each month.

Senior Mary Kate Luft presented this idea to Barry Bowles, director of dining services, last year (*Editor's note: Mary Kate Luft is a copy editor for the Viewpoint section of The Observer*).

"He was more than happy

to work with SGA and make these special meals of our choosing," Luft said. "I'm excited to show students that dining services does take their opinions and wants into account when choosing what to serve."

According to Luft, the reaction so far has been positive.

"Many people have come up to me and told me they are looking forward to 'Recipes from Home,'" Luft said. "They think it's a great idea. Many people have already submitted recipes."

First-year Morgan Matthews said she looks forward to trying foods she normally would not. Although she hopes that her dad's seafood medley will be one of the featured "Recipes from

Home," she also recognizes the value of experiencing other people's favorite meals.

"I was so excited when I first heard about 'Recipes from Home,'" Matthews said. "There will be such a wide variety of foods presented. Everyone will get to try something new. A girl can only have so many hamburgers."

Matthews said "Recipes from Home" will make her feel like she's at her own dining room table back in Pennsylvania, but she mostly looks forward to the surprise element, since there is a new meal each month.

"I'm not going to know what to expect," Matthews said. "It'll add some excitement because it's more of a mystery."

Matthews also said she appreciates the effort that the dining hall staff has invested to make this new initiative a success.

"By asking us our opinion, they are incorporating

the views and opinions of the student body," Matthews said. "They are serving the exact meals that we ask for and trying to make us feel comfortable."

According to Luft, that is

"By asking us our opinion, they are incorporating the views and opinions of the student body. They are serving the exact meals taht we ask for and trying to make us feel comfortable."

Morgan Matthews
freshman

the whole purpose of this new approach.

"Part of being a college student is complaining about the dining hall food, because it can't compare to

what we have at home," Luft said. "Barry Bowles and I will choose the recipe of the month based on the viability of it to be prepared in the dining hall and what we think students would most enjoy."

"The best part of 'Recipes from Home' is that students can have meals similar to what they eat at home, which hopefully will make them happy," she said.

With some of students favorite foods made available, Luft hopes that students realize that the dining hall prioritizes their individual requests.

"Recipes from Home' will personalize the dining hall for students by giving them more of a say in the food that is served, which will hopefully provide them with a more positive and interactive experience in the dining hall," Luft said.

Contact Martha Reilly at
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Quota

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

in constant communication regarding the print quota changes with campus technology throughout the year.

"At the beginning of last semester, student government and senate formed a five-student team to get involved with and monitor the new printing system," Li said. "We had monthly meetings with OIT as well as internal meetings to discuss what was good and not so good with the new printing system and to see how much students were using the new system."

The new print quota system was implemented last semester in response to the financial deficit OIT faced

"At the beginning of last semester, student government and senate formed a five-student team to get involved with and monitor the new printing system. We had monthly meetings to discuss what was good and not so good with the new printing system and to see how much students were using the new system."

Shuyang Li
junior

student government director of campus technology

with student printing, which totaled to more than \$80,000. Li said OIT is still managing other changes in the new printing systems including the streamlining of the printing queues across campus, the transition towards the point system, issues with one-sided and double-sided printing and quota rollover across semesters.

of the price raise for one-sided printing. While OIT initially implemented an increase in one-sided printing as opposed to double-sided printing, student government negotiated a return to equal pricing in one sided and double sided printing, Li said.

"We thought [the change in price for single-sided

PRINTING QUOTA CHANGES

POINTS PER SEMESTER:
Undergraduates: 1,000
Grad Students: 3,500
Law Students: 4,250



COSTS:

Black-and-White	(One- or two-sided)	2 Points
Color	(One- or two-sided)	12 Points

EMILY DANAHER | The Observer

Li said student government's frequent communication with OIT addressed changes to the new quota system, such as the issues

printing] would be bad for students and had several discussions with OIT and pushed to change it back to the same [system]," Li said.

Li acknowledged that although the Print ND Report indicated lower printing quota usage, members of student senate expressed their constituents' complaints about the the quota's relatively lowered limit and the elimination of rollover print quota from year to year.

"There were three senators on the team who went out to their dorms heard other opinions as well," Li said. "We heard a lot of student opinions that weren't satisfied with the new system."

Li said OIT has not indicated to student government officials that any additional changes will be made to the print quota system.

"I'm trying to make sure that everything we communicate to students at this point is accurate," Li said.

Contact Gabriela Malespin at
gmalespi@nd.edu

Tuition

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Mary's College revenue.

Bolt said campus costs rise each year in various areas, from wireless coverage to the salary of professors.

There have been no major structural changes within the College to increase the cost to attend Saint Mary's, Bolt said. She said the College tries to keep prices as low as possible for students to get the best education and experience possible.

"Saint Mary's is a very small, intimate campus in terms of class size and services provided to students," Bolt said. "A little over 60 percent of our expenses are people, and although I don't believe Saint Mary's has given any outrageous raises, we must give raises to continue to build our community.

"We have to charge students more so that the faculty are supported. The type of education Saint Mary's provides needs people to provide it here on campus."

Bolt said another large portion of expenses at Saint Mary's include meal plans and dining services.

"It is expensive to be able to offer a variety of health foods, respond to student requests and focus on sustainability," she said. "Energy costs, trash costs and cable TV costs always seem to go up, too."

The choice to attend Saint Mary's is an investment in a woman's future, Bolt said.

"Right now, students may say that their peers are the most important part of being at Saint Mary's, but surveys show that Saint Mary's is preparing women for a lifetime of learning if that's your choice," she said.

A survey conducted by the Office of Institutional Research at Saint Mary's asked graduates of the class of 2013, one year after their graduation, questions about the value of their Saint Mary's experience.

Bolt said 90 percent of the survey's respondents said Saint Mary's prepared them well for their jobs. Ninety-four percent of respondents said Saint Mary's prepared them well for graduate school.

Bolt said these numbers speak highly of the education that is provided at the College.

The number of doctoral degrees earned by Saint Mary's graduates ranks in the top 25 percent of Baccalaureate Colleges, she said.

Nearly 22 percent of the College's revenue is supported by gifts and endowments, Bolt said.

"A student's tuition covers a portion of everything, but those revenues aren't enough to pay for it all," she said. "Donations and endowment distribution help to keep the College running.

"For donors to invest at this level, clearly they see that the education is worth it. [Donations and endowments] says a lot about the quality of women here and the educational experience."

Saint Mary's recognizes the high cost of education with the "Four-Year Graduation Promise," Bolt said.

According to the College's website, the "Four-Year Graduation Promise" started with the incoming class of 2017. Students who follow the promise's guidelines are guaranteed to graduate in four years, or the College will pay for any additional courses a student needs to earn her degree.

"Four-Year Graduation Promise' is a great advantage when looking at tuition, and while there are guidelines, the promise shows the way Saint Mary's values student's money and time," Bolt said.

Students are paying for their education and the experience of living at a residential women's college, Bolt said.

"Tuition always returns to the mission," she said. "Everything we do is about the student's education, maintaining a small community and having the financial ability to cover it all."

Contact Haleigh Ehmsen at hehmse01@saintmarys.edu

Conference

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

approaching topics that, as students, we don't get the opportunity to unveil in a classroom setting and much less in a social setting," Grussi said.

Sophomore Hugo Munoz said he appreciated the opportunity to attend WPC because it initiated a necessary conversation about privileges in race, sexuality and gender, as well as other controversial topics.

"I think that the most important thing I got out of it is how [privilege] is a problem that affects us all," Munoz said. "It is invisible to people in my position, but it has a passive impact in my social group and a violently explicit one in minorities."

Both Grussi and Munoz said there were undeniable

ties between the seminar class and the conference.

"The biggest connection between the conference and our class is the ability to listen to differing opinions from people who have a true interest in the content of our conversations," Grussi said.

Munoz said the class offered limited preparation to engage with the topic on a more complex and physically larger level.

"Thanks to the class, we were not people without understanding over the topic," Munoz said. "However, it is really hard to be fully prepared to such an intense experience."

Grussi said seminar students were encouraged to reflect on the topic as well as finish a research paper after the conference. However, she said her reflection does not end

after completing mandatory assignments.

"After the conference, I realize that there is work to be done on campus, and by my own volition, I intend to work more diligently towards building our community's ability to respect one another and to be more self-aware," Grussi said.

Munoz said he thinks it is important to talk about white privilege at Notre Dame because graduates will become contributing members of society through a variety of careers.

"We need to acknowledge that our very own classmates are going to have the power to change our society — we just need to make sure they see it as a problem that needs a real solution soon," Munoz said.

Contact Selena Ponio at sponio@nd.edu

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Impact

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

said.

"It is a tangible way to give back to their community in a way that has a long-term effect," Ponisciak said. "It is a great way to meet like-minded alumni in the Chicago area, and it's also a great way to get some relevant experience if considering a transition into working for a nonprofit or if one is interested in joining a nonprofit board."

Ponisciak said his experience as director of the program has allowed him to connect with alumni he would not have met otherwise.

"Directing ND Impact has allowed me to see just how talented our alumni are and how diverse their skills and backgrounds are," he said.

The program hopes to increase the number of locations in which it has partnerships in the future, Ponisciak said.

"We are currently looking to expand into another city, possibly Washington, D.C., so that the program is offered to other alumni groups as well," Ponisciak said.

Contact Matthew McKenna at mmcken12@nd.edu

Aaron Schock resigns from Congress

Associated Press

Washington, D.C. — Illinois Rep. Aaron Schock abruptly resigned Tuesday following a monthlong cascade of revelations about his business deals and lavish spending on everything from overseas travel to office decor in the style of "Downton Abbey."

"I do this with a heavy heart," Schock said in a statement. He said he had given the people of his Peoria-area district his all since his election in 2008, "but the constant questions over the last six weeks have proven a great distraction that has made it too difficult for me to serve the people of the 18th District with the high standards that they deserve and which I have set for myself."

Schock, 33, a young, media-savvy Republican, had drawn attention for his physical fitness and fundraising prowess. But more recently he has come under scrutiny for extravagant spending, payments to donors for flights on private jets and improperly categorized expenses.

The questions raised have included Associated Press investigations of his real estate transactions, air travel and

Instagram use. On Monday, the AP confirmed that the Office of Congressional Ethics had reached out to Schock's associates as it apparently began an investigation.

In a statement, House Speaker John Boehner said: "With this decision, Rep. Schock has put the best interests of his constituents and the House first. I appreciate Aaron's years of service, and I wish him well in the future."

Schock did not inform any House leaders before making his decision, and the announcement took Republicans by surprise. Although the questions around his spending had begun to attract attention and raise concerns, he was not yet facing concerted public pressure from party members to step down.

He is the second House Republican to give up his seat this year under unfavorable circumstances. Michael Grimm, who pleaded guilty on tax evasion charges, resigned his New York seat in early January.

Illinois Gov. Bruce Rauner will have five days from the March 31 effective date of Schock's resignation to schedule a special election, which must be held within 120 days of the vacancy.

GOP state Sen. Darin LaHood,

considered the front-runner to replace Schock in the heavily Republican district, will announce his candidacy Wednesday, Republican officials in Washington said. LaHood is the son of Ray LaHood, who served in Congress and later as President Barack Obama's transportation secretary.

Schock, an energetic real estate investor who catapulted from the Illinois Legislature to win a congressional seat at the age of 26, touted his status as the House's first millennial lawmaker. He posed shirtless for Men's Health magazine to promote fitness, and used Instagram the way older politicians rely on press releases, photo bombing his growing fan base from London to the Florida beach scene. He was an in-demand fundraising force and visited more than 40 congressional districts in the lead-up to November's elections.

Last June, he was brought into the House leadership and named a senior deputy whip.

But Schock's fall was even swifter. Only weeks ago, a Washington Post report about his "Downton Abbey"-style office decor led to questions about his handling of expenses. The

ornate redecoration, replete with 1920s-era touches, cost \$40,000 and was charged to his office; faced with questions, Schock repaid the expense.

Since Schock doesn't plan to formally resign until March 31, the Office of Congressional Ethics could still refer its findings before then to the Justice Department's Office of Public Integrity or the Federal Election Commission. Once his resignation becomes final, congressional investigators would lose jurisdiction.

The office-redecoration expenses prompted an ethics complaint from a private Washington watchdog group and set off a flurry of reporting on Schock's spending and reliance on political donors.

An AP examination of Schock's frequent flights around his central Illinois district found that he spent more than \$40,000 from his House expenses for travel on planes owned by a group of donors. AP also used metadata associated with Schock's Instagram account to track his reliance on donor flights and his attendance at concerts and festivals where a Super PAC supporting his campaign spent more than \$24,000 for tickets.

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INSIDE COLUMN

Embracing The Cloud

Erin McAuliffe

Scene Editor

The sun is shining. People are playing quad sports. Bikes are again endangering your walks to class. But most importantly, the permacloud is gone.

With the permacloud eliminated, there remains only one cloud to hinder my spirits and functionality: The Cloud.

I was making a mix tape/CD for a friend recently when I realized my limited knowledge of the technology/black hole. I scrambled to authorize my old laptop's iTunes, as I have yet to figure how to download my external hardrive to my new computer after three months. I pulled up playlists on Spotify on the newer computer. I flipped through CDs with my toes. After hours of back-breaking work, I burnt the heartfelt creation and proudly presented it to play in the car — only to be met with silence. As my friend reciprocated my attempt at music sharing with a clean, easily accessible "Dropbox" playlist, I realized it was time for me to embrace The Cloud.

For someone with 5,799 unread emails on her phone currently, it was going to be a big leap. My dad has tried to get me on The Cloud before, to which I normally respond with, "That's such a dad move. I don't need it. It will also lead The Illuminati to me."

Well, what a time to be alive because dads, The Illuminati and The Cloud are in vogue.

Taking on the role of scene editor at The Observer has gifted me with two more email accounts to check, so basically if I don't get my life together soon, my unread email count will be unmanageable. Well, more unmanageable than 5,799 unread emails already are.

So far, my adoption of The Cloud lifestyle has been positive. Unlike organic clouds, The Cloud works to light the way to a more organized, clear desktop where you can actually see the picture of your spring break sunset wallpaper. I am happy to say my silver Mac has a cloud lining.

I succeeded at putting some pictures on Dropbox when I realized I didn't have a USB thumb drive — innovation at its finest. I created a Google virtual invite to an event I made, which automatically syncs to someone's calendar and hopefully guilts people into hanging out with me. And I got to an unread email count of 5,801 during the time I've spent writing this.

Contact Erin McAuliffe at emcaulif@nd.edu

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

I literally cannot even

Christopher Newton

Stepping Out Of The Cave

Let us begin with an insight from everyone's favorite butler, Alfred Pennyworth, who left us with the adage, "Some men just want to watch the world burn." Whether the man has been Nero with his fiddle or the fictional Joker of Gotham, it seems there have always been those willing to put the torch to life, property and even society itself if it suited them. Enter Sen. Tom Cotton (R-Arkansas) and his merry band of 46 other jokers, the would-be destroyers of the Middle East. These individuals would see the region razed to the ground in a wanton orgy of genocidal civil strife and nuclear hellfire before they would engage with Iran in any constructive fashion.

Before proceeding into a few brief reasons regarding how such an outcome may come about, allow me a small author's note. What follows is by no means a partisan attack but rather an assault on the seemingly impenetrable bastion of ignorance, pigheadedness and outright stupidity cloaked in a veneer of democratic legitimacy that purports to call itself our legislative branch. I most caustically castigate this troupe of Republican n'er do wells not out of any enmity for their party, as those who recall my diatribes against President Barack Obama's misguided Middle Eastern policies may note, but out of an allergic reaction to aggressive and willful obtuseness.

Typically, I strive for wit and aplomb in this column, Plato byline and all. However, in light of a letter recently delivered to Ayotollah Khomeini by Sen. Cotton and his ilk, I set aside such pretense, if only for a day. Yet this act of epistolary arrogance alone is not what has forced me to such bluntness. With its condescending reminders to the Iranian supreme leader that any treaty signed by an American president means nothing if not approved by Congress, the letter itself merely caps off the ongoing saga of negotiations with Iran and our elected officials' unflinching incompetence throughout them.

The letter belies a reflexive and simplistic worldview in which Iran is not so much a state that can be reasoned with, as it is a member of Bush's Axis of Evil. Cotton and his 46 compatriots blithely ignore Iran's motivations for seeking nuclear weapons while also undermining not only American regional interests but also the tottering geopolitical underpinnings of the broader Middle East. Taking a hardline against Iran, as was done with North Korea, will remove any possibility of cooperation.

Since the days of the Iranian monarchy, the state has sought at least the ability to produce nuclear power, at first with American assistance and in keeping with its self-perception as

the inheritor of the legacy of the Persian Empire. In more recent years, it has escalated its nuclear efforts towards more dangerous ends. Iran is pursuing at the very least a nuclear breakout capability, the ability to, if threatened, produce a nuclear weapon in a year or less. Countries such as Japan and Germany are thought to reside at this stage.

Iran, wedged between a volatile Afghanistan-Pakistan region and the geopolitical morass that is the Middle East, finds itself surrounded by instability and adversarial neighbors. A nearly complete ring of American military bases and aircraft carrier task forces heightens Iran's sense of insecurity. It is a nation that already perceives itself as under siege. It is a difficult perspective for Americans to empathize with, given the protection afforded them by two oceans and a lack of geographically contiguous rivals since 1848.

Despite these underlying motivations, however, Iran's acquisition of nuclear weapons would have far reaching consequences. Were Shia Iran to gain possession of such weapons, its Sunni rivals, particularly Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and possibly Egypt, would in time seek to acquire them. Pakistan and India would likely not welcome Iran into the nuclear club with open arms, either. The global non-proliferation regime would be gutted, perhaps irreversibly.

Additionally, the failure of negotiations will lead to increases in tension between Iran and the United States and possibly even violence between them. At a time when Iran is leading the counteroffensive to seize Tikrit, Iraq, and Bashar al-Assad, it appears more likely than ever to cling to power, alienating the country is shortsighted and counterproductive.

Where working with Iran to mold a geopolitically malleable region might serve American interests, rejecting any sort of collaboration on ideological grounds will leave a wide swath of territory awash in blood and an even wider area unstable. If Sen. Cotton deigns to be shrewd for even just a moment, he may yet come to see that Iran has far more to offer as a partner than as an implacable foe.

Undermining America's credibility regarding treaties at this junction serves no positive or logical purpose. Reinforcing the siege mentality of Iran will only force it down the path of nuclear weapons, not away from it. Negotiations, not hostility and obstinacy, are required to prevent this cascade of events.

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EDITORIAL CARTOON



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The morality of midterms

With the passing of Father Hesburgh, this past midterms week left many students (myself included) physically and emotionally exhausted. Whether we were waiting in line at 2 a.m. for Fr. Ted's visitation, shivering outside the Basilica while waiting for the funeral procession to begin or studying for three midterms and two quizzes, we were all ready for a week of well-earned rest.

Some iteration of "My exams should have been canceled!" had no doubt entered most students' conversations as we all tried to reconcile attending the events for Fr. Ted with our already grueling midterms study schedules. Indeed, many classes and exams were canceled on Wednesday afternoon so students could attend or watch the funeral and subsequent procession. While it could be argued that the administration shouldn't ever override the right of a professor to hold an exam, I think most loyal Domers would agree that Wednesday was an appropriate exception.

But what about the exams on Tuesday, the day of Fr. Ted's visitation, or Thursday, the morning after the memorial service, or even on Wednesday morning, the day of the funeral itself? Should the administration have given more time off for students seeking to grieve and celebrate the life of a beloved University president? The short answer is no. The administration needs to respect the independence of professors to hold classes and exams when they feel it is appropriate. The whole point of tenure is to allow professors to teach when and how they

choose without fear of being controlled by the administration. Therefore, a minimalist class cancellation policy is in the best interest of the University.

However, the cancelation of the week's other exams was, as always, left up to the discretion of the professors. While it's true that some professors actually did exercise this right and moved exams to later dates, most of us were not so lucky. This brings me to the question that I haven't quite been able to answer: When should professors cancel exams?

If the goal of a professor is to successfully examine what students have learned up to this point by giving a test, then they should want to administer exams at a time when there aren't factors like emotional and physical fatigue at play. I understand that professors cannot control when exogenous events like a death or another test create stressful conditions for students and that making exceptions on the emotional claims of students is a slippery slope that should probably be avoided. However, if it is within a professor's best interest to test students in conditions that don't force them to compromise their physical wellbeing, then they should still make every attempt to create fair testing environments for students.

This begins with actually scheduling exams across the semester (which many departments claim to do despite the fact that so many of us still have three or more exams on midterms week) rather than on the week before spring break. Furthermore, when extremely rare events like Fr.

Ted's death create conflicts for so many students, professors should recognize that these students are not going to be able to devote the amount of time that they had previously allotted to studying for their exam and professors will be forced to examine the students' knowledge in poor conditions.

Professors, if you aren't willing to move tests to improve the conditions in which the majority of students take them, then why bother testing us at all? At best, you're testing our ability to pull all-nighters three nights in a row and still manage to write coherent sentences, not our actual knowledge of the course material. Whether or not you think Fr. Ted's passing is an appropriate reason to move an exam, it highlighted the inherent problems with midterms week by exacerbating the students' poor testing conditions. If it is the duty of professors to create fair testing environments for their students, then why is midterms week still even a thing?

Many students left campus that weekend proudly proclaiming that they survived midterms week. But when survival is an accomplishment, what does that say about the environment created by our University? I don't want to remember the week of Fr. Ted's death as being unnecessarily stressful, but unfortunately, I think many of us will.

Patrick Glennon
junior
Alumni Hall
March 17

Does God hate contraception?

I am a lawyer and a graduate of the University (1969). I recently became belatedly aware of Notre Dame's lawsuit vs. the United States over Obamacare contraceptive coverage provisions. To say that I was stunned to find that, in 2015, this is an issue to which my alma mater would choose to devote its energy and resources would be an understatement. Are supposedly educated and mature people supposed to believe that God hates contraception? That God insists that everyone,

married or not, who engages in intercourse, must play conception lotto, or, more accurately, half of the people, since only one-half can become pregnant? That God does not care whether the baby is wanted or capable of being fed?

An institution calling itself a university goes to this trouble based upon the premise that we know God hates contraception because an elderly man elected by other elderly men supposedly becomes invested with the power to speak directly

with God on the subject and has learned that God hates contraception? Some of my classmates still can't get over the fact that Notre Dame let women be admitted. Given the positions the institution takes, I can't get over the fact that any would want to enroll.

James Geagan
class of 1969
March 17

UWIRE

Hope for the Legal Justice League

Madeline Galiegos
The Rocky Mountain Collegian

As part of International Women's Day, a special series of LEGO figures made their appearance on the Internet. The figures, dubbed the Legal Justice League, were created by Maia Weinstock to honor the women of the Supreme Court. The set, which Weinstock personally crafted, includes Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Sonia Sotomayor, Elena Kagan, and Sandra Day O'Connor — all of whom are currently or were at one time justices of the Court.

The set was created to "celebrate the accomplishments of women in the legal realm, and to encourage girls and women to work toward high positions in the U.S. judicial system" (Business Insider, 2015). Not long after the debut of the figures on her Flickr account, the Internet blew up with excitement and support for mass production of the toys. Although the individual figures are not currently available for purchase, many people have already offered to buy these one of a kind figurines.

Following the massive demand for the Legal Justice League set, Weinstock submitted the idea to the LEGO ideas website in hopes that the project could rally enough support from the public to become the next series of LEGO toys. However, once LEGO caught wind of the idea, they answered Weinstock's proposal with a disappointing response. The company cited that they do not accept projects that involve politics or political symbols and therefore cannot manufacture the Legal Justice League.

Although this is understandable, it is a shame that LEGO will not produce figures that are based on women who have had such an impact on history simply because of the fact that they are political figures. That being said, the same thing goes for male figures in politics. There are a lot of great historical figures that could be produced that can help teach and familiarize children with history, figures that shouldn't be excluded solely based on political affiliation or historical context. After all, Abraham Lincoln appeared in LEGO form in The LEGO Movie, so why can't we honor other important heroes?

Despite the fact that LEGO already produces a

vast amount of career-oriented characters, the addition of historical figures could only benefit children. Yes, there is already an array of fantastic characters created by LEGO—astronauts, scientists and police figures that help promote the idea that children can be anything they want. However, it would be even better if there were figures that helped children learn about people who have shaped the modern world. The Legal Justice League is just one of many sets that could be impactful on youth and adults alike. Sets like Weinstock's can empower girls to be a part of the legal system, whether that means as a lawyer, a judge or a member of the Supreme Court. The fact of the matter is, LEGO figures should not be impacted by fear of political correctness, but should immortalize positive role models for young girls and boys alike.

The Rocky Mountain Collegian is the student newspaper serving Colorado State University's community. Hallie Gardner can be reached at blogs@collegian.com

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



A timeless narrative: Kendrick Lamar's 'To Pimp A Butterfly'

By **MATT McMAHON**
Scene Writer

A lot has happened since Kendrick Lamar stole his mom's van, wove an intricate story around his hometown and eventually took a victory lap for all of Compton's survivors three years ago on "good kid, m.A.A.d. city." In the mainstream, Pharrell continued his brainwashing of the universe by infecting everyone who has ears with "Happy." Peer Chance The Rapper went viral covering the "Arthur" theme song and turned it into the uplifting anthem for a generation uninterested and unoptimistic in having one. On the other end of the spectrum, YG somehow best captured the "good kid, m.A.A.d. city" concept album form, transforming DJ Mustard's club-friendly "ratchet music" into a platform for conscious storytelling in "good kid, m.A.A.d. city"'s more troubled, spiritual younger brother "My Krazy Life." Meanwhile, Lamar continued to simultaneously conform to and one-up his competition on a string of stellar guest verses and changed the rap world forever with "Control" ... or, maybe, didn't.

Thus lies the context for Kendrick Lamar's new album — or not completely. In the greater context of American news, events such as the shooting of Trayvon Martin in Florida and George Zimmerman's acquittal, the death of Eric Garner in New York and the adoption of his last words, "I can't breathe," in protest and awareness movements, the shooting of Michael Brown and the subsequent Ferguson riots, the shooting of Tamir Rice in Cleveland, police brutality and documented racism in Chicago, Missouri and New York and United States' Justice Departments and the most recent University of Oklahoma chapter of the SAE fraternity's racist chant videotaping all have illustrated the very real, very harmful racial inequality still present in the country. It is in this national context then, and not simply in the current state of music, that Kendrick Lamar released his much-anticipated sophomore studio album, "To Pimp A Butterfly."

"To Pimp A Butterfly," the title an allusion to Harper Lee's novel "To Kill a Mockingbird," opens similarly to "good kid, m.A.A.d. city," with Lamar scheming on a girl. However, where "good kid" illustrated an intimate, personal narrative from Lamar's past, "To Pimp A Butterfly" deals with a more universal musing on the black condition. Performing a gymnastic act of flipping between the verbose, over-enunciated educated Black Man and the less-articulate industry slave type, Lamar characterizes the changing of priorities due to quick, unwrapped fame on opener "Wesley's Theory." Over a soulful sample of '70s Jamaican singer Boris Gardiner and experimental jazz production from Flying Lotus and Thundercat, Lamar details the same sentiment as Kanye West on "New Slaves": corporate industries prey on young, budding talents like Lamar, West, athletes and artists and use them up and profit off them while fundamentally warping their desires and offering little reciprocal support — proverbially "pimping butterflies."

Like how "good kid" could be pitched as a movie — on the album cover it's billed as "a short film by Kendrick Lamar" — "To Pimp A Butterfly" unfolds like a musical.

Kendrick repeats a building monologue at the end of various tracks, laying out more and more sides to his complex internal struggle with fame. Along the way, he paints portraits of characters from his past and present, interacting with them through verses delivered towards him from their perspective.

Through this narrative, Lamar explores heavy, racially charged themes relating to this imagery of pimping butterflies and black inequality across the album proper. A number of interrelated conflicts signify the double consciousness and duality facing every black American: the familiarity of home versus the existing, but lofty, opportunity to escape; street smarts versus book smarts; fame bringing widespread acceptance but removing the individual from everyday reality; success offering an opportunity to rise up but also bringing about its own ways of oppression; rallying around black children and teenagers who are innocently killed while purporting gang violence against members of your own race.

Contradictions and negations permeate the album, only further speaking to the complexity of the issues at hand. "Complexion (A Zulu Love)" boasts a Zulu philosophy denouncing colorism, "Complexion don't mean a thing / It all feels the same," only to be followed up by "The Blacker the Berry." In the latter, Lamar commands and praises his ethnicity, echoing the phrase, "the blacker the berry, the sweeter the fruit." He is at his most confrontational here and employs the most aggressive flow and delivery to grace the album. He honors his roots, using guest vocals from reggae star Assassin, last heard in America on Kanye West's similarly abrasive and unforgiving "I'm In It."

Similar dichotomies arise in tracks "u" and "i" and the one-two punch of the downtempo, immediate "Momma" and the R&B-originating "Hood Politics," which compares an illuminated Lamar returning home with new knowledge and a guilty conscience for succeeding and abandoning his home to the logistics of the neighborhoods like the one he grew up in and the singular way of life known to them.

Lamar, boasting his lyrical ability and keen sensibility, articulates so many ideas he makes it easy to grasp hold on any number of them, each weighted and extremely pertinent on its own. But with each passing song, the artist captures the ongoing narrative of the debate over African-American identity and what it means to be black in America. In this sense, the album is timeless in the annals of black history. With name checks and philosophical ideas from everyone from Marcus Garvey to Martin Luther King Jr. and Tupac Shakur to Oprah, the album spans the 1900s to 1920s, '50s and '60s and still feels supremely relevant to the now.

Meanwhile, Lamar and his collaborators sonically cultivate a robust, intricate collage of black musical influence, from the funk of George Clinton and the P-Funk alluding "King Kunta" to the jazz backings of the interludes and spoken word sections, to the Soul of Isley Brothers' lead vocalist Ronald Isley. "To Pimp A Butterfly" embraces all aspects and aesthetics of blackness, devoting time and celebration to each. The album is calculated and assured; it's rash and desperate; it's exhausting

and exhaustive without seeming any bit overlong or unnecessary.

The climax of Lamar's musical comes in the form of the speech break as his live audience gets restless during the album version performance of lead single "i." After the shaky-voiced, heartbreaking performance of "u," itself a voice-cracked, faltering take on betrayal and the results of unsupportiveness, counterpart "i" demands love and support for yourself. Interspersed through the album, Lamar explains that if you stay true to yourself and love yourself for that, you will love and embrace that in others, and others will reciprocate. During the speech, he motions to take pride in your heritage, ownership for your individuality and agency in rising above your situation.

While the single debut of the track in September 2014 insinuated a lighter, summery — possibly shallower — side of Lamar, one focused on self-love and promotion of positivity, the extended version found on the album sends a deeper, earned message. The move is a bit of marketing and artistic genius; with heavy radio play, co-option by NBA television broadcasts and a Best Rap Performance Grammy propelling the single and anticipation for the album, Lamar grabbed an audience willing to hear him out and then injected the crux of his powerful, poignant argument into the song, with which his audience was already most familiar.

Following D'Angelo's "Black Messiah" and Kanye West's "Yeezus," "To Pimp A Butterfly" is an unapologetically black, necessarily black album from a prominent, mainstream voice in popular music. Lamar's fans transcend identifiers such as race, ethnicity and socioeconomic status; over the past three years, he has built up so much support that his every next move, including details on his next album, have seen widespread speculation and heavy anticipation. Showing maturity, Lamar challenges his audience to be active, whereas his previous work — as much as it bounced — was a passive listening experience.

On "To Pimp A Butterfly," he uses his well-earned status as the current king of hip-hop to deliver a strong, brave, emotionally charged message. It's clear in its bite, it's razor sharp, and it's wholly focused — not one track wastes a moment of its one-hour-and-20-minute runtime; all offer their own thesis relating to Lamar's recurring themes. Moreover, it's an album that will be heard by a lot of people, and, hopefully, listened to, considered and understood by just as many.

Contact Matt McMahon at mmcmaho7@nd.edu

"To Pimp A Butterfly" Kendrick Lamar

Label: Top Dawg Entertainment

Tracks: Complete Album

If you like: Flying Lotus, Kanye West, D'Angelo, A\$AP Ferg, Parliament, The Isley Brothers



Myths Revealed: Tobias Jesso Jr.'s 'Goon'

By **MATTHEW MUNHALL**
Scene Writer

"You can't miss Tobias Jesso Jr.," the ads for Jesso's debut album "Goon" proclaim. "He's 6-foot-7."

Jesso's height is just one element of the myth that has built up around the 29-year-old singer-songwriter over the past year. The Vancouver native moved to Los Angeles and spent most of his early 20s trying to make it as a songwriter and guitarist. Then in 2012, he experienced a series of events in quick succession that left him heartbroken and dejected. His girlfriend left him, he was injured by a hit-and-run driver while riding his bicycle, and he found out his mother had been diagnosed with cancer.

Reeling from these events, Jesso returned to his childhood home in Canada and took up the piano on a whim. He emailed his demos to former Girls bassist Chet "JR" White, who not only listened to the lo-fi recordings but was impressed. Jesso returned to the States to record with White, was signed to True Panther Records and began receiving plenty of buzz from the indie music press.

Despite his height and mythic backstory, Jesso's music isn't larger than life. "Goon" is an album full of intimate piano ballads about heartbreak and professional disappointment.

White, Black Keys' drummer Patrick Carney and Ariel Rechtshaid handle production on the album and wisely stay out of Jesso's way for the most part, allowing his songwriting to be the focus. "Goon" retains all the charm

and simplicity of his early demos, only slightly polished up for release. Jesso's piano playing and fragile voice are still the stars but are accented by defeated horn sections, lush strings, backing vocals and minimal percussion. Sometimes he's backed by acoustic guitar — like on the short, breezy "The Wait" — but mostly, he's tickling the ivories and pouring out his heart.

The highlights are often emotionally affecting, with the simplicity of Jesso's songwriting striking a universal chord. The album's centerpiece is the six-minute-long "Hollywood," a song in which the narrator is left frustrated by the star-making machinery of LA. "I think I'm gonna die in Hollywood," Jesso sings. He sounds absolutely defeated, like even the West Coast's endless sunshine isn't enough to outweigh the entertainment industry's constant rejection.

The soulful "How Could You Babe," with its gospel backing vocals and organ chords, mines Jesso's heartbreak to heart-rending results. His voice is at its most pained on the track, rising to a wail that adequately expresses his despair.

The go-to reference points employed by critics in describing Jesso's music are '70s songwriters like Randy Newman, Harry Nilsson and John Lennon. The comparisons stick sonically — the production recalls lush instrumentation and foregrounded piano of the era's records. Yet Jesso's songwriting lacks the humor and cynicism that balanced out those artists' sentimental streaks.

"Everyone that's written about the record has made

this connection to Lennon's demos," Jesso told Interview recently. "I was going for Paul, though." The McCartney influence is all over "Goon," especially on tracks like "For You" and "Leaving LA." Jesso shares Macca's knack for gorgeous melodies and heartfelt lyrics, and it seems inevitable that the Grammys will pair the two together for a performance sometime in the future.

By the end of a 47-minute album, however, this doe-eyed earnestness becomes somewhat exhausting. Even the sentimental Beatle could pen a song as funny and primal as "Why Don't We Do It in the Road?" every once in a while. "Goon" would benefit from a change of pace or a little of the wit Father John Misty exhibited on "I Love You, Honeybear." Yet overall, "Goon" is a strong showcase for Jesso's songwriting, even if it doesn't always quite live up to the myth.

Contact Matthew Munhall at mmunhall@nd.edu

"Goon"

Tobias Jesso Jr.

Label: True Panther

Tracks: "Hollywood," "How Could You Babe," "Leaving LA"

If you like: Paul McCartney, Randy Newman



By **EMILIE KEFALAS**
Scene Writer

Once upon a time, upon a time, upon a time there lived a young maiden — no — a young girl — wait, no — a beautiful, small-footed, motherless and occasionally fatherless female protagonist. Despite the cruelty and abuse inflicted upon her by her father's controlling new wife and taunting stepdaughters, this kind-hearted female protagonist somehow remains good and pure in all her thoughts and actions. Her only Achilles' heel is midnight, the unanimously decreed magic hour in fairytale democracy. Everyone knows fantasy neglects the simple concept of time management.

Cinder-faced Ella was long ago transformed into Cinderella without the help of any storybook fairy godmother or magical-tree-bibbidi-bobbidi-boo. Her European-folklore roots gifted her with multiple names and story alterations adapted from different languages, but her archetype is and always will appeal to the universe as the persecuted heroine, Cinderella. Even covered in ashes and filth, she's beauty and goodness incarnate. The meaning and story of her name itself has evolved into both an analogy and a complex, similar to the sociological "syndrome" nameplates attached to the prognostics of her fellow fantasy friends "Peter Pan" and "Alice in Wonderland."

And let me tell you, Cindy certainly gets around. In a span of less than six months, little princess wannabe's across the continental fanbase were exposed to not one but two cinematic doses of enchanted footwear, interspecies human/animal relationships and far-off castles inhabited by charming, royal bachelors.

Pop culture has never been as transfixed by Cinderella than it has during these past several months, largely due to the Walt Disney Studio's recent duo of Cindy-centered cinematic releases, including Rob Marshall's screen adaptation of Stephan Sondheim's "Into the Woods" and Kenneth Branagh's newly-released live-action version,

"Cinderella." Both have refueled the spirit of an already iconic princess, but they portray her in slightly different fits, and I'm not just talking about a green vs. a blue poofy dress.

Perhaps this is as a most opportune time as any to resurface a couple memorable encounters with Cinderella on the big and small screens. Her story has seen its share of screen adaptations, reboots and cosplays, but before we watch her transform from Anna Kendrick to Lily James, let's examine some of Cindy's acclaimed roles in show business.

Walt Disney's "Cinderella" (1950)

"Cinderella, you're as lovely as your name ... in the sweetest story ever told." Before the trend of reinventing storybook staples into dark character analysis, there was the simple magic of this classic portrait only made possible by Disney imagination and animation. Made on the cusp between the classic "Golden Age" Disney animations of the 1930s and 1940s and the less critically-acclaimed productions of the 1950s, this "Cinderella" is representative of both eras.

In this adaptation, she is the much-loved child of a widowed aristocrat. After remarrying so as to provide his beloved daughter a mother, Cinderella's father dies unexpectedly, leaving her at the mercy of her cruel stepmother, Lady Tremaine, and her stepsisters, Anastasia and Drizella.

It is not an exaggeration to state that Disney's 1950s release of "Cinderella" saved the Walt Disney Company from financial crisis, proving itself one of Walt's most successful films since "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs."

Beloved by many a princess-wannabe and Disnerd, this classy and chic Cinderella was actually not Walt's first. Prior to making a full-length animated film version of Cinderella's story, Walt made a short film titled "Cinderella" in 1922 as the last of his Laugh-O-Gram series. This "Cinderella" was set entirely in the Roaring '20s, complete with a flapper dress instead of a ballgown and a

swanky car in place of a coach.

Rodgers & Hammerstein's "Cinderella" (1957)

Once upon a time, the woman immortalized as "Mary Poppins" and Maria in another Rodgers & Hammerstein musical, "The Sound of Music," was the first Cinderella to declare, "In my own little corner, I can be whatever I want to be, on the wings of my fancy I can fly anywhere, and the world will open its arms to me."

Rodgers & Hammerstein's version of "Cinderella" is the first and only formatted for television by the legendary musical team, with music by Richard Rodgers and a book and lyrics by Oscar Hammerstein II. "Cinderella" was originally broadcast live on CBS on March 31, 1957, as a vehicle for Julie Andrews. The story followed a similar outline as the Disney version, though audiences now had two sets of scores to please their palates. The broadcast was viewed by more than 100 million people and has since been remade for television twice, in 1965 and 1997.

If my own midnight were not approaching, I would dare continue to recall Cindy's countless other variations and developments in the movies and beyond. Cinderella is hardly running away from the ball she's having right now with a new movie, market and merchandise for her diverse fanbase. She lives throughout multimedia as a lesson, setting an extraordinary example of hope and goodness withstanding the anguish of life's long, dark tunnels.

The beauty of Cinderella is not simply in her face or her breathtaking ballgown. You want her patience and virtue to prevail, no matter how many times you've watched her happily-ever-after. She is neither a helpless victim of pity nor a product of her treatment. Her outlook is a model of faith and trust in the goodness of others. We should all have faith in our dreams and in the dreams of others, because someday, "your rainbow will come smiling through."

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SPORTS AUTHORITY

Prepare for the Madness



Samantha Zuba
Senior Sports Writer

It's that awkward time of the year.

March Madness hasn't started yet. The NFL draft is more than a month off. You won't see NBA or Stanley Cup playoff action until April. MLB spring training is underway, but the season hasn't started yet, and there are only so many injury updates a person can read.

It's the calm before the sports insanity. Tomorrow, March Madness will hit, relieving American sports fans who don't watch soccer of their boredom.

I know you can't wait. But be prepared to pace yourself. For a while, you'll just have March Madness to focus on. It's like that one big exam that you ditch all of your other classwork for.

But it's also that one midterm placed a week before your other four. Soon, you'll have more than enough to handle.

It's OK. You can stay focused and sane once April comes, and the sports world starts buzzing. I mean really buzzing, not just the trade rumors and chatter about a possible Tim Tebow comeback that fill air time when there's nothing actually happening to talk about.

The key is to prioritize. March Madness is a great time to practice before you split your attention among multiple sports.

Some people seem to watch the entirety of every notable March Madness upset. They show up at work or in class, gushing about key moments in the upset, and you're like, "How did they think ahead to watch that awful-sounding matchup? Didn't they have a finance exam to study for anyway?"

You can only tune in for so many games, so what do you do?

Just watch SportsCenter afterward. Then you know a little bit about a lot of games, like an encyclopedia. It's likely what some of even your most knowledgeable friends did anyway.

Or you can try selecting games to watch out of a hat. Spending your time trying to logically determine which games will be good is a fruitless endeavor. The

matchup between two highly-touted teams will be an uninteresting blowout, and some No. 16 seed will beat Kentucky. You'll watch the first but miss the second. The whole thing is random.

That being said, another piece of advice: Keep your expectations in check. Crazy things do happen, but Kentucky could go all the way, and you'll be disappointed because what kind of an underdog story is that?

In times like those, switch from following the men's bracket to the women's bracket, or vice versa. Something you want to have happen is bound to happen in one bracket or the other.

Another important thing to do during March Madness is prepare talking points. If the conversation strays to a game you missed, bring the conversation back to common ground. Throw out some vague but assertive statements about Jahlil Okafor and remember to include lots of buzzwords.

"Man, Okafor is just unstoppable. He is such an athlete. Synergy. Networking. Client-centric. The mitochondria is the powerhouse of the cell."

This strategy will work. Talking about March Madness often involves throwing a lot of random information around, particularly in large group settings where no one actually knows what they're talking about, but no one wants anyone else to know, and the winner of debates is the loudest person.

I'd like to offer one final thought. If you do lose money on your bracket, just remember that now you have less money to lose at Feve. At least the money on your bracket went to a somewhat intellectual cause. I mean, you tried to reason your way to a good bracket, whether through educated guesses or systematically choosing which jersey colors you like best.

Take a deep breath because the Madness begins soon. The awkward gap is almost over.

Contact Samantha Zuba at szuba@nd.edu

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

SMC TENNIS

Saint Mary's splits spring break trip to Florida

By **MICHAEL IVEY**
Sports Writer

Saint Mary's was busy over spring break, splitting six matches in the span of six days in Orlando and Sanlando, Florida.

The Belles (5-6, 0-1 MIAA) won their first three matches of the trip against Coe and Illinois Wesleyan on Sunday and St. Scholastica on Monday. The trip ended with the Belles dropping their final three matches of the trip against St. Francis, Haverford and Wheaton.

In its first match of the trip, Saint Mary's defeated Coe, 5-4. In singles action, seniors Jackie Kjolhede and Shannon Elliott won their matches in three sets, while junior Margaret Faller and freshman Bailey Oppman pulled out victories in straight sets. The doubles pair of sophomore Sam Setterblad and freshman Maddie Minaudo won its match by a score of 8-2. Later on in the day, the Belles dominated Illinois Wesleyan, winning all their matches in straight sets. Among

the winners for Saint Mary's were Fetters, Kjolhede, Elliott, Faller, senior Kayle Sexton and freshman Kelsey Kopf.

The Belles were on the winning end of a 6-3 match Monday against St. Scholastica. Fetters, Kjolhede and Elliott won their matches in straight sets, and Sexton edged her opponent in three sets. Setterblad and Minaudo won their doubles match by a score of 9-7.

Later on in the day, the Belles lost a close, 5-4 match to St. Francis. In singles play, Kjolhede, Elliott and Kopf were victorious for Saint Mary's, while the duo of sophomore Kaity Venters and freshman Rina Moore was the lone victors for the Belles in doubles.

"We fought hard in some long matches," Belles coach Dale Campbell said. "We won two matches over three hours long to defeat Coe, 5-4, so that was an impressive victory. We won three out of four matches in a two-day stretch and probably would have won all of them had we not run

out of gas."

On Wednesday, the Belles lost to Haverford by a final score of 8-1. Setterblad and Minaudo were the lone Belles winners of the day, winning their doubles match, 8-5.

Saint Mary's lost its final match of the trip Friday to Wheaton, 6-3. Faller and Oppman were the Belles' winners in singles, and Fetters and Elliott were the lone winners in doubles action.

"We need more work in doubles and continue to get better playing patient points in singles," Campbell said. "Overall, we are getting better with depth, placement, etc. We have to continue to play with more determination, more focus and learn how to win the tough matches. Our conference opponents will be ready to battle."

The Belles' next match is Saturday at 1 p.m., when they travel to conference foe Alma in Alma, Michigan.

Contact Michael Ivey at mivey@hcc-nd.edu

SMC GOLF

Belles take next step

By **DAISY COSTELLO**
Sports Writer

Saint Mary's started its spring season over spring break by placing 15th at the Jekyll Islands Collegiate Invitational at Indian Mound Golf Course in Jekyll Island, Georgia.

The tournament, which was played Friday through Sunday, hosted a field of 19 Division-III teams, five of which were ranked in the top 25 in the country. The Belles shot 1,042 (+178) over the course of the weekend, but Belles head coach Kim Moore said she viewed the tournament as a stepping stone for the team moving forward.

The Belles struggled Friday and Saturday, posting team scores of 349 and 353, respectively. Moore attributed the lackluster performance to the Belles' inability to practice outdoors in winter.

"The transition from hitting and practicing indoors to outdoors can be a little difficult," Moore said. "The touch and feel needed in golf is something that

can't be simulated indoors."

With the weather improving in South Bend, the Belles should be able to get outside and work more efficiently on improving certain areas of their game in order to present a more balanced attack going forward, Moore said. The team overall struggled to hit greens as well as putting, which is an aspect of the game Moore said she wants Saint Mary's to work on before future tournaments.

"[I] figured our short game would be a little off," Moore said. "Now that all the snow is melted, we can get outside and get some good quality practice in."

There were positives that came out of the Jekyll Island tournament, beginning Sunday with the team's score of 340. Junior Katie Zielinski led the Belles with her tournament-low round of 79 (+7), followed by sophomore Courtney Carlson's score of 85 (+13).

Driving and ball protection were two aspects of the Belles' game Moore said she was pleased with. The team in general kept the ball out of hazards and had

opportunities to score well, but sinking putts was the issue it ran into, she said.

"We didn't always take advantage of those chances, but it was good to see that they were there," Moore said.

Moore said she liked the focus her team showed during the sometimes grueling five-hour rounds at the tournament. Often, she said, it's easy for golfers to get overly tired or distracted over the course of the round.

"I felt they stayed focused and took one shot at a time," she said.

The team's goal for the year, according to Moore, is to win the conference's NCAA tournament bid, a goal she believes the Belles can accomplish.

"We just need to get back into the 'swing' of things," Moore joked.

The Belles return to action March 28-29 at the Washington University-St. Louis Invitational at Gateway National Golf Links in Madison, Illinois.

Contact Daisy Costello at mcostel4@nd.edu

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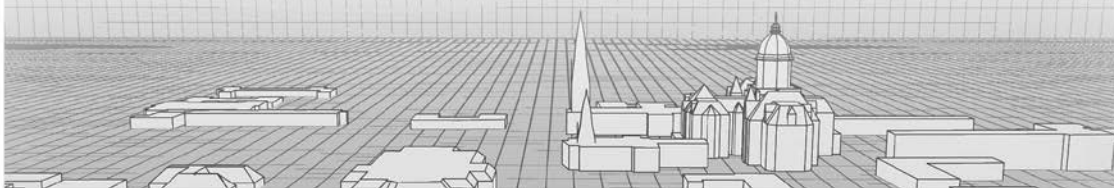
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WOMEN'S DIVING

Casareto qualifies for NCAAs

By DANIEL O'BOYLE
Sports Writer

Senior diver Allison Casareto qualified for the 1-meter and 3-meter boards at the NCAA Championship during the NCAA Zone C meet in Columbus, Ohio, on Thursday and Friday.

Casareto earned an eighth-place finish on the 3-meter board Thursday with a score of 613.70. With new rules in place for this year, she needed a top-12 finish on the 1-meter board to qualify, which she achieved by finishing 12th.

Junior Lindsey Streepey narrowly missed out on qualification for both the platform dive and the 3-meter dive. She finished ninth in the platform, seven points and one place away from qualifying, despite the fact she only competed on the platform twice this year and Rof's Aquatic Center does not have a platform board on which she could practice. She finished 10th in the 3-meter dive with a score of 602.00 and also finished 16th in the 1-meter event.

Junior Emma Gaboury also competed in the platform dive, finishing 19th, as well as finishing 13th in the 3-meter and 21st in the 1-meter. Freshman Annie Crea finished 31st in the 1-meter and 38th in the 3-meter.

"The hardest thing about NCAA zone diving is that ... divers only get one meet to qualify for the national championship," Irish diving coach Caiming Xie said. "It's not like swimming, where you can qualify at any meet during the

season."

However, Caiming said his team, especially Casareto, confronted the situation exceptionally well.

"Since it's zone meets and only one can qualify for nationals, that gives divers a lot of pressure," Caiming said. "However, Notre Dame divers handled the pressure very well."

"There were some very good performances during both the preliminary and final rounds. Allison especially did a great job to qualify for nationals. They all enjoyed the meet and showed confidence on their dives."

Casareto told UND.com qualifying for the NCAA Championships has been a highlight of her career at Notre Dame.

"Being able to compete at NCAAs is something I'm sure any athlete dreams of doing," Casareto said. "I have always had an immense amount of respect for those who compete at this particular level, and to be able to qualify during the final season of my career is the ultimate high note for me personally."

Casareto is the first member of the Irish diving team to qualify for nationals since Jenny Chiang in 2013.

Casareto, along with senior swimmer Emma Reaney, will compete at the NCAA Championships this week in Greensboro, North Carolina, starting Thursday and finishing Sunday.

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SMC SOCCER

SMC names new head coach

Observer Staff Report

Saint Mary's introduced Ken Nuber as the new head coach of the College's soccer program Tuesday in a press release.

Nuber — a native of Cincinnati and a 1993 graduate of the University of Saint Francis in Fort Wayne, Indiana — brings 18 years of head-coaching experience at the NAIA level to the Belles program in addition to five seasons as the recruiting coordinator and assistant coach for Notre Dame's women's soccer program.

A year after he graduated, Nuber took charge of his alma mater's men's soccer program and soon took up the head job in the women's program as well. After a couple of years coaching both teams, Nuber shifted to solely Saint Francis' women's team, guiding the Cougars to 12 consecutive winning seasons. He was named the Mid-Central Conference coach of the year twice at Saint Francis, and his squad won

10 consecutive National Soccer Coaches Association of America (NSCAA) Team Academic Awards.

In his five seasons at Notre Dame from 2008 to 2012, the Irish went 94-21-8 and recorded three College Cup appearances, including a national championship win in 2010.

Nuber is currently the director of coaching for the Junior Irish Soccer Club in Granger and coaches the club's under-15 and under-16 girls teams. He will continue in his role as the director of coaching at the club while assuming the reigns at Saint Mary's.

Nuber holds a United States Soccer Federation National "B" License and the NSCAA Advanced National Diploma.

While at Saint Francis as a player, Nuber set the school record for goals in a game and scored 43 goals while tallying 17 assists in his career.

Nuber replaces Michael Joyce as the Belles' head coach and inherits a team that finished 6-11-3 overall and 4-9-3 in MIAA play this fall.

ROWING

Notre Dame starts season strong at Oak Ridge

By **BRETT O'CONNELL**
Sports Writer

The Irish opened their season this past weekend with a two-day regatta at the Oak Ridge Cardinal Invitational in Oak Ridge, Tennessee.

The first day of the Invitational took place this past Saturday, where No. 12 Notre Dame won outright in one race and had competitive finishes in the rest of the races during its opening regatta.

The first varsity eight-man boat race opened its season in a heat that included Kansas, Alabama and No. 2 Virginia. The Cavaliers took the win with a time of 5:53.656, while the Irish claimed the second place position at 6:03.508. Kansas and Alabama came in third and fourth, respectively, each within milliseconds of each other and about 20 seconds behind the Irish squad.

The first varsity four-man event featured an identical lineup, with Virginia claiming its second victory with a pace time of 6:43.578 to the second-place Irish's time of 6:52.626.

The Cavaliers also won the third varsity eight race with a time of 6:10.166, while the Irish took their third consecutive second place finish with a time of 6:27.274.

The Cavaliers swept the remaining morning races, including the second varsity eight and varsity four. It was not until the first race of the afternoon session the Irish secured their only victory of the day in the first varsity eight race, where they posted a winning time of 5:56:767 — four seconds ahead of second-place finisher, Central Florida, and several seconds more in front of Louisville and Kansas.

The Irish finished outside of the top-two positions in only one heat during the first day, as the Irish third varsity eight claimed third with an event time of 6:29.808.

The constant competition with Virginia will prove a theme for the season as the Irish continue to aim for their goal of an ACC championship. According to junior Savannah Ryder, the Cavaliers stand as a benchmark team of sorts in their pursuit of

a conference title.

"We want to follow in the footsteps of our basketball team and win the ACC championship," Ryder said. "That will entail beating UVA, but we think that we are in a good place right now and that with our training over the next month or so we will be able to do that."

Consistency proved to be the order of the day for the Irish on the second day of the Oak Ridge Invitational, where they claimed four second-place finishes in five heats. No. 9 Yale swept the Sunday event, but the Irish remained competitive, never finishing more than a few seconds behind the Bulldogs' squad.

Ryder praised Yale's talent and appreciated the opportunity to pace themselves against the squad.

"We don't have a rivalry with Yale," Ryder said. "We usually only race Yale at NCAAs. So it was unusual for us to race them this early in the season. They are a great team though, and it was a good chance for us to see where we stand against

their program this early in the season."

All in all, the team's reaction to the weekend's events were largely positive. Junior Jill Ryan lauded her teammates for their focus on technique and claiming the opportunity to get outside in the nice weather will allow for further improvement.

"The weather was a lot nicer than in past years," Ryan said. "I think we covered a lot of ground technique-wise that we have been missing on the ergs. We have some unfinished business with Yale and UVA, but we'll see them again later in the spring."

Junior Joanna Mulvey echoed the benefits of their spring break trip to Tennessee.

"This year's spring training trip was definitely one of the most productive during my time at ND," Mulvey said. "The regatta at the end of the break involved more teams than usual, which was a great way for us to get into the racing mindset moving forward. Not every race played out the way we had wanted it to since the goal is always to win, but a lot of important improvements were made from race to race."

The Irish will continue their spring season on March 28, when they head to Columbus, Ohio, for the Big Ten-ACC Double Duel.

Contact Brett O'Connell at boconnel@nd.edu

FENCING

Irish qualify 12 for NCAAs

By **BRETT O'CONNELL**
Sports Writer

The Irish qualified 12 entrants to the NCAA Championships during their showing at the Midwest Regionals on March 7 in Evansville, Illinois.

Freshmen Francesca Russo and Claudia Kulmacz finished second and third in women's sabre, posting 10-2 and 9-3 records, respectively, on the afternoon. Junior foil and 2012 Olympian Lee Kiefer took first in her weapon category with a perfect 16-0 record, followed closely by the third-place finisher, senior Madison Zeiss. Senior Nicole Ameli held the highest placement on women's epee, going 14-2 to claim second place in the event, while senior Ashley Severson and junior Catherine Lee claimed fourth and fifth places with identical 12-4 records.

The men's team witnessed 2011 NCAA Champion Ariel DeSmet earn a second-place finish with his 10-2 record in foil, just one win ahead of his teammate, freshman Virgile Collineau, who claimed third with a 9-3 record on the weekend. Freshmen Jonah Shainberg (11-2) and Jonathan Fitzgerald (10-3) took second and fourth place in men's sabre, while junior Garrett McGrath nabbed second place in epee with a 10-3

record.

Junior Sarah Followill spoke highly of her teammates' performance at Regional Qualifiers.

"I think momentum [from earlier in the season] will definitely carry over," Followill said. "Every fencer competing has extreme potential to qualify."

Followill's anticipation proved correct as the Irish qualified the maximum number of 12 entrants heading into the NCAA championships in Columbus, Ohio. The Irish join Columbia as the only two schools to qualify the maximum number of participants, with Penn State, Princeton and St. Johns each earning 11 bids. Harvard and regional rival Ohio State earned ten bids apiece.

Kiefer, the two-time defending NCAA champion who currently ranks No. 4 globally in the senior open category, is joined by Zeiss in the foil group. Epee captains Ameli and Severson each qualified, while women's sabreuses Kulmacz and Russo also qualified.

The men will send six entries to the tournament as well, headlined by DeSmet and Collineau in foil. McGrath and freshman Nicholas Hanahan will represent the Irish in men's epee, while the freshmen Shainberg and Fitzgerald will take the stripe

for the Irish at sabre.

Followill described the team's preparation process as difficult but dynamic and manageable.

"It's always hard when you're competing every weekend to manage your time," Followill said, "but it's our job and we always find a way to do it. It's been tough with midterms but school always comes first. ... We have the best manager in the world, and so many other people to help us along. From our personal trainers, sports medicine staff, nutritionists and even our personal tutors, we have every resource we need to be successful student athletes."

Followill also spoke to the success of first-year head coach Gia Kvaratskhelia.

"Gia is amazing," she said. "As our new head coach, he dove into this season with commitment and dedication and has pushed us into success this year."

The team's efforts across the board have earned it a fighting chance at individual and team titles in the coming NCAA Championships. The Irish finish their season March 19-22 at the French Field House on the campus of Ohio State in Columbus, Ohio.

Contact Brett O'Connell at boconnel@nd.edu

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EMILY MCCONVILLE | The Observer

Irish junior infielder Micaela Arizmendi throws the ball to home plate in an exhibition game at Melissa Cook Stadium on Sept. 28.

Softball

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

we'll just use scouting reports, but each team we treat the same."

Gumpf said Cleveland State "can flat hit the ball," as she said the Irish must contain their opponents' power hitters to win the game.

"We just need to be able to

control their hitters and make sure that they're hitting the pitches we want them to hit," Gumpf said. "We have to keep the ball in the yard."

Notre Dame will square off against Cleveland State at Melissa Cook Stadium this afternoon, with the first pitch scheduled for 4:30 p.m.

Contact Ben Horvath at bhorvat1@nd.edu

MEN'S GOLF

ND tees it up on both coasts

By DANIEL O'BOYLE
Sports Writer

Notre Dame finished 12th at the Lamkin San Diego Classic and 10th at the Talis Park Challenge in Naples, Florida, over spring break.

Competing against a field that included four opponents ranked inside the top 30 in the nation at the Lamkin Classic, the Irish finished with a score of 912, shooting 301 in the first round, 309 in the second and 302 in the third.

As the competition progressed, the conditions at the San Diego Country Club became difficult for all golfers, with the average score for the field on the final round being 75.5 strokes.

Sophomore Blake Barens, however, performed well above the average, shooting a career-best 18-hole score of 71 in his final round after shooting a 76 in the first round and an 80 in the second, enough for him to finish in a tie for 47th.

Sophomore Matthew Rushton shot a 32 on his opening nine, on the way to a first round of 69. However, he could only shoot a 77 in the second round and an 81 in the third to finish 47th overall.

Junior Cody Sciuipider made three birdies on the final round

to earn a share of 52nd place after rounds of 80, 77 and 72.

In his first start of the spring season, Freshman Thomas Steve earned a share of 75th place after shooting a first round of 76, a second round of 75 and a final round of 80.

Sophomore Liam Cox shot a final round of 78 to follow his first two rounds of 82 and 85 and finish tied for 82nd.

At the Talis Park Classic, Barens and Steve each earned a share of 20th place with a total score of 873.

Barens again set a career-best round, shooting a 70 in the first round followed by a 74 in the second and a 71 in the third.

Steve opened with a two-under-par 69 and ended the first day

in fifteenth place after a 73 in the second, and then shot a 73 in the final round.

Rushton shot a 78 and a 76 on the first day, but a final round of 69 earned put him in a tie for 50th place.

Sciuipider shot rounds of 73, 72 and 78 to also earn a share of 50th place. Cox shot a first round of 81, a second round of 73 and a third round of 80 to finish in 71st position.

Notre Dame will play its final event of the 2015 regular season schedule at the Mason Rudolph Invitational on April 3-4 at the Legends Club in Nashville, Tennessee.

Contact Daniel O'Boyle at doboyle1@nd.edu



WEI LIN | The Observer

Irish sophomore Liam Cox tees off in the Notre Dame Kickoff Challenge at Warren Golf Course on Aug. 31.

Baseball

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

said. "We want to be able to continue to get our position players at-bats, and we want to have them be there at a place where they're seeing live pitching. It would be tough to go weekend to weekend and expect that you're going to get the same type of skill level being shown. To a certain extent, it's an opportunity to see some of the arms that just haven't gotten enough innings yet. We need to get them innings, and we will be able to start to do that."

After the home opener against Central Michigan, Notre Dame will plunge into the rest of its season, beginning with a three-game series against ACC foe No. 16 Louisville starting Friday. Aoki said his team just needs to keep playing up to the team's slogan of "competing one pitch at a time."

"I think the physical improvement will continue to come as these guys get more at-bats and more innings pitched under their belts," Aoki said. "Especially for some of these younger guys, they're going to be put into more and more difficult situations, which is hard to believe for some of the situations that some of these young pitchers of ours have gone into and performed so well in."

"But they're going to; it's going to happen. When you have the quality of teams that are going to come in and that they're going to compete against, they're going to be put into really tough spots, and it's going to be expected that they compete at a high level."

Notre Dame will take on the Chippewas in its home opener tonight at Frank Eck Stadium, with the first pitch slated for 6:05 p.m.

Contact Isaac Lorton at ilorton@nd.edu

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DAVID SCHMITZ | The Observer

Irish senior sprinter/hurdler Jade Barber races in a hurdle event in the Meyo Invitational at Loftus Sports Center on Feb. 6.

Track

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

you're going to have run a lot better in the final.' If she had put together a little bit better race [I] think she could have and would have placed higher. I'm satisfied with her performance. Getting sixth in the country, that's nothing to scoff at."

Seidel also finished sixth in the 5,000, running a school-record 15:48.31 mark to earn her first All-American scroll in track and field.

"[Seidel] ran great," Turner said. "She could have easily been third place instead of sixth. We are so happy for Molly. We knew she was going to run well; she had a great cross country season. Every time she's stepped on the track for us she's run great and she's been injury-free."

Notre Dame won first-team All-American honors for the women's distance medley relay team in a strange way. The Irish initially finished in ninth place, but Villanova dropped the baton during the 400-meter portion of the relay and it was recovered by a fan. After Turner filed an appeal, the Wildcats were disqualified and the Irish slid into eighth, good for an All-American spot.

"I conferred with my assistant coaches to see if it was definitely Villanova that dropped the baton," Turner said. "So I went in and protested the final results and it was upheld. It wasn't the way we wanted to be first-team All-Americans, but you just can't have people handing you the baton, you have to get it yourself."

In addition to the three first-team All-Americans, seniors

Jade Barber and Chris Giesting placed well enough to be second-team All-Americans. Barber finished in ninth place by just a thousandth of a second, finishing the 60-meter hurdles in 8.18 seconds. Giesting also finished ninth in the men's 400 in 46.46 seconds. Turner said Barber's near miss speaks to the difficulty of the task.

"[Barber and Giesting] had very, very solid performances," Turner said. "In Jade's case, that was her season's best and she missed it by one one-thousandth of a second; the smallest of margins you can think of. That's unfortunate because she had been seventh the last two years. That's track and field and you just can't take for granted that an All-American will automatically be an All-American the following season."

"With Chris, he ran at the end of January and he didn't run until the ACC finals with a hip flexor. His hip's ok now, but he still wasn't quite in tip-top shape and I wasn't able to train him exactly the way I wanted to going into the indoor nationals. If we had another week, which we didn't, we would have been able to have him a bit more prepared for it. He wasn't extremely disappointed; he came out and gave 100 percent."

The Irish will now prepare for the outdoor season, which gets underway next week. Notre Dame will open at the Texas Relays and the Bobcat Invitational in Austin, Texas, and San Marcos, Texas, respectively, from March 26 through March 28.

Contact Marek Mazurek at mmazurek@nd.edu

Football

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

approach of playing the position," Kelly said of Golson. "Taking care of the football. Take the last drive in the LSU game, for example, some of the plays he made there — poised in the pocket, checking the football down, staying within the realm of the offense. Much of that needs to continue."

Kelly said he will be looking for a different type of development from Zaire in the next seven weeks.

"Leading his group, being vocal, being consistent, all those things need to be built on a day-to-day basis in the spring," he said of Zaire. "He's capable of doing it. He showed he has that in him. Now it has to be on display both in practice and not just in games."

While Kelly was quick to clarify that he never told either quarterback that they would assuredly split time under center in 2015, the head coach said he believes both will help the Irish in the fall.

"Based upon what we saw in our bowl preparations, based upon what we saw in the LSU game, I think they're both going to compete," Kelly said. "I think they're both very much going to be part of our success in 2015."

Extending their stay

In addition to Golson, eight other Irish players are expected to return as graduate students next season, Kelly announced.

That list includes cornerbacks Matthias Farley and Connor

Cavalaris, linebackers Joe Schmidt and Jarrett Grace, offensive lineman Nick Martin, receivers Amir Carlisle and Cam Bryan and tight end Chase Hounshell, who played on the defensive line in previous seasons.

Kelly said he expects a battle for the starting middle linebacker job with the return of Schmidt and Grace, whom he added both provide vocal leadership on defense.

"We've got a very good situation where we have both of these guys that can help us lead there," he said. "And we've got a very athletic, young player in [sophomore] Nyles [Morgan]. We think it's a good problem to have. We'll take those kinds of problems. Last year during the season, we didn't have that kind of luxury."

However, the Irish will not return three players who had another year of eligibility left with the team.

Offensive lineman Matt Hegarty, who started the final 10 games of the 2014 campaign at center, announced March 5 that he would not play for Notre Dame next year.

"We're in a situation certainly where we had a spot for him on our roster," Kelly said. "We thought he would be competing for a starting position. He chose to take another option that is available to him because he's going to graduate."

Martin will take his place as starting center heading into spring, Kelly said.

On defense, Kelly said cornerback Jalen Brown, who did not see game time in 2014, was not invited back to the program in 2015.

Linebacker Ben Council, who played in all but one game last season but never seemed fully recovered from a 2013 ACL injury, will not return as well.

"For Ben, that was Ben's decision that he wanted to move on," Kelly said. "He chose not to continue to play. We respected that decision. ... He's just going to get his degree and move on to the next chapter for him."

Uncertain futures

After sitting out all of 2014 as part of the University's academic investigation of five Irish players, cornerback KeiVarae Russell and defensive lineman Ishaq Williams are still hoping to return to Notre Dame next season, Kelly said.

He added that he has "communicated effectively" with Russell, but his contact with Williams has been through a third party.

"I know what KeiVarae's situation is and have had a lot of contact with him," Kelly said. "I can confidently say, standing in front of you today, he's making all the steps necessary to be back here, be part of our football team this summer."

The head coach said Williams is currently working while he figures out what his future will hold at Notre Dame.

"Right now, he's got to get re-enrolled into school," Kelly said. "He's got to reapply, go through that process. There's some uncertainties there. He's trying to do the things necessary to have a Plan B if he needs one."

Contact Mary Green at mgreen8@nd.edu

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FRI, MAR. 20

10PM - SUB EVENT
12AM - LADIES NIGHT

SAT, MAR. 21

10PM - HIP HOP DANCE OFF
12AM - HIP HOP NIGHT

FOOTBALL

Kelly discusses spring practice, QB competition

By **MARY GREEN**
Assistant Managing Editor

When Notre Dame takes its first snap of spring practice Wednesday morning, Brian Kelly will be focused in on a few key position battles, the Irish head coach said at his press conference Tuesday.

However, he does not expect every starting job to be locked up seven weeks later for the April 18 Blue-Gold Game, including the No. 1 signal caller.

"I really don't know," Kelly said when asked about if a starting quarterback will be determined in the spring. "I think it's going to take us some time to get a feel for how this competition is going. ... It's one thing to go out there and compete without footballs. It's another thing to put the football in their hands, go run the offense — then we'll have a better sense."

Graduate student quarterback Everett Golson started every game of the 2014 regular season, while



KEVIN SONG | The Observer

Irish graduate student quarterback Everett Golson throws a pass during Notre Dame's 49-14 loss to USC on Nov. 29.

junior Malik Zaire earned the nod in the finale against LSU in the Franklin American Mortgage Music City Bowl. The quarterbacks split series under center against the Tigers, and both took

snaps on the final, game-winning drive.

"We need to see him continue his development in the disciplined

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BASEBALL

Notre Dame ready for home opener

By **ISAAC LORTON**
Senior Sports Writer

With the snow melted away, baseball is back at Notre Dame, as the Irish take on Central Michigan in their home opener tonight.

Although it is chilly outside, Irish head coach Mik Aoki said Notre Dame (14-4, 3-3 ACC) is excited to be back playing at Frank Eck Stadium.

"We're looking forward to the home opener — that's for sure," Aoki said. "It will be better than the polar vortex of last year. Anything would be better than what we had to deal with last year."

The Irish concluded a month-long road trip to start the season with a series win over Clemson — their first road conference series win since joining the ACC — and are looking to continue their early success tonight against a solid squad from Central Michigan (13-7, 0-0 MAC).

"Central [Michigan] is always [an] incredibly competitive,

well-coached team and always a talented team that really, really makes you work," Aoki said. "So we're just going to have to go out there and do the same things that we've been doing and preaching all year."

Aoki said the Irish are aware of the attitude a smaller-conference team will be bringing with them in a one-game matchup.

"We don't think for a second that a Mid-American [Conference] school isn't coming in here with a giant-killer mentality on their minds," Aoki said. "They're coming in here well prepared. ... We're ready to match the effort that they're going to put forth."

These midweek, nonconference games are crucial bridges connecting the weekend series, Aoki said, in which the Irish get extra at-bats and the coaches get to see younger pitchers get more innings.

"Baseball is much more of a skill-and-repetition thing," Aoki

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ND SOFTBALL

Irish set to welcome Vikings

By **BEN HORVATH**
Sports Writer

Notre Dame will square off against Cleveland State today in a one-game series at Melissa Cook Stadium in the first Irish home game of the season.

The Irish (15-11, 1-5 ACC) are coming off a weekend trip to Tallahassee, Florida, where they dropped two out of three matchups against No. 10 Florida State, with the sole victory coming in the final game of the series.

Notre Dame's 12-0 win Sunday was highlighted by sophomore pitcher Rachel Nasland's no-hitter, the 35th solo one in program history.

Irish head coach Deanna Gumpf said Nasland and her team's performance in Tallahassee was a good way to finish the first half of the team's schedule.

"It was a nice way to finish being on the road and to come home with a win under our belts before we start our home-stretch," Gumpf said.

While the Irish have yet to play at home — they have played 13 road and 13 neutral-site games so far — they

will play 21 of their remaining 28 games at Melissa Cook Stadium, something Gumpf said she sees as a positive.

"[At home is] where you want to be at this point in the year," Gumpf said. "It's worth being on the road so much in the first half of the year because we get a heavy homestand for the rest of the season."

Gumpf said the opportunity to practice at home this week has helped the Irish in preparation for their Wednesday contest against the Vikings (12-7, 0-0 Horizon).

"Just being able to practice on our own field and be in our own dugout makes a lot of difference," Gumpf said. "I think [today] it'll be an even bigger factor than [yesterday]."

Despite this being just Notre Dame's third one-game series of the season, Gumpf said preparation for Wednesday's game will be no different than usual.

"Every team we play, we prepare for exactly the same," she said. "If we can get video on that team, we'll get video; if all we have are scouting reports,

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TRACK & FIELD

Five ND athletes earn All-American status at NCAAs



SARAH OLSON | The Observer

Irish junior sprinter/hurdler Margaret Bamgbose races in a relay event in the Notre Dame Invitational on Jan. 24.

By **MAREK MAZUREK**
Sports Writer

When Notre Dame returned home from the NCAA indoor championships in Fayetteville, Arkansas, it came back with three first-team All-American honorees and two second-team All-Americans.

Juniors Margaret Bamgbose and Molly Seidel earned first-team All-American honors in the 400-meter dash and 5,000-meter run, respectively, while the women's distance medley relay team was also All-American, completing the Irish stable of winners.

Despite just sneaking in to the finals by eight thousandths of a second, Bamgbose finished sixth in the 400 with a time of 52.65 seconds, notching her sixth first-team All-American scroll. Irish head coach Alan Turner said he felt despite receiving first-team All-American honors, Bamgbose could have performed even better.

"I thought she should have run better in the preliminary race," Turner said. "When we knew she had finally made it, I said, 'Well

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