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SMC student to read at Vatican Mass

Ali Mahoney will give first reading at Palm Sunday Mass in St. Peter's Square

By KELLY KONYA Senior News Writer

Most students who study abroad can testify to having a unique experience, but not many can say they offered the first reading at the Holy

Father's Palm Sunday Mass.

Saint Mary's sophomore Ali Mahoney, who is currently studying abroad in Rome, was chosen to give the first reading this Sunday in St. Peter's Square to kick off Holy Week

for Catholics across the globe. According to Mahoney, she was selected to do the reading



by Fr. Geno Sylva, the speaking official of the Pontifical Council for the Promotion

of the New Evangelization, whom she was introduced to one day while attending an English Mass at Santo Spirito in Sassia in Rome.

Mahoney said she and her friends began attending Mass in English at Santo Spirito in Sassia each Sunday, and it was there that Sylva first asked Mahoney to give a reading.

"I spoke up and said I would gladly read," she said. "Throughout this semester, my friends and I have become

good friends with Fr. Geno, and a few of the Saint Mary's girls and myself have joined him for coffee a few times."

On St. Patrick's Day, Mahoney's fellow student and friend Mary Luka relayed the news that Sylva had sent an email requesting for Mahoney to call him as soon as possible. Mahoney said she attributes this fateful e-mail to "the luck of the Irish," and she hurried to the hotel's front desk to make the call.

"[Sylva] told me that he was very impressed with my readings at the past few Masses at Santo Spirito and was wondering if I would like to read the first reading for the Holy Father's Palm Sunday Mass in St. Peter's Square," she said. "His job was to find a young, English-speaking pilgrim to speak at the Mass, and he felt that I would be a great fit."

Mahoney said she could not

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ND professor's first book released in Dublin



Professor of political science Fr. Sean McGraw signs a copy of his book,

By JACK ROONEY Managing Editor

DUBLIN — Surrounded by notable priests, politicians and members of the Notre Dame community at the historic Merrion Hotel in Ireland's capital, professor of political science Fr. Sean McGraw launched his new book, 'How Parties Win: Shaping the Irish Political

Arena' on Thursday evening.

The book, McGraw's first, stems from his doctoral research dating back to 2006,

"It's been a long time coming because I began my doctoral research back here [in Dublin] in 2006 and 2007 when I lived here and had a Fulbright [Scholarship] at

see DUBLIN PAGE 4

Latin Expressions showcases Latino culture

By EMILY McCONVILLE News Writer

Latino Student Alliance (LSA) will host Latin Expressions, an annual showcase of music, dance and other performances related to Latino culture, Friday at 7 p.m. at the Century Center in South Bend.

"We hope that this showcase will make the Latino presence on campus felt," LSA treasurer and Latin Expressions committee co-director Kaylee Calles said. "We are here, and we have a diverse culture of

we want to share it with ND and those of the South Bend community so that they can better understand what it means to be Latino."

The show will feature a variety of individual performers, community groups and student groups, including Mariachi ND, Ballet Folklórico Azul Y Oro, which performs traditional Mexican dances, and Coro Primavera, Notre Dame's Spanish-language choir; as well as two bands, Los Vecinos and Mouse Child.

This year's show is the first

music, dance and talent, and to be officially hosted by the LSA, which was created last year when two Latino student groups, La Alianza and MEChA Notre Dame, merged. Calles said this year's Latin Expressions theme, "Raíces: Return to Our Roots," reflects these changes.

> "We wanted to encompass what LSA meant to us," Calles said. "At this time, our logo was a tree with all the leaves as flags from different Latin American countries.

"It got me thinking that

see EXPRESSIONS PAGE 5

PrismND hosts annual LGBT retreat this weekend

By MADISON JAROS

This weekend, PrismND will host its second annual retreat — one it hopes will foster reflection and a feeling of fellowship within the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) community at Notre Dame, PrismND spirituality commissioner Shannon Connolly said.

see RETREAT **PAGE 5**

PrismND's second annual LGBT retreat

MARCH 27-28

"A 24-hour retreat where you will reflect on spirituality, sexual and gender identity and discuss your life at Notre Dame."

Open to all students of Notre Dame, Holy Cross and Saint Mary's

ERIN RICE | The Observer



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

> Editor-in-Chief Greg Hadley

Managing Editor **Business Manager** Alex Jirschele Asst. Managing Editor: Mary Green Asst. Managing Editor: Lesley Stevenson
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Office Manager & General Info

Ph: (574) 631-7471 Fax: (574) 631-6927

Advertising

(574) 631-6900 ads@ndsmcobserver.com

 ${\bf Editor\text{-}in\text{-}Chief}$

(574) 631-4542 ghadley@nd.edu

Managing Editor

(574) 631-4542 jrooney1@nd.edu

Assistant Managing Editors (574) 631-4541 mgreen8@nd.edu

lsteven1@nd.edu, wlin4@nd.edu

Business Office (574) 631-5313

News Desk

(574) 631-5323 news@ndsmcobserver.com

Viewpoint Desk (574) 631-5303 viewpoint@ndsmcobserver.com

Sports Desk

(574) 631-4543 sports@ndsmcobserver.com

Scene Desk (574) 631-4540 scene@ndsmcobserver.com

Saint Mary's Desk

hehmse01@saintmarys.edu

Photo Desk (574) 631-8767 photo@ndsmcobserver.com

Systems & Web Administrators (574) 631-8839

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Today's Staff

News Emily McConville

Madison Jaros Margaret Hynds **Graphics**

Erin Rice Photo

Sports Rachel O'Grady Manny De Jesus

Zach Klonsonski Scene

Miko Malabute

Viewpoint Amy Ackermann Mary Kate Luft

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.

QUESTION OF THE DAY:

Have a question you want answered? Email photo@ndsmcobserver.com

Who is the most influential woman in your life?



Michael Wajda senior Duncan Hall "My three sisters."



Katie Loughran junior off-campus "Mrs. Katy McShane."



Katie Cox iunior Pangborn Hall "Katie Dold."



Marissa Ray sophomore Walsh Hall "My nani (grandma)."



Pat Hansen junior Knott Hall "Sally Ride."



Amber Watson sophomore Ryan Hall "My mom."



Several exiting hall presidents and vice presidents from the Hall Presidents Council hosted an awards dinner, where they announced the winners of various dorm appreciation awards, including Best Brother and Sister dorm relationship. of various dorm awards, including "Best Brother Sister"

Corrections

In Thursday's edition, a story about the BridgeND immigration debate incorrectly reported Mark Gianfalla said immigration quota numbers should be increased to 650,000-690,000. These are actually the current visa quota numbers, and Gianfalla stated he favors increasing them.

In addition, a story about the Wednesday student senate meeting failed to report that a letter presented to the Senate was written by student body vice president Matthew Devine, who could not present the letter to the senate himself because he serves as its chair. Student body president Lauren Vidal, who presented the resolution with student union chief of staff Shannon Montague, tabled the motion so that Devine, who leaves office next week, can present it at the next senate meeting. The Observer regrets these errors.

WEEKEND PREVIEW:

Include your event: email news@ndsmcobserver.com

Friday

LGBT Retreat

Off-campus All day PrismND studentorganized retreat.

Baseball

Frank Eck Stadium 6:05 p.m. - 8:05 p.m. Notre Dame takes on Virginia.

Saturday

Holy Half Marathon Campus-wide

9 a.m. - 12 p.m. Benefits charities in South Bend

Film: Inherent Vice

DeBartolo Performing Arts Center 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. Open to the public.

Sunday

Solemn Mass

Basilica of the Sacred Heart 9:45 a.m. - 11 a.m. Worship service.

Women's Tennis

Eck Tennis Pavilion 12 p.m. - 2 p.m. Free admission and open to the public.

ND graduate examines pitfalls of service projects

By GABRIELA MALESPIN News Writer

Daniella Papi, a 2000 Notre Dame graduate and social entrepreneur, presented a lecture on the importance of language, perspective and learning in the context of international service Thursday night. Part of the Dean's Fellows speaker series, the talk centered on Papi's experiences in Cambodia and the lessons and perspectives she obtained from her years of service work.

Papi, the founder of the educational travel organization PEPY Tours, said an important step in international service is reframing the language and vocabulary currently used to describe service work. She said words such as "villager," "aid" and "development" often convey power dynamics and connotations that project an unequal relationship between communities and volunteers.

"Our vocabulary needs to change," Papi said. "If I'm a volunteer and you're a beneficiary, I'm already in a position of power. Instead of it being, 'Hi, I'm here to help you, in a language I don't know, place I don't know,' it should be, 'Hi, I'm here to learn from you."

Papi said some of the problems within development

work stem from the ways we learn about service work. Papi said simplistic fundraising tactics, such as televised pleas for donations, provide the public with the impression that development work has simple solutions to complex problems.

"Our fundraising channels actually become our education channels," she said. "It causes huge problems. ... Often times, our efforts become solution-led instead of problem-led."

Papi said a fundamental problem in development work involves believing material agents, such as money or infrastructure, rather than human agents are the solution to development problems. Papi said her time working and serving in Cambodia helped her understand how many of the often simplistic solutions stemmed from a well-intentioned but often misplaced desire to provide a solution without focusing on the particular problem or community.

"One of the things that I learned was that we shouldn't be investing in things; we needed to invest in people," she said.

Papi said in order for more effective leaders to change and engage in meaningful service work, there needs to be a fundamental shift in mindset from intending to save a community towards wanting to learn from it.

"The question shouldn't be, 'How are you innovating; how are you uniquely solving this world problem?" she said. "It should be, 'Who's shoulders are you standing on? Who has tried to solve this problem before you?"

Papi said in order to take action and learn how to become an agent for service, people must engage in frequent personal development by becoming self-aware, understanding their culture and becoming open to learning. Papi emphasized that engaging in meaningful service work requires recognizing how personal and global development are intertwined.

"If we are constantly focusing on 'saving the world' as an external things to ourselves, that is what is going to cause problems later on," she said. "Personal development and global development are entirely interlinked. If we're not willing to look at ourselves, we're not going to change the

Contact Gabriela Malespin at gmalespi@nd.edu

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

Are you staying at Notre Dame this summer? Need a job? Want a fun job? Come help the Alumni Association make this the best Reunion Ever!

We are looking for Notre Dame and St. Mary's students and children of Notre Dame faculty and staff to assist us in welcoming our returning alumni to campus during Reunion Weekend 2015.

The Notre Dame Alumni Association has posted employment opportunities for 2015 Alumni Reunion weekend on the Notre Dame employment website for a variety of positions paying between \$7.65 and \$8.65 per hour. The work schedule for Reunion is as follows:

General Employee Orientation: Tuesday, June 2 (4:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m.) Transportation Employee Orientation: Wednesday, June 3 (4:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m.)

Reunion: Thursday, June 4 through Sunday, June 7.

This is an excellent chance to enjoy the Reunion atmosphere on campus while welcoming and assisting returning alumni. Reunion employees receive a t-shirt and meals during their work shifts.

Please check out all the positions and apply for your top choices. The application deadline is May 15 or when all positions have been filled. To view Reunion postings, visit the Notre Dame employment website at jobs.nd.edu. Type in REUNION as the keyword to search postings.

> *Please note, employees must be 16 years of age or older to apply. *Housing for employees is not provided. *No phone calls please. Email: alumwork@nd.edu.

We look forward to having you as a member of the Notre Dame Alumni Association Reunion 2015 Team!

Students to run in 11th annual **Holy Half**

By ANDREA VALE

News Writer

The 11th annual Holy Half Marathon will be held this Saturday. This year's race will be filled with the maximum 1,500 participants, as well as 500 waiting list members, and will benefit the local charities St. Margaret's House and La Casa de Amistad.

Holy Half President Katie Wood said the tradition started eleven years ago with only 80 runners and earned \$1,000 for

"It was really these kids seeing, 'Hey do you think we could run a half marathon?" Maria Murphy, Vice Preisdent of the Holy Half, said, "So they decided to put one on, and a couple kids joined in. It's expanded a lot."

This year's race was capped off at 1,500 runners, with 500 left on a waiting list.

"We have a strict cap of 1,500," Kate Simons, chief of staff for the Holy Half, said. "The campus is not big enough to go bigger than that. So we're going to keep it at 1,500 for the foreseeable future."

Wood said registration for the race opened the first week in December, and the 1,500-runner cap filled up by early January.

"This is the earliest it's ever filled up since we've been race directors ... for the past three years," Wood said.

After beginning the race at the Stepan Center, the same starting place as last year, runners will embark on a 13.1 mile route that is a departure from past years.

"This year is unique because of all the construction on campus," Murphy said, "We're still finalizing the course due to last minute changes we had to make. We're avoiding the stadium and everything in that direction. We're seeing a lot of the main sights of Notre Dame Avenue; we're hitting both of the lakes, which are really nice to run along; God Quad; going up by the grotto."

Murphy said this year will feature another first – a spaghetti avale@nd.edu

dinner on the Friday before the

"Everyone can carbo-load, meet each other, get excited for the race," she said, "We're trying to expand it into more of a weekend experience, as opposed to a three-hour race."

For each of past two years, the Holy Half has raised \$30,000 for charity, and all three race directors hope to exceed that figure

The charities the race benefits changes every year, but Simons said they make a point of choosing charities that have a connection with Notre Dame.

"We always try to keep it within the South Bend community," Wood said.

According to their respective websites, La Casa de Amistad assists bilingual and bicultural members of the community in education and work, with an emphasis on Latinos, and St. Margaret's House is a day center aiding homeless or suffering women and children in the area.

Anne Arnason, a member of the charity committee and participant in this year's race, said the club has "done charity days with both of the organizations. With La Casa we went ... and toured their building and met with the director of their program, who told us what they do."

As an organizer, Arnason said she hopes the race "gives students an opportunity to know what their participation in the race is for. Both of the charities will be setting up a booth at the race for both runners and spectators to learn more about the organizations, which will hopefully give them a way to make known all the good things that they do for the South Bend community."

Murphy said emphasizing the charity aspect was the most important part of the race.

"That's obviously why we're doing this," she said. "We're excited to raise money."

Contact Andrea Vale at



Students participating in last year's Holy Half brave the cold and snow to ultimately finish the race's 13.1 miles.

Dublin

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

University College Dublin and worked out of O'Connell House," McGraw said in an interview. "I followed a lot of politicians around during the 2007 election, and that's really when I did the heart of my initial research, and then have done several rounds of research from that.

"In 2010 and 2012, I did parliamentary surveys where I interviewed nearly two-thirds of the Irish parliament. So I've been kind of building on my initial research since back in 2006, so it's been a long time coming. It feels good to actually have it done."

The book also launched in the United States last Tuesday, St. Patrick's Day, at an event on Notre Dame's campus that featured former Irish President and current Keough-Naughton Institute for Irish Studies visiting fellow Mary McAleese.

Thursday's event brought together important figures in Irish politics and society, including Apostolic Nuncio to Ireland Charles John Brown, who received his undergraduate degree from Notre Dame, Irish businessman Fergal Naughton, who serves on the Notre Dame Board of Trustees and current and former Irish legislators and members of government.

McGraw encountered many of these politicians during the course of his research and said his experiences working on the book showed him the hard working reality of Irish political life.

"The politicians [in Ireland] take a bad wrap, I think, as politicians do in many places, but they are really hard working, and they're almost hyper representative in responding to the needs of their constituents, maybe to a fault," he said. "But it was pretty remarkable

"... A lot of studies look at one election and make a lot of that, and my point is actually you have to look at how parties adapt over a series of elections, and that's what really matters."

Fr. Sean McGraw professor of political science

to see how hard they work and literally knock on doors with them and go into peoples' homes with them and to see how responsive they are."

Some of these politicians who read earlier drafts of McGraw's book have given him positive reviews, he said.

"Thankfully, the few politicians who have read it already in earlier drafts have given me good feedback," McGraw said. "Mary McAleese ... used the image that it was as if I gave her my hand and walked her through a period of her life that she lived through and showed her things that she hadn't seen before, which was a great compliment because in some ways, I'm an outsider, so to be able to have them say

that you're an insider is really a great honor."

McGraw said his research for the book led to several basic conclusions "about how major political parties adapt to huge socioeconomic change."

"I think the main thing that's different in my approach than in many others is that I try to look at multiple dimensions and I look at competition over time," he said. "So a lot of studies look at one election and make a lot of that, and my point is actually you have to look at how parties adapt over a series of elections, and that's really what matters.

"The other thing is I come up with this idea of what I call 'displacing issues.' In Ireland they have referenda and all kinds of other institutional bodies that deal with issues that I think in some ways some people look at as a bad thing because they feel like politicians are punting. But in some ways it reduces tension and creates consensus, and that's not such a bad thing, especially if you look at what we're experiencing in the U.S. or other places where there's such intense polarization."

In his remarks at the event, McGraw thanked the politicians and academics he worked with throughout his research, and also the friends who he said have helped make Ireland his home.

"One of the first times I came to Ireland, I heard the phrase, 'Home is the place you always have to go back to and they always have to take you,' and for me, that's the way I think about Ireland ... that it's my home." McGraw said. "And even though for many people I encounter, I am just one of these yanks and I'm an outsider, in some ways, my time over the last really 20 years of coming to Ireland has been one of shifting from, hopefully, being an outsider to one of being an insider."

In an interview before the event, McGraw, who said he hopes his second book will focus on "the collapse of the institutional Church in Irish society," also expressed his gratitude to the Notre Dame undergraduate students who have worked with him over the course of his research for the book.

"I've been very fortunate to have students working with me over the last five years," he said. "When I was here as a doctoral student, I had students who were at the Trinity [University College Dublin] program who literally helped me look through newspapers and went to elections with me. One of the exciting to me all along is that Notre Dame undergrads have been hugely helpful to me in my research, and that's also made it more fun."

Contact Jack Rooney at jrooney1@nd.edu

SMC seniors write letters of gratitude

By OLIVIA JACKSON

News Writer

This spring, Saint Mary's College seniors have the opportunity to write letters to people who influenced their time at the college.

The Senior Letter Project, spearheaded by senior class president Tori Wilbraham and senior vice president Lauren Osmanski, began as a way for members of the senior class to show gratitude to one another and to the Saint Mary's community, Wilbraham said.

"Our hope is that the Saint Mary's community will take a few minutes to say thank you to one another for their presence and influence during their time at Saint Mary's," Wilbraham said. "I think writing letters is such a beautiful way to preserve a feeling or relationship."

Wilbraham said the Letter Project was a key part of her and Osmanski's campaign for president and vice president of the senior class.

Wilbraham said a message was sent to all members of the senior class, with examples of possible people to write to, such as a lab partner or a roommate. The letters will be sorted and distributed by the senior class officers. The message also stated that letters should be submitted by April 24.

"[Students] may email a letter to smcletters@gmail. com with the [recipient's] name in the subject line. During senior week, the letters will be handed out," Wilbraham said.

Contact Olivia Jackson ojacks01@nd.edu





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JACK ROONEY | The Observe

Professor of political science Fr. Sean McGraw discusses his first book to an audience in Dublin.

Expressions

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

this is our founding year and that we are setting down roots for what we hope LSA to be an organization in which all Latinos can come together to share our culture with the rest of the ND community as we branch out and proudly share our individual heritage."

Fellow Latin Expressions co-

"[The show] is an opportunity for the Latino community to invite that great ND community to convivir con nosotros [live with us], to share a space and a place and celebrate with us ... "

Diana Gutierrez Latin Expressions co-director

director Diana Gutierrez said planning for the showcase began before the spring semester

started, auditions were held after spring break and the groups have been rehearsing since.

"I can't even keep track of how many hours we put into planning this," she said. "It was a lot like a part-time job since we were trying new ways of running the show. However, this work will pay off not only in a great show but in a legacy we're trying to create."

Calles said the show would emphasize Latino culture and recognize the contribution of Latino cultural clubs to the Notre Dame community.

"It is also an opportunity for the Latino community to invite that great ND community to convivir con nosotros [live with us], to share a space and place and celebrate with us our expressions of being not only Latino but part of Notre Dame," she said.

Tickets to the show, which are available at LaFortune Box Office, are \$3 for dues-paying members of LSA, \$4 each for groups of 10 or more and \$5 for individual tickets. Shuttles will transport students from Library Circle to the Century Center starting at 6 p.m. Friday.

Contact Emily McConville at emcconv1@nd.edu

Mass

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

believe what she was hearing, though she immediately accepted.

"Mary stood by me the whole time, and I'm pretty sure the concierge at the front desk of our hotel looked at me a little funny because I couldn't stand still. I felt so much joy and confusion while still on the phone with Fr. Geno," she said. "I immediately called my mom and told her ... It was when I was on the phone with her that I started crying and realized how great this opportunity is."

Shortly after accepting Sylva's offer, Mahoney said she received a formal invitation from Msgr. John Cihak, the Papal Master of Ceremonies and a Notre Dame alumnus from the class of 1992.

"It's hard to put into words how I feel. It is such an honor to be chosen for this experience," she said. "When people ask me how I feel, I can't help but to think about how surreal this experience is. This invitation would have never been offered had I not

gone outside of my comfort zone to volunteer to read a few Sundays at Santo Spirito.

"To be able to proclaim God's Word in a church in Rome is an amazing experience in itself. But it is truly a blessing to be able to share God's word with thousands of people of different languages, cultures and nations, coming together as one Catholic community."

Mahoney said this upcoming experience reflects

"... It is truly a blessing to be able to share God's word with thousands of people of different languages, cultures and nations, coming together as one Catholic community"

Ali Mahoney sophomore

studying precisely what abroad in Rome has meant to her — having the center of the Catholic faith at her fingertips.

"Whether it is going to Mass at the Vatican, seeing the Pope at the Angelus or Papal Audience, attending a few more daily Masses or simply developing a friendship with a priest, I can say that my faith has immensely grown while studying abroad," she said.

"I'm not saying you have to come to Rome to experience this change. However, I think that studying abroad has allowed me to expand on the freedom I am given as a young woman, by taking chances or doing things I never would have done before."

In addition, Mahoney said the entire experience would not be complete if she did not have her friends and fellow classmates to share it with.

"Over the past three months, we have become like a family. We do everything together. If I am having a bad day, I know someone is always there to make me feel better," she said. "Having my Saint Mary's family and my parents there with me this Sunday is truly a blessing.

"I'm so grateful to be able to represent Saint Mary's in this

Contact Kelly Konya at kkonya01@saintmarys.edu

Retreat

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Connolly said the retreat looks to serve LGBT students whose spiritual needs may not be entirely met by what is provided on campus.

"There are not many venues on campus that are, understandably, willing to create a space that addresses LGBT student needs in terms of spirituality," Connolly said. " ... And that's under-

standable because that's not serving the needs of the majority. That's definitely not the majority here. So, there are conversations that happen on campus around the theology of [LGBT issues], which is great, there are a lot of fellowship opportunities in general and resources in general, but we feel really called to offer that space where orientation or gender identity isn't going to come

up as an issue."

Sophomore and PrismND secretary Jennifer Cha said the club established the retreat to give LGBT students the chance to engage with the faith life "so integral to Notre Dame's identity."

"Spirituality and LGBTQ life are sometimes portrayed in opposition to each other, and we wanted to challenge that idea by creating a space where the two can be not only in conversation with but intimately connected to each other," Cha said.

Connolly said she hopes the retreat, which will feature LGBT student speakers in addition to other basic retreat activities, will foster internal reflection.

"I'd like to think that [the retreat] will invite people to look at a process that they don't have time to look at," Connolly said. "Journeying with your orientation or your gender identity is something that's very difficult, and it's part of who you are. ... Not only is [the retreat] an invitation to take that time [to explore that], it's an invitation to be with people who understand it, to be in a place where you can reach out to people."

Campus response to the retreat has been mixed, Connolly said.

"Notre Dame itself, the administration, has been incredibly supportive," she "Campus ministry, rectors, there are too many people to name who have been supportive. The student body has mixed reviews

a lot of the time. It's hilarious how many people think we're actually trying to 'pray the gay away.' Some people I don't think understand how this is kosher, but we definitely do keep it in line with Catholic teaching."

The question of PrismND's involvement with student allies is one that has come up during the planning of the retreat, which is open to all students regardless of

"Journeying with your orientation or your gender identity is something that's very difficult, and it's a part of who you are."

Shannon Connolly PrismND spirituality commissioner

sexual orientation, Connolly said.

"The question of how much room do we make for allies is a big one," she said. "Is [PrismND] an organization that serves as an ambassador from the community to allies, trying to say 'this is what we're about, welcome?' Or is it more of an inward-facing organization, as a space for [LGBT] to communicate? Ideally both. And the retreat is one of the most inward-facing places we have. I think last year we had one or two allies, and they were people who had already been deeply involved in the LBGT community ...

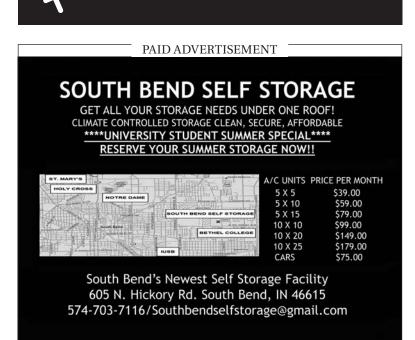
"So this is not necessarily something that I would encourage allies to go on as their first foray into being better allies. Because I think it would just be a lot. This is a really personal and intimate retreat. I think the experience of the allies we had come last year was positive, and I think they already understood a lot about what it means to be LGBT. So if someone didn't understand that, it would be kind of difficult."

But overall, the retreat's focus on LGBT issues will be less alien to allies than they might think, Connolly said.

"I'd say the LGBT 'lens' doesn't change things as much as people would think it does," she said. "So, while all of our speakers are speaking on LGBT issues, coming from an LGBT perspective, there are other activities that don't have any orientation. ... I think a lot of the time, you think you're coming from an LGBT perspective, and you are, but an LGBT perspective includes the same questions anyone else is going through. Am I doing the right thing? Am I hurting the people I love? How do I forgive myself for who and what I've been? How do other people forgive me? How do people see me? It's all the same questions."

The PrismND retreat will take place Friday and Saturday.

Contact Madison Jaros at mjaros@nd.edu



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INSIDE COLUMN

Math in March

Iodi Lo

Senior Photographer

March is coming to a close, and because of this, I would like to talk about the inevitable end of March Madness. So how is your bracket doing? Great? You're going to win your pool? Not so hot? Well I'm here to remind you that if your bracket isn't 100 percent accurate then you are pretty normal. I'm checking ESPN right now to see who has the most accurate bracket so far in the country. And even jghayes2932, who leads the country in accuracy, only has 620 points out of the possible 640 points.

Sure jghayes2932 has the most accurate bracket in a pool of millions of entries, but he still does not have a perfect bracket. No one has a perfect bracket and perhaps that is the beauty of March Madness. Being in computer engineering I know several different ways one can formulate an algorithm and system to pick all of the teams and decide who is going to make it to the top. My favorite algorithm so far is from the Wall Street Journal, which has a Madness Meter. The Wall Street Journal literally has a setting accepting the fact that statistics, skill and strategy might not always guarantee a win. Sometimes what determines a win over a loss is the heart of the team and how much that team wants to win; two discerning factors that are not quantifiable and yet are perhaps the most important factors to a team.

So back to brackets, if you also did not take into consideration the heart and drive to win in a team, don't worry, you are not the only one. If you are one of the people to have an awful, shaming bracket then let me cheer you up. In the annual The Observer Group, where what will be won isn't money but bragging rights over every other department, my personal bracket has been destroyed. I am no longer in last place, but I am in the penultimate position. Not surprising considering the fact I picked Villanova to make it to the final four, did not see Baylor and SMU getting upset and forgot that Wichita State is a grossly underrated team while KU is a grossly overrated team. It comes out that I may not be the ultimate loser in The Observer Group, but my PCT stands at 4.4 percent (meaning my bracket is in the bottom 5 percent of brackets in terms

My bracket is bad. But I would like to defend myself in stating that sure it is difficult to be in the top 95th-percentile but it is also just as difficult to be in the bottom 5th-percentile (assuming the graph is a bell curve). And we should all be impressed with the people who do really well in their bracket and people who do really poorly in their brackets because it takes just as much talent to be in the bottom 5 percent as it takes to be in the top 5.

Also, go Irish! Beat Stanford!

Contact Jodi Lo at jlo1@nd.edu The views expressed in the Inside Column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.

A true Notre Dame man

THE OBSERVER EDITORIAL

With the NCAA tournament in full swing, Irish men's basketball head coach Mike Brey is one of the most visible figures in sports right now, especially after his team's two nail-biter wins over Northeastern and Butler last weekend.

But for members of the Notre Dame community, Brey is consistently one of the most visible figures on campus, not just in March.

Whether he's patrolling the sidelines during a game at Purcell Pavilion, grabbing lunch at South Dining Hall or dropping by dorms to encourage students to watch the Irish in action, it's hard to go a long period of time without spotting Brey.

However, Brey doesn't come by just to make an appearance and drum up ticket sales. He is approachable and just as eager to talk about what students did for spring break as he is to discuss the latest Irish victory.

Like his counterpart on the women's team, head coach Muffet McGraw, he's genuinely involved in the Notre Dame community instead of confined to his office in the Joyce Center.

Although he might have bigger things on his mind, such as landing a five-star recruit, figuring out how to break through a tough 2-3 zone or running a program in one of the most difficult conferences in the country, we can always count on Brey for a good conversation, even if it's not about basketball.

We can also count on Brey to show enthusiasm and optimism, even when times are tough. Notre Dame's 15-17 record last season was far from stellar, and many of us decided we didn't want to sit through any more home losses this year.

But Brey never gave up on the Leprechaun Legion, sending reminder emails before big matchups to make us believe our presence was just as important as a step-back jumper from Jerian Grant or a hard-fought rebound from Pat Connaughton. "We need our sixth man," Brey would tell us, and his sixth man would be there to cheer after a key 3-pointer, bang on the seats during opponent free throws and chant, "We are ND," after an Irish win.

Now, possibly more than ever, we want to let Brey know we'll always have his back because he's an integral part of the Notre Dame family.

After last night's win over Wichita State, the Irish are still dancing in the late stages of an unbelievable season. The team has reached its first Elite Eight since 1979, and its 32-5 record and ACC tournament championship were pinnacles many of us thought were unattainable after last year.

Brey has led an incredible turnaround to prove that Notre Dame is, once again, one of the nation's top programs.

But more so than that, we want to show our support for Brey because of the tremendous courage he displayed last Saturday, when he announced to his players, assistant coaches and the media after the overtime win over Butler that his mother, Betty Brey, had died that morning.

Brey said he didn't want to make the day about him. He wanted the focus to remain on his players and their game. His commitment to both his team and Notre Dame as a whole shone through as he coached the Irish to yet another victory, despite his loss. Brey's selflessness reinforced our knowledge that we have a man of high character — a true Notre Dame man — at the helm of the men's basketball program.

"The strength that he had to have had to go through it without mentioning it, without acting like it, he hadn't skipped a beat," Connaughton said after last Saturday's win. "I just hope he knows this team is here for him."

Your team is there for you, Coach Brey, and so is your Notre Dame family. You've always had our back, and we'll always have yours.

EDITORIAL CARTOON





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VIEWPOINT

THE OBSERVER | FRIDAY, MARCH 27, 2015 | NDSMCOBSERVER.COM

Implement Good Samaritan policies at ND

Alex Caton

Modest Proposals

One night in January of my junior year, I was roped into a walkover to a dorm on the south half of campus to pick up a passed-out friend of mine. After a fragmented night of hopping dorm parties, he had wound up basically unresponsive on a futon, his head resting eight inches above a trashcan on the knee of an Eagle Scout who was trying unsuccessfully to make him throw up.

We talked about what to do. He could probably sleep it off. His pulse was slow but regular. His skin wasn't cold or discolored. But he was unable to talk, and his eyes were dead-looking. Rolling the dice with a friend's life and health is no way to conduct business, so we determined that the best thing to do was to call for help.

If I told you that we never talked about our friend (and us) getting disciplined in the 10-minute discussion we had about whether to call in the ARs, RAs and EMTs, I'd be telling you a lie.

In 2012, Indiana joined 15 other states in guarding against this thinking when it passed the "Lifeline Law." The law gives minors immunity for alcoholrelated offenses if the reason they encounter police is because they called for medical attention, or because medical attention was sought for them.

As of 2013, more than 240 American colleges have implemented "medical amnesty" and "Good Samaritan" policies affording these protections to students on their campuses. The latter protects the individual who calls for help from prosecution while the former protects the individual needing help.

Neither of these policies exist explicitly in du Lac. They should.

Brian Coughlin, Assistant VP of Student Affairs, Women's Club Water Polo coach and very nice guy, articulated the University's position to The Observer in 2012: "It is hard to fathom one Notre Dame student acting so much out of a perceived self-interest that they may not help a fellow student in need because they are more worried about potential discipline ... I recall one statement that questioned what kind of place Notre Dame would become if we have to start legislating and putting conditions on care and compassion for one another."

I too have an optimistic view of the Notre Dame student body, and in the few other times I have seen someone carted off in an ambulance for alcohol poisoning, ND students have put disciplinary concerns aside to do the right thing.

But why risk it? Why build in disincentives to do the right thing?

Contra Mr. Coughlin's argument, Notre Dame does legislate good behavior. Whatever their legitimate communitarian aims, parietals exist and no one is going to deny their connection to Catholic moral teachings on sex. The same can be said for our stringent policies on marijuana use.

There's no discernible downside to explicitly implementing medical amnesty and Good Samaritan policies and no reason to believe that doing so would turn Notre Dame into an anarchist nihilist booze mecca. According to the International Journal of Drug Policy, when Cornell implemented Good Samaritan and medical amnesty policies in 2000, the number of students saying they did not call to help a sick person because they were afraid of getting the person in trouble decreased two-and-a-half times. Meanwhile, the amount of binge-drinking on campus stayed the same, which is unsurprising, because nobody really goes into a night aspiring to black out and wind up in the hospital. Cornell also smartly maintained punishments for causing or threatening physical harm, sexual violence, property damage, fake IDs, hazing and so

on, ensuring that medical necessity can't be used as a cover for other wrong behavior.

Notre Dame students and student governments have been advocating medical amnesty and Good Samaritan policies with varying degrees of strength since 2010. Partially because the University only reviews du Lac every three years, these sensible policies have never gotten off the ground. The proper response is not just to implement Good Samaritan and medical amnesty when du Lac is reviewed next year, but also to open up disciplinary reviews to stronger and more frequent student input. Giving residence halls more latitude for first offenses when the Office of Community Standards came to be was a good place to start. A good place to continue would be opening du Lac to binding and nonbinding referenda.

If student referenda seem out of character with Notre Dame, we need only look a couple decades into the past. The desegregation of dorms based on class year and shift to "stay-halls" as they were called then came out of a 1967 binding student referendum. In 1970, students rejected the idea of changing the academic calendar to give students two weeks off leading up to Congressional elections, again with a binding referendum. In March 1990, 80 percent of students voted to create co-ed residence halls for upperclassmen. That one didn't get far.

But if you had a referendum today on Good Samaritan policies it would pass with overwhelming majorities. Such a policy is sensible, safe, proven effective and consonant with our University's mission. Let's open up some policy windows and make it happen.

Alex Caton is a senior political science major in the one and only St. Edward's Hall. He welcomes commentary at acaton@nd.edu

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

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Save Knott Quadrangle

On April 26, 2013, trumpets were blown, speeches made, ribbons cut and out of the shadowy eastern edges of Notre Dame's fabled campus, a quadrangle was born

We named her Knott Quadrangle. She was our quadrangle and we loved her. Her verdant meadows pushed eastward from Knott Hall to the B2 parking lot, stretching from the N 41° 42′ 13.8895" parallel to the N 41° 42′ 10.0398" parallel. In crisp fall air, we tossed footballs across her lawn, crunchy with fallen leaves. And when life returned to South Bend, she hosted many a springtime grill-out. Such was our Eden.

But then on March 18, an iron curtain fell between Knott Hall and our beloved Quadrangle. Our paradise was lost. They're digging deep into her soil, and by 2016, a dorm will arise.

This aggression has shaken us from the romance of our agrarian past and we're now determined to

defend our property rights. Nonetheless, we remain reasonable men willing to negotiate with the University for fair use of our Quadrangle.

We hwave but three demands:

First, Knott Quadrangle must retain its God-given name. We loudly denounce any schemes to absorb Knott Quad into Mod Quad or rename this portion of campus "East Quad."

Second, we demand naming rights for the new dorm built on our Quadrangle. We have shortlisted the following names: Knott Hall II, Not Knott Hall and Knott Hall: The Sequel.

Finally, the University must pay for the use of Knott Quad in the form of dormitory improvements. After the fall of Knott Quad, we became aware of our nakedness in the dorm shower stalls and we subsequently realized that the curtains on every stall are six inches too narrow. We must have shower curtains that ensure our privacy. We further demand a

functional plumbing system. This fall, filthy water containing tiny worms gurgled up sporadically from the sinks of one of your authors and his next door neighbors.

For these demands, we will picket Knott Quad at 5 p.m. on March 27. We look forward to working with the University to secure a bright future for our Quadrangle.

Andrew Weiler hall president emeritus senior Knott Hall

> Joe Schneider hall presdient junior Knott Hall March 26

Join the Discussion

Have an opinion? Let us hear it.

Send a letter to the Editor at viewpoint@ndsmcobserver.com

SCENE



By BRIDGET DEDELOW

Scene Writer

When I think of bands that have truly been with me throughout my life, the ones I can count are few and far between. However, one that would instantly be put on my soundtrack would be Death Cab for Cutie. The band has had a hefty 17-year career, and they have been working their way up through the charts with well-known songs about love, loss and everything in between. However, youth cannot stay for long, and this is identified on Death Cab for Cutie's newest album, "Kintsugi." Kintsugi, as a method, is a Japanese art of taking broken pottery and repairing the cracks with gold or silver. The Japanese treat this art as breakage being part of the pottery's history, instead of something to cover up and disguise.

This album is Death Cab for Cutie's very first without their producer, Chris Walla. "Kintsugi," both as an album title and an idea, fits along with the concept of the album, because while the theme is partly adulthood, it has

an underlying theme of repair and renewal. I was surprised by the simplicity of this album overall, compared to the upbeat nature of their last album, "Codes and Keys." Its opener, "No Room In Frame," is definitely a breakup song, a possible ode to Ben Gibbard's breakup with Zooey Deschanel earlier in the year. Their premiere single, "Black Sun," has the memorable lyrics that Death Cab for Cutie is known for, but with a new, cleaner mellowness that radiates throughout the entire album.

A third song that is definitely worth mentioning is "Little Wanderer." It has a dreamlike, drifting quality, while keeping with the overall neatness of "Kintsugi." A memorable lyric comes from the chorus: "You're my wanderer / Little wanderer / off across the sea / You're my wanderer / Little wanderer / How I wish that you could see / How I need you back with me." This song would definitely be perfect for when you have a serious case of wanderlust.

On the same note, "Hold No Guns" is different from anything I've ever heard Death Cab for Cutie do before. This is because in the beginning, there are no instrumentals on the track. Gibbard's soulful voice bleeds through, and just like at his shows, his raw emotion and talent are showcased. It eventually fades into barely-there guitar, accentuating the softness of the song. "My love, why do you run / My hands hold no guns," then, "Break you with the slightest bend / That leaves you lost and helpless." I believe that if they had added anything more to this track, it would have taken away from its aesthetic and meaning; this is something they did just right.

Although I do not have many negative things to say about "Kintsugi," I did not end up connecting with one of the songs as much as I thought I would. As a major Death Cab for Cutie fan, I expected to love all of their work, especially after hoping for a comeback after the disappointment that was "Codes And Keys." "El Dorado" is one of the songs I felt myself skipping, even after listening to the album a couple of times. I hope it will grow on me, like some of my old favorite Death Cab for Cutie songs

did

Overall, Death Cab for Cutie has definitely rounded out their career — and their style — with "Kintsugi." This concept definitely works with their growing up and coming-of-age, and I'm happy to report that they are back and better than ever. This is one album that I will not just be getting on iTunes only. If this is what Death Cab for Cutie's future looks like, it is definitely bright, and they are going to be sticking around for more than 17 years.

Contact Bridget Dedelow at bdedelow@nd.edu

"Kintsugi"

Death Cab for Cutie

Label: Atlantic

Tracks: "Little Wanderer"

If you like: All-Time Quarterback



THINK on INK 'THE ROOM'

By CAELIN MILTKO

Scene Writer

Titling something "The Room" is, at this point, a dead giveaway that whatever medium the creative work is using, it is going to be playing with our psychological responses and our perceptions of reality. The very title creates some kind of captured tension, where the reader must instantly start to question everything about this "room," and try to analyze what about it makes it important enough to give it such prominent space.

Jonas Karlsson's recently published and translated "The Room" explores the concept of reality (and personal reality and delusions) through the (probable) ravings of a desk worker. At the beginning, nothing appears to be wrong with protagonist Bjorn, but as he tells us more about his work at the office and his coworkers' reactions to him, it quickly becomes clear he is not as authoritative as he would have us believe.

Karlsson's story does interesting work with the concept of the unreliable narrator. Other than the clearly ominous title, the work begins with a seemingly trustworthy narrator. He's starting a new job, and he clearly works very hard. He seems somewhat intelligent. There seems to be no real reason to question the existence of the room he tells us about on the very first page.

Bjorn's actions within the room are always fuzzy, and when he brings others into the room, he never explains exactly what happens there. For the reader, this means that the only thing that is available is Bjorn's explanations after the fact, which make it somewhat confusing when his coworkers and boss start talking about "staffing issues." Despite Bjorn's complaints about his coworkers, it's fairly clear that he has not taken the time to relate anything serious enough to require intervention.

After the "staffing issues" remark, the inconsistencies in narrative start to pick up. If possible, it becomes even less clear what Bjorn does exactly and he works for the ominously named "Authority" (all I can really think is "Big Brother," but this never really fleshes itself out). His coworkers clearly find him strange

and at some point, he's even asked if he's on drugs. Despite his language, it's very clear that his perception of reality is not the same as everyone around him.

At the heart of all Bjorn's delusions is the mysterious empty office between the elevator and the bathroom. For him, it provides an important space to think and relax from the stressors of his job. For everyone else, it's not clear that it exists.

Of story that is just unrealistic enough to distract from the overall theme of the story.

As an unreliable narrator, Bjorn clearly wants the reader to think highly of him. He consistently reassures the reader that he is very good at his job.

Perhaps the most interesting part about Karlsson's creation is the relationship between Bjorn's productivity and the room. There is something about this space that allows Bjorn to tap into some intellectual power that helps him become one of the very best workers at his firm. He uses this space to unwind and to consider problems. For some reason, it allows him to unlock problems that have puzzled his coworkers for weeks. Karlsson appears to be making some kind of link between madness and genius, though Bjorn's final predicament casts serious doubt over whether this is worth it

While many pieces of the novel are

perhaps not meant to be realistic, personally I could never figure out why his firm didn't fire him after he broke their rules again and again. It's the only piece of story that is just unrealistic enough to distract from the overall theme of the story.

As an unreliable narrator, Bjorn clearly wants the reader to think highly of him. He consistently reassures the reader that he is very good at his job, and he clearly believes himself the intellectual superior of everyone he works with. While the fact that he still has a job implies that this isn't a complete lie, almost everything else leads the reader to question just how well Bjorn knows himself.

In the end, Bjorn's genius fails to compensate for his strange eccentricities that border on complete madness. Still, for him, the room remains a very real thing, and it become his only retreat when everyone he knows attempts to make him come to terms with reality.

Contact Caelin Miltko at cmoriari@nd.edu

SCENE

THE OBSERVER | FRIDAY, MARCH 27, 2015 | NDSMCOBSERVER.COM



By KATHRYN MINKO

Scene Writer

As spring and warm weather approach, everyone notices a difference in mood, activity and, of course, music. They say March roars in like a lion and comes out like a lamb, and it similarly follows that depressing music and moods transform into bright energies and warm tunes. What better way to ring in the spring season than to attend one of country music's most anticipated stars Sam Hunt? Hunt is coming to Legends on Saturday night, courtesy of SUB.

After the release of his 2014 fall album "Montevallo," country fans around the nation have shared and jammed to Hunt's R&B-country-mix melodies. Many of his songs uniquely combine a

bluegrass vibe with rap and R&B stylistic touches. The lyrics to many of his songs reflect the stereotypical country message: summer lovin', day drinkin' and life reflectin'. Though some songs embrace calmer tunes and lyrics, a handful adopts high spirits and upbeat vibes. Therefore, country gurus and interested spectators alike can be assured that there's an adequate variety of song types and impressions.

Concert-goers can expect many of Hunt's popular hits, including "Take Your Time" (which has recently climbed to the top of Billboard's Hot 100 Country Songs), "Bottle It Up" and "Speakers." Hunt's most renowned song, "Leave The Night On," has landed within the top-25 country hits for a period of consecutive weeks, and viewers can certainly anticipate this as one of the loudest, most

anxiously awaited songs of the night. As stated before, Hunt's notably soulful style brings great diversity to the stage, which places a unique spin on contemporary perception of country. This, in turn, should attract a wide variety of musical interests. So, if you can't decide on whether to attend, go for the sheer fact of unconventional style and intriguing takes on songs.

For all you country fanatics, keep in mind that Sam not only performs his own songs, but has also composed an assortment of songs as well. Aside from his own album, Hunt has aided in the production of "Come Over" by the legendary Kenny Chesney and "Cop Car" by Keith Urban. If these prominent beats do not entice you, think of Hunt's simple stage presence. A former University of Alabama at Birmingham quarterback,

Sam's love for performance and music — not to mention his muscles — will carry positive favor for the audience. Even more, Hunt's unconventionalcountry style rejects cowboy hats and boots to embrace snap-backs, black tees and flannels. His music and fashion choices, therefore, embody the unification of dissimilar genres. Thus, the threatening combination of good music, compellingly diverse styles, summertime lyrics and performance capability will certainly boost energy and mood for whomever chooses to attend. All that said, if you're searching for a Saturday night filled with music and hopes for the summer, then rest assured: your Hunt is over!

Contact Kathryn Minko at kminko@nd.edu



By MATTHEW MUNHALL

When the Los Angeles rap collective Odd Future Wolf Gang Kill Them All first broke out into the mainstream nearly five years ago, the group garnered attention as much for their group dynamic as their outrage-garnering antics. Even as the group's profile rose, its members rarely collaborated with anyone outside their inner circle and continued to litter their music with inside jokes. When they performed together, the collective inspired an anarchical energy that gained them legions of young Supreme-clad fans.

Yet over the past two years, Odd Future has drifted apart as its members have increasingly pursued their own projects. The group's ringleader Tyler, the Creator admitted in a FADER cover story last year that he and rapper Earl Sweatshirt, who were once as close as siblings, had grown apart and hadn't collaborated on new music since 2013.

Earl's second studio album, "I Don't Like S**t, I Don't Go Outside," which was released Sunday evening, is the first hint of a post-Odd Future career. The album finds Earl working largely

without the input of his Odd Future collaborators, save a guest verse from Vince Staples and a song produced by Left Brain. It's Earl's most insular work to date, a dark album on which he sounds depressed and paranoid.

"This is the first thing that I've said that I fully stand behind, like the good and the bad of it," Earl told NPR's "Microphone Check" this week. "I've never been this transparent with myself or with music."

Earl's singular vision is all over "I Don't Like S**t, I Don't Go Outside" which streamlines the moody, downbeat sound he established on "Doris," his major label debut. While "Doris" featured production credits from Tyler, RZA, BadBadNotGood and The Neptunes, this time around Earl largely handles production himself. Working under the pseudonym randomblackdude, Earl is credited as the sole producer on nine of the 10 tracks on "I Don't Like S**t, I Don't Go Outside." His productions are moody, hazy affairs with droning synths and muted drums that mirror the late night introspection.

Earl's understated production serves his lyricism, which focuses on coping with a newfound modicum of fame and complicated relationships with an ex, friends and family. Lead single "Grief," which Earl called a "a final lament and epilogue," best encapsulates his pensive mood and seeming agoraphobia. "I ain't been outside in a minute / I been living what I wrote," he explains over the track's dark, bass-heavy production. On the track's second verse, Earl's slows down to a lethargic flow as he rattles off the fleeting thoughts that come to him under the influence. After three minutes exploring the various ways he manages his anxiety, he concludes in a whisper, "I just want my time and my mind intact / When they both gone, you can't buy 'em back."

Earl continues to delve deep into his psychology throughout "I Don't Like S**t, I Don't Go Outside." On "Mantra" he describes the overwhelming intensity of his fans, "Who you can't get mad at, when they want to pound a pic / 'Cause they the reason that the traffic on the browser quick." The track's distorted guitar riff gives way to silence, echoing Earl's own desire to retreat from the limelight. He even takes shots at his peers on "Faucet," rapping, "I feel like I'm the only one pressing to grow

Clocking in at just under half an hour, "I Don't Like S**t, I Don't Go Outside" nonetheless manages to encapsulates Earl's worldview due to his dense emotional lyricism. While nothing on the record quite reaches the heights of "Hive" or "Sunday," it's his most personal work, both in creation and content, to date. Earl may have retreated from the outside world, but he brings listeners into an immersive world of his own on "I Don't Like S**t, I Don't Go Outside."

Contact Matthew Munhall at mmunhall@nd.edu

"I Don't Like S**t, I Don't Go Outside"

Earl Sweatshirt

Label: Tan Cressida

Tracks: "Grief"

If you like: Tyler, the Creator



SPORTS AUTHORITY

Cinderella has nothing on Bhutan

Daniel O'BoyleSports Writer

Earlier this month, one of the greatest events in all of sports began, and a huge underdog pulled off an unlikely upset to begin what they hope will be a great Cinderella story. They may not have any hopes of going all the way, but they've already made some great memories.

I'm not talking about March Madness, or about basketball at all: I'm talking about the 2018 FIFA World Cup and the Bhutan national soccer team.

Maybe you're confused: shouldn't the 2018 World Cup be happening in, well, 2018? They haven't moved the date of this World Cup too, have they? And what exactly did Bhutan do that's so impressive? The answers are it's the early stages of the Asian qualifying section the first official matches of the World Cup to eventually decide which teams travel to Brazil just over three years from now and Bhutan beat Sri Lanka, 1-0 away and then 2-1 at home, to qualify for the second round.

Maybe that still doesn't help, maybe it just looks like a game between two obscure Asian nations with little claim to soccer fame. But Bhutan isn't just any minnow of international soccer: before it played Sri Lanka, the national team held the title of the worst international soccer team in the world.

I don't know much about
Bhutan. Wikipedia tells me it's
a small state — just a little bigger than Maryland — at the
eastern end of the Himalayas.
The capital city is Thimphu. The
national sport is archery, but the
most popular sport is soccer. In
2006, Business Week rated it as
the happiest country in Asia, but
starting in 2008 it might have
gotten a little less happy as the
national soccer team lost every
game for six years and nine

That run saw them fall down the FIFA World Rankings. In December 2012, they fell into a tie for last place, with zero ranking points. On November 15, 2014, San Marino — Europe's bottom feeders — played out a 0-0 draw with Estonia, dooming Bhutan to last place. Bhutan's streak included losing 7-0 to Turkmenistan and Pakistan, 8-1 to Afghanistan and three games against the Sri Lanka team they

would later defeat: losing 6-0, 3-0 and 5-2. Before that, Bhutan's soccer history isn't much better: they'd never won a World Cup qualifying game before, and in 2000 they lost a game against Kuwait 20-0.

So expectations for Bhutan weren't high when they were to face Sri Lanka again. The island nation may be better known for cricket, but at 173rd in the world and their dominant head-to-head record, they were a powerhouse compared to Bhutan. To make matters harder for the Bhutanese team, they were without a full-time coach, relying instead on former player Chokey Nima after their last coach left the role. Like most South Asian, usually Bhutan brings someone in from a country with a stronger soccer set-up, like Sri Lanka's German coach, but Nima was able to call on the national pride and do what three coaches before him couldn't: win a game.

But win they did, twice. A late goal in the first game was enough to ensure victory in Sri Lanka, and in front of a sell-out crowd at Thimphu, with the second game at 1-1, Chencho Gyeltshen scored his second goal of the game in the last minute to seal the victory.

Making it all the way to the World Cup still looks outlandish for the Bhutan national team and its fans. They'd have to make it through two group stages against much tougher opposition than anyone they've faced in their history. But just making it this far is an achievement: Bhutan will be drawn in a group with at least one of Asia's top teams — perhaps Tim Cahill's Australia or Shinji Kagawa's Japan. It may not be a real glamour game like Brazil, Germany or Argentina, but for Bhutan, it's something their players will have dreamed of.

So if you've liked watching teams pull off unlikely upsets this March, Bhutan might be a team to watch, just in case their Cinderella run has another surprise. Or maybe you should root for Anguila, who takes over the reins as the world's worst international soccer team.

Contact Daniel O'Boyle at doboyle1@nd.edu

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

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ROWING

Irish prepare for test at Ohio

By BRETT O'CONNELL Sports Writer

No. 12 Notre Dame heads to Columbus, Ohio, this coming weekend to take part in the annual Big Ten-ACC Double Duels on Saturday.

After their first regatta of the spring two weeks ago in Oak Ridge, Tennessee, the Irish rowers have taken advantage of the changing weather to take to the water on the St. Joseph River in preparation for their trip to Columbus this coming weekend, junior Katie Scorcz said. The Irish will face a slate of both conference and out-of-conference foes during the regatta, including clashes with host and two-time defending national champion Ohio State, the No. 1 team in the country.

Scorcz praised her team's work ethic during this week's practices, citing the unpredictable South Bend weather as a vexing — but useful — obstacle during their outdoor training.

"We were on the water on Sunday, Tuesday and Wednesday," Scorcz said. "We've been focusing on the same skill and drill activities that we've been doing every day. Luckily,

we've been on the water most every day since we've been back. ... We've had to work a little bit more against the wind and the current this week. It can make it a bit slower for our racers and it can offset the boat — it's been a bit unfortunate, but it has been good practice for Columbus, where it is supposed to be pretty cold and windy. I think we're better prepared for that after this week."

Scorcz also said she was pleased with the team's difficult nonconference schedule – including teams like Ohio State, Michigan and Yale — citing the slate's relative rigor as both an opportunity to get better and make a statement to the NCAA selection committee.

"We don't get to row against every team — we only race five times in the year, including the ACC championships. From there, all the teams who place first in their conference go to the NCAA tournament," Scorcz said. "But there are 10-20 at-large bids, so the more we race out of conference can help us get one of those."

Scorcz said the example of last year's Yale squad served as motivation for her to strengthen the team's nonconference scheduling. "Last year, Yale did not race out of conference," she said. "[They were] arguably one of the fastest teams, but because they didn't race out of conference, they didn't get the opportunity to compare against other people. Harvard won the Ivy League championship and Yale didn't get the atlarge bid because they didn't have the opportunity to race competitors out of conference."

The team is especially excited to face quality competition like Ohio State, Scorcz said.

"Ohio State's going to put up a really good fight," she said. "They were number one the past two years. It's a little unrealistic to think that we'll come in and stomp on them, so we're going to use them as a measure. I'm not going to say we don't have it in us to beat them — I think the expectation is that we use our race with them as an opportunity to really measure ourselves."

The Irish travel to Columbus, Ohio, on Thursday night. They will spend Friday training before competing in their second regatta of the year – the Big Ten-ACC Double Duels — on Saturday.

Contact Brett O'Connell at boconnel@nd.edu

SMC SOFTBALL | WHEATON 9, SMC 1; WHEATON 4, SMC 3

Belles fall in doubleheader

Observer Staff Report

After returning home from its spring break, Saint Mary's was ready to start its regular season off with a home game last Sunday. The Belles' double-header against Dominican was postponed, however, and the team had to wait until Thursday to play at Wheaton.

The Belles finished their spring break trip with an 8-2 record. However, Wheaton halted the early-season momentum Thursday, handing Saint Mary's two losses yesterday in Wheaton, Illinois.

The first game ended via mercy rule after five innings and saw the Belles take a 9-1 loss. In the second inning, the Thunder put up six runs on junior pitcher Sarah Burke. Although Burke managed to strike out three in 1.2 innings, she also walked four batters and allowed four hits. Her trouble started at the beginning of the second when she

walked the leadoff batter. She then loaded the bases multiple times before a double by opposing junior pitcher Katie Thornton broke the game open. The Thunder added one more run on Burke to make the game 6-0 before Saint Mary's head coach Kelli Zache called on freshman right-hander Jessica Alberts to finish the inning. Wheaton tacked on another run in the third and two more in the fifth to claim the mercy-rule victory.

Thornton allowed two hits and one run, unearned, to collect the win.

The second game of the day was closer, but the Belles were still saddled with a 4-3 loss. The Belles loaded the bases with nobody out in the first inning, yet could not manage to put a run across on Thornton, throwing her second game of the day.

In the second inning, both teams scored three runs, and the Belles managed to knock Thornton out of the game early. The scoring started for Saint Mary's when freshman outfielder Makenzie Duncan doubled to center field to knock in freshman pitcher Morgan Raymer. Soon after that, junior outfielder Sarah Callis singled in junior second baseman Angela Dainelli.

The Belles stranded five runners over the rest of the game and failed to score again.

In the fourth inning, Raymer ran into trouble and gave up an unearned run when a Wheaton runner tried to steal second. The runner swiped the bag and advanced to third on a fielding error by freshman shortstop Jamie Young. Despite allowing four runs, Raymer struck out seven batters and issued zero walks but still took the loss.

The Belles will next take the field for their doubleheader at North Central on Saturday at 2 p.m. Saint Mary's then opens MIAA play against conference foe Adrian on Tuesday.

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WOMEN'S TENNIS

Irish host Marquette, NC State over weekend

By BENJAMIN PADANILAMSports Writer

No. 36 Notre Dame will return home this weekend for a pair of matches, welcoming ACC foe North Carolina State on Friday followed by a matchup with Marquette on Sunday

The Irish (10-6, 5-3 ACC) are coming off two close road matches this past weekend, as they fought their way to a narrow 4-3 victory over Florida State last Friday in Tallahassee, Florida, before falling to Georgia Tech in Atlanta by 4-3.

Against both opponents, the outcome was decided in the final singles match. Against the Seminoles (10-6, 3-4 ACC), the Irish trailed 3-1 before winning the last three singles matches to secure the victory. Then, just two days later against the Yellow Jackets (6-6, 3-3 ACC), four of the six singles matches took all three sets to reach a conclusion. Irish head coach Jav Louderback said he believes close, competitive weekends such as this past one will prepare the team for the bigger matches down the road.

"It's going to really help us later on," Louderback said. "It's hard losing one as tight as we did, but both teams are very good. As we get into the

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ACC tournament and then—even more than that—the NCAA tournament, playing these type of matches helps. We've had 11 matches that were either 4-3 or 5-2 this year, which is a lot, and we've won seven of them. It's going to help us later as we get further into the season and the postseason."

Louderback said he expects his team is in for another close match Friday when it welcomes the Wolfpack (9-8, 0-6 ACC) to Eck Tennis Pavilion. The Wolfpack are coming off losses to Miami and Florida State this past weekend that kept them winless in conference play. However, Louderback said it will be a hard-fought match due to the fact that conference play has had one tight match after the other for the Irish all year.

"If you look at their scores, [NC State has] had tight matches with everyone," Louderback said. "They just lost a tight 5-2 match at Florida State two days after we played them. We haven't had an easy ACC match [either]. It's going to be another good ACC match for us, and they're needing a win and want a win in the ACC right now so they'll be tough."

Notre Dame will play their second match of the weekend

Sunday when they host the Golden Eagles (9-7, 0-1 Big East). Although no longer a member of the Big East, Notre Dame has continued to play Marquette due to the natural rivalry that exists between the teams, Louderback said.

"We've played Marquette every year for a long time," Louderback said. "Now that we're not in the Big East, they're just sort of a natural close rival for us, so we've continued to play them. We haven't lost to them for a long time, but we've had close matches. And they always compete well."

In addition to the rivalry, the benefit of the match for the Irish is the timing of it, as Louderback said it provides the team with a strong but relaxing non-conference tilt.

"I think it will actually be good for us to play a non-conference match because, even though it will be a good match, it's not quite the same pressure as when your playing ACC matches," Louderback said.

The Irish will take to the courts Friday at 3 p.m. when they take on NC State at Eck Tennis Pavilion, followed by the matchup with Marquette on Sunday at noon.

Contact Benjamin Padanilam bpadanil@nd.edu

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MEN'S TENNIS

ND to take on Miami in Florida

By RYAN KLAUSSports Writer

Coming off a doubleheader sweep Sunday, No. 37 Notre Dame is set to begin a fourmatch road trip Friday against Miami. The Irish (10-7, 2-3) dominated in both of their matches Sunday, beating both Georgia Tech and IPFW 6-1. The two victories were a welcomed sight for the Irish following home defeats to No. 25 Texas Tech and No. 8 Virginia earlier in the week.

"Even though we lost to Virginia and Texas Tech earlier in the week, we felt like we were playing good tennis and putting ourselves in a position to be successful," said Irish head coach Ryan Sachire. "We actually entered the matches on Sunday with a lot of confidence that we were doing a lot of the right things and that it was going to be a great day for us and it was.

"It's one thing to walk off the court and know you did a lot of good things, but winning reinforces the positives and that you are doing things well. We were really excited to continue to do things well and also get the win."

The wins Sunday furthered a trend dominating for Notre Dame when it comes to playing in doubleheaders. Over the course of the season, Notre Dame has played in three doubleheaders, winning all six of those matches by scores of either 6-1 or 7-0.

"I think it's maybe a little bit of a coincidence," said Sachire of his team's success in doubleheaders. "We've had a good year. Short of having a few injuries here and there, our guys are playing well. They're improving and progressing, and we've lost close to a lot of teams. We're happy with where we are and we're excited for what's ahead."

Notre Dame's final road trip of the season starts with the Hurricanes (6-9, 0-4), who are looking for their first conference victory of the season. Following Miami, Notre Dame has road contests against Florida State, Duke and North Carolina.

"Our focus is just on Miami right now," said Sachire. "We know it's going to be a really tough and competitive match. They're a good team and playing them down in Miami is not an easy chore, and we know that. We're hoping to start off this four-match road swing with a good performance and hopefully a win. If we do that then we can build to Florida State, Duke and North Carolina, but it all starts with a good performance on Friday."

Notre Dame's first position singles player, junior Quentin Monaghan was named the ACC Tennis Player of the Week following a successful 3-0 weekend.

"We're continuously excited about the play of our doubles and the play of Quentin Monaghan at number one singles," said Sachire. "I think that if those two components of our lineup keep putting us in position to get wins in those spots, then we're going to be tough to beat coming down the stretch."

The Irish and Hurricanes are set to begin at 2 p.m. Friday at Neil Schiff Tennis Center in Coral Gables, Florida.

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WOMEN'S LACROSSE

Irish set up for **ACC** showdown

Observer Staff Report

Coming off a win over Marquette in Milwaukee on Wednesday, No. 17 Notre Dame returns back home Sunday for an ACC showdown with No. 3 North Carolina.

After losing their first three games of March, the Irish (6-4, 1-2 ACC) are now winners of three consecutive games, with Sunday representing the month's rubber match. Following losses at No. 6 Duke, No. 2 Boston College and No. 12 Stony Brook, the Irish rebounded with a pair of home wins over Virginia Tech and No. 18 Ohio State prior to Wednesday's win.

In addition to the trio of wins, the three-game run has seen the reemergence of Cortney Fortunato as the preeminent scoring threat for the Irish. The sophomore attack — who scored just 10 times in Notre Dame's first six games — has tallied 17 goals over the last three games.

Fortunato is not the only one making a sizable contribution to the Irish attack, though, as the team's secondleading scorer —junior attack Rachel Sexton — has eight goals in the past two games, including a five-goal outing Wednesday.

The Tar Heels (9-2, 2-1 ACC) enter Sunday's contest looking to keep in touch with undefeated Boston College at the top of the conference standings; North Carolina fell 10-9 in overtime against the Eagles on Saturday before bouncing back with a 14-5 win over Virginia Tech on Wednesday.

North Carolina — the 2013 national champions — is led offensively by a sextet of players with double-digit goals on the year, including

sophomore attack Molly Hendrick's 23 goals. Junior attack/midfielder Sammy Jo Tracy has tallied 21 times on the year while junior attack Aly Messinger has paired her 15 goals with nine assists to trail just Hendrick in points.

At the back, the Tar Heels will likely turn to goalkeeper Caylee Waters. The sophomore — who holds an 8-2-0 record on the year — has saved 47 of 104 goal-bound shots so far this year (45.2 percent) and allows just over eight goals per game. If the choice is not Waters, junior goalkeeper Megan Ward has also seen significant action for Sunday's visitors; she has played in just over one third of the minutes logged by the Tar Heels so far this season.

While Fortunato leads the Irish by a significant margin in goals (32) and points (43), she is not the only significant part of the attack. Sexton's 22 goals put her second on the team while sophomore midfielder Casey Pearsall (10 goals, 12 assists) and sophomore attack Grace Muller (13 goals) have also made their presences felt on the field this

Irish head coach Christine Halfpenny will be expected to turn to Liz O'Sullivan in goal again for the Irish; the sophomore has been the goalie of record in each game this season. O'Sullivan has saved 38.5 percent of goal-bound chances so far this year, but has posted a 54.1 percent save percentage during Notre Dame's three-game winning

The Irish can pull back to .500 in ACC play Sunday when they host North Carolina at Arlotta Stadium. The first draw is scheduled for 1 p.m.



Irish junior midfielder Brie Custis sprints by defender in Notre Dame's 17-5 win over Detroit on Feb. 15 at Loftus Sports Center.

BASEBALL

ND to challenge Virginia in conference home series



Irish sophomore catcher Ryan Lidge prepares to swing at a pitch during Notre Dame's 6-4 loss against Louisville on Saturday at Frank Eck Stadium. Lidge finished 1-for-5 at the plate.

By BRIAN HARTNETT Senior Sports Writer

Since it entered the ACC last season, Notre Dame has faced some of the toughest competition in the nation. This weekend, the team will welcome a perennial national contender in No. 14 Virginia, which will enter Frank Eck Stadium fresh off a College World Series finals appearance last season.

The Cavaliers (15-8, 3-6 ACC), which fell to Vanderbilt in the best-of-three College World Series finals last June, have struggled recently, losing seven of their last 10 games. Nonetheless, Notre Dame head coach Mik Aoki said he expects Virginia to present a tough challenge for the Irish (16-7,

"I know that they're a really good club," he said of the Cavaliers. "I know that they're going to pitch their rear ends off, and we're going to have to do a great job of competing from pitch to pitch in order to get the results we want to come out with.

"Whether they're struggling or not, I don't think it matters. They're a really good ball club, and we're going to have to do a really good job against them."

Aoki said Virginia has typically been strong in multiple facets of the game under head coach Brian O'Connor, an assistant coach at Notre Dame from 1995 to 2003. Since O'Connor arrived at Virginia in 2003, the Cavaliers have made 11 NCAA tournament appearances and reached three College World Series.

"I think over the years, they've proven that they can be one of the best pitching teams in the country," Aoki said of the Cavaliers. "They've had really good players from a positional standpoint. ... They're typically very athletic, and they swing the bat very well."

Virginia sophomore

catcher Matt Thaiss has led the Cavaliers at the plate, posting a .345 batting average and seven home runs on the season. Virginia junior right-hander Nathan Kirby, named a first team All-American last season by multiple publications, has a 3-1 record with a 1.16 ERA and 54 strikeouts in 38 2/3 innings on the season.

Notre Dame will enter this weekend's series coming off an 8-3 win against Western Michigan on Wednesday night. Irish sophomore catcher Ryan Lidge was 4-for-4 with three runs scored, two doubles and an RBI against the Broncos, and Irish sophomore right-hander Ryan Smoyer picked up his second consecutive win while allowing two runs on six hits in 5 1/3 innings.

The Irish hosted their first home conference series last weekend, scoring only four runs in three consecutive losses to No. 7 Louisville.

Despite the team's struggles last weekend, Aoki said he is not worried about Notre Dame's ability to play at a high level and maintain focus over a three-game series.

"We've played 23 games so far, and to be honest, I think Contact Brian Hartnett at it was four innings out of the bhartnet@nd.edu

23 games that we've played, which included a few extrainning affairs, that our energy level hasn't been outstanding," he said. "We've been fine. I'm not really concerned about how we can come back to who we are from an energy standpoint."

Notre Dame's usual weekend starting pitching trio of senior right-hander Scott Kerrigan, freshman righthander Brandon Bielak and junior right-hander Nick McCarty have provided strong efforts on the mound all year, Aoki said, which he expects to continue this weekend.

"I would expect for them to go out and compete at the same level they've been competing at all year," Aoki said. "They've been really good for us, and I'll would expect them to do the same thing, and hopefully we can turn some losses from last weekend into wins this upcoming weekend."

Notre Dame and Virginia will meet in a doubleheader beginning at 1:05 p.m. Saturday. The Irish and Cavaliers will conclude the series Sunday at 1:05 p.m. All games will be at Frank Eck Stadium.





Irish freshman forward Kathryn Westbeld attempts a layup in Notre Dame's 79-62 second-round win against DePaul on Sunday.

W Bball

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

netted 10 points against DePaul and 18 against Montana — fairly modest compared to her season average of 20.1 points per game.

The play of freshmen forwards Brianna Turner and Kathryn Westbeld has also been key — the two tournament rookies combined for 42 points between them in the first two rounds.

McGraw praised the ability of the freshmen to step up in a high-stakes environment like the NCAA tournament.

"You know, I think when you come into a program, the expectation level is set pretty high, and so I think everybody coming in knew that there was going to be a lot expected of [the freshmen]," McGraw said. "We talked to the freshmen early on that they weren't going to be able to play like freshmen. We were going to need them right away. ... I think our posts, all three of them, [sophomore forward] Taya [Reimer], Bri, and Kathryn, have really played well of late and have just continued to get better."

Similarly, Stanford's offense has a number of different scoring threats, and McGraw said the Irish have worked to defend all of them in practice this week.

"We've got to figure out how

we can stop the penetration and the kick-outs, which is very difficult for us just having played DePaul which was a five-out team," McGraw said. "I think we came away with a lot of things we need to do better.

"It's a difficult challenge for us. I think that defensively, man-to-man, containing the ball, has been somewhat of an issue for us this year, so I think that's something that we hopefully have fixed this week."

Though Notre Dame breezed through the first two rounds with double-digit margin wins, its trip to Oklahoma City was a little more troublesome. The team's plane was diverted to an airport in Lawton, Oklahoma, due to severe weather, waiting there until buses picked them up to finish out the journey.

"We hung out, we ordered pizza," McGraw said. "It was a very small airport. We were the only ones there, and we had about 95 with the band and cheerleaders and our whole party. We made the most of it, and our condolences to the people that were seriously affected by the storm."

Eventually, Notre Dame arrived safely in Oklahoma City where it will face Stanford at Chesapeake Energy Area in a Sweet 16 showdown tonight at

Contact Renee Griffin at rgriffi6@nd.edu

MEN'S LACROSSE

No. 1 Orange set on collision course with No. 2 Irish

By BRIAN PLAMONDON Sports Writer

When No. 2 Notre Dame takes on No. 1 Syracuse tomorrow at Arlotta Stadium, both teams will bring top-10 offenses and top-10 defenses to the matchup. Naturally, something's got to give in this battle of heavyweights.

While some might think the stakes higher than usual for Notre Dame (5-1, 1-0 ACC), head coach Kevin Corrigan said the Irish have prepared for tomorrow no differently than previous

"We don't put any more or less importance on any game," Corrigan said. "That's just the way it is. It's not the sexy approach, it's just the one that works."

Still, Corrigan said his players are undoubtedly keyed in. After all, the Orange (7-0, 2-0 ACC) recently dismantled No. 6 Duke, 19-7, on Sunday. They sport one of the most balanced and veteran offenses in the country; in addition to a starting midfield made up of three redshirt seniors, the Orange are led by two older attackers in senior Kevin Rice and redshirt junior Dylan Donahue. Donahue leads the Orange with 22 goals this season, while Rice adds 15 goals and 35 points.

"Kevin Rice is the quarterback, but everyone else on that offense can hurt you," ESPN analyst Paul Carcaterra said. " ... [Rice is] a playmaker, even if he doesn't run by you. He always capitalizes off of any defensive mishap, and the guy he's looking for is Dylan Donahue, who's a lefty finisher."

Rice and Donahue are not the only players that can hurt opponents, however. Each of the front-six starters for Syracuse averages at least a goal a game.

you can't concentrate on any one of their guys," Corrigan

As efficent as Syracuse's scorers are, the 'X factor' for the Orange could be sophomore faceoff specialist Ben Williams. Williams, who has won 68.2 percent of his draws this year, has the ability to dictate the pace of the game, Carcaterra said.

"This is an offense that is veteran, smart and has great lacrosse IQ to begin with, and now you're giving them so many more opportunities compared to what they had in the past with their ability to win the faceoff with Ben Williams," Carcaterra said. "He's is one of the biggest stories of lacrosse. ... If you look at the Duke game, Ben Williams won 11 of the first 12 faceoffs. Eleven more possessions than another team. Do the math, it's just going to put the defense in a tough situation."

Notre Dame has struggled to find a replacement for graduated faceoff specialist Liam O'Connor, trotting out the likes of senior Nick Ossello, sophomore P.J. Finley and freshman John Travisano, Jr. on different occasions this season. One of them will have to limit the effect Williams will have on the game, Corrigan said.

"The key for us is to make sure [he's] not a huge factor," Corrigan said. "Both by winning faceoffs but also by making sure we don't allow them to make any plays outside of the faceoff game. If they're [doing that], then that's a problem for us."

If the Irish can limit Williams, they will still have to deal with the wealth of offensive weapons at Syracuse's disposal. That task will be left

"I think the challenge is that up to goalie Shane Doss, reigning ACC Defensive Player of the Week, and the defensive trio of sophomore Garrett Epple and juniors Edwin Glazener and Matt Landis.

> "[From the defense we need] good, smart, off-ball play; guys working really hard in small spaces to be where they need to be [and] communication at a high level," Corrigan said. "... [But] it's nice to know for our defense, when they make a mistake, the other team still has to beat Shane. And that's no small task."

> The Irish will also counter Syracuse's firepower with a deadly offense of their own. Junior attack Matt Kavanagh has tallied 13 goals and 27 points on the season, while freshman attack Mikey Wynne has burst onto the scene with 19

> "Matt Kavanagh is one of the best dodging [attackers] in the country without question," Carcaterra said. "[And] Mikey Wynne is a perfect complement to him because he plays off-ball so well. He's been a fantastic addition to the Notre Dame offense."

> As prolific as both offenses are, the game may ultimately come down to one player: Ben Williams.

"If Ben Williams has a typical Ben Williams-type day ... I don't know if there's a team in the country that can beat Syracuse," Carcaterra said. "[But] if Notre Dame finds a way to bottle up Williams and offset the dominance somewhat ... I think they can win this game."

Notre Dame and Syracuse, the top two teams in the country, clash tomorrow at noon at Arlotta Stadium.

Contact Brian Plamondon at bpalamond@nd.edu

ND WOMEN'S GOLF

ND carries momentum into LSU Tiger Classic

Observer Staff Report

After a successful showing at the Clover Cup, the Notre Dame women's golf team will head down to Baton

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Rouge to compete in the LSU Tiger Classic this weekend.

The team is coming off of a second-place showing in the Clover Cup, which it hosted March 13-15. While most of the student body was returning to Notre Dame, the team placed behind only No. 18 Arizona State.

The team has been very consistent during this promising season, and it continued that consistency with Notre Dame's third consecutive top-three finish. They shot a threeround score of 32-over-par (296-301-299), which was eleven strokes behind

the Sun Devils, but ahead of the rest of the 15-team field. TCU made a late push Sunday, but the Irish managed to hold them off, and the Horned Frogs ended up two strokes behind Notre Dame.

Junior Talia Campbell led the Irish with a fourth overall finish with a one-over-par 217 (72-74-71). She matched her best finish this season and was a part of three Notre Dame golfers who finished in the top-15. Her best day was Sunday, when she recorded three birdies on the front nine and added two more on the back nine.

Senior captain Ashley Armstrong also picked up her fourth top-10 finish of the season. She tied for eighth at seven-over-par 223 (76-71-76). She ran into trouble Sunday when she bogeved three of her first five holes. However, she rebounded with 12 pars in her final 13 holes to maintain her finish.

The last of the trio of top-15 finishers was sophomore Jordan Ferreira, who earned a share of 13th place. She finished just shy of a season best, shooting a nine-overpar 225 (73-78-74). After a rocky Saturday, Ferreira

recorded 16 pars on Sunday sandwiched around a pair of bogeys.

Senior Kelli Oride tied for 40th at 17-over-par, while freshman Kari Bellville's 25-over-par score rounded out the Irish roster in 64th.

Now the Irish look to the Tiger Classic, which will feature three teams in the top 11 and nine in the top 50. The entire field is 16 teams, so the team will be matched up against other blue chip programs.

Tee times start at 8:30 a.m. Friday, and the tournament draws to a close Sunday

M Bball

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

Shockers on Thursday night in Cleveland at Quicken Loans

"They're really cruel competitors," Brey said of his team. "When they feel a little blood in the water ... they go for it again, and I think that's why they're special and playing for a regional championship on Saturday."

A 13-point first-half lead eroded into a one-point deficit at the start of the second half, and Notre Dame cooled from beyond the arc. But following Brey's timeout with 16:28 remaining in the second half, the Irish transformed back into the free-flowing offensive juggernaut that has carried Notre Dame to the most wins in program history since 1908-09. Wichita State head coach Gregg Marshall called the Irish "hands down" the best offensive team the Shockers faced all season.

"They just shot the cover off of it, in reality," Wichita State redshirt junior guard Ron Baker said. "I've never seen a team shoot it like they have today."

Notre Dame shot 75 percent (18-of-24) from the floor and 3-point range (6-of-8) in the second half.

Irish sophomore guard Demetrius Jackson, Marshall called the "catalyst," ignited the squad with a pair of 3-pointers after the timeout. Sophomore guard Steve Vasturia weaved a beautiful bounce pass to senior guard/ forward Pat Connaughton to finish off a give-and-go. Jackson lobbed an alley-oop to junior forward Zach Auguste.

Clinical. Surgical. Textbook. Unending.

"I've never seen a one-point lead get out of hand so quickly," Shockers head coach Gregg Marshall. "And it did tonight because of their firepower."

Jackson powered the Irish with 20 points, while Connaughton (16), Auguste (15) and Vasturia (15) all reached double figures too.

"They just shot layup after layup it seemed like," Wichita State junior guard Fred Van Vleet said. "We just, for whatever reason, couldn't stop them."

The Shockers struggled to find an offensive rhythm, as well. Notre Dame limited Wichita State to 36 percent shooting in the first half, and the Shockers connected on just three of their 18 3-point attempts.

"That's been the story of our six wins in the postseason," Brey said, referring to the 3-game stretch in the ACC tournament before the recent run in the NCAA tournament. "We've really defended the arc well."

Though the offense thrived after Notre Dame's early timeout in the second half, Connaughton said the defense set the tone.

"It wasn't about strategy," Connaughton said. "We talked about defense, about getting stops and getting out and running. That's the fun way to play and that's the way that we're at our best on both ends of the floor."

Notre Dame stormed out to a 13-point lead in the game's opening five-plus minutes, as Jackson buried two 3-pointers and Pat Connaughton added another. But the Irish soon went cold from long range, missing their final seven tries of the half.

Baker buried a pair of 3-pointers to lift Wichita State within three, and VanVleet added 10 first-half points with an attacking mentality. Notre Dame carried a 33-30 halftime lead into the locker room before exploding after the break.

"I just don't want it to end for this particular team because this group has been so energizing and so fun to be around," Brey said.

The Irish will face No. 1 seed in the Midwest Kentucky Regional Final on Saturday in Cleveland at Quicken Loans Arena.

Contact Mike Monaco at jmonaco@nd.edu



KEVIN SABITUS | The Observer

Junior forward Zach Auguste throws down a dunk over Wichita State on Thursday night. Auguste had 15 points in the 81-70 victory.



Sophomore guard Demetrius Jackson drives past a Wichita State defender in the 81-70 Irish victory on Thursday night. Jackson had 20 points in the win.

lackson

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

rim for the most part, but then he knocks down four 3s," Wichita State head coach Greg Marshall said. "At the beginning of the game, it started with him — he made two of the first three 3s."

Jackson's second boost of energy would come at a time when the Irish needed a jumpstart a little bit more. After carrying a three-point lead into halftime, Notre Dame got off to a slow start in the second stanza. Behind eight combined points from senior forward Darius Carter and junior guard Fred VanVleet, the Shockers had taken their first lead of the game at 38-37 with 16:40 remaining.

And then Jackson got going

He hit a 3-pointer from the corner to get Notre Dame back in the driver's seat. And he followed that up the next possession with a long shot from beyond the arc to give the Irish a five-point cushion, one they would never relinquish.

"We went to [Jackson] a little bit more," Brey said of the team's second-half strategy. "[Wichita State] took [Notre Dame senior guard] Jerian [Grant] away on the ball screen; they were doing a good job on him.

"We kind of went to [Jackson] off the ball screen, and he just kind of exploded for us."

Jackson scored the first six points of Notre Dame's second "lightning strike," a 23-10 run over the course of nearly seven minutes that started with the Irish trailing and ended with them leading by a dozen.

Such "lightning strikes" reflect Notre Dame's mentality as a team of tough competitors, something Jackson displays, Brey said.

"Demetrius was in an attack frame of mind, so we can get into those [offensive] flows at any time," he — this group is cruel, and I love it, it's a great trait.

"They're really competitors."

Jackson's second-half efforts were necessary to help open up the floor and get Notre Dame's other scorers out in space, according to

"I thought what was a key was Demetrius got going - and he got us going, and then we came back around to Jerian and the ball screen, and they were a little tired, they couldn't quite guard the ball screen," Brey said.

Jackson finished the game with 20 points, just two shy of his career-high. The four

3-pointers made also tied his collegiate single-game

Jackson said the key to his quick-strike success involved crisp and efficient team play from the Irish.

"We really do a great job sharing the ball, finding a great shot every possession," he said. "The guys step up and make huge shots.

"It's a really fun way to play when we play the game that way, so we want to continue doing that and continue getting better."

VanVleet said the Shockers even came into the game willing to give Jackson deep looks so that he wouldn't get said. "And then we do have too many points driving to the basket.

"That was our game plan going in — he's so quick off the dribble, just pick him up at the 3-point line, and if he makes four or five of them, that was our game plan going into the game," VanVleet said. "... I think that was a guy that we would let take that shot, and he knocked them in ... so give him all the credit."

Jackson and the Irish will face No. 1 seed Kentucky in the Midwest regional final on Saturday at Quicken Loans Arena in Cleveland.

Contact Brian Hartnett at bhartnet@nd.edu

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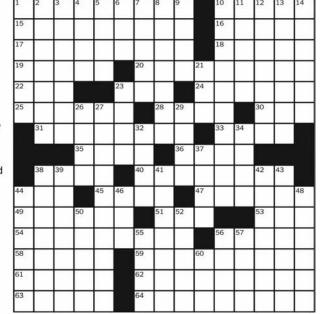
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Puzzle by Peter A. Collins

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- 44 Left behind 46 N.Y.C. luggage tag letters
- 48 Thing placed during a political campaign
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- 55 Green org. for women?
- 56 Out of harm's way, in a way
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- 60 E. Germany, before 1990

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HOROSCOPE I EUGENIA LAST

Happy Birthday: You'll be ready to take on the world. Explore your options and take on as much as you can. The rewards you receive for the assistance and contributions you make will put your mind at ease and bring you greater options to turn an idea or investment into something tangible. Strive for perfection by using your imagination and insight. Your numbers are 5, 12, 26,

Birthday Baby: You are playful, unpredictable and unique. You are quick and

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Look on the bright side and make plans to do something a little different. Activity and sharing an adventure with someone special will give you a new lease on life. A short trip will spark an idea or a residential move. ★★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Make a list of the people you want to connect with who can help you reach your career goals. Discussing what you have to offer will help you revamp your resume to suit the changing economic climate. Update your image. ★★★ GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Do something to improve your community or

support a cause you endorse. Your ability to bring about change and your willingness to reach out to those in need will give you the push required to CANCER (June 21-July 22): Take a quiet or secretive approach to what you

feel needs to be done. Flying under the radar will ensure that you avoid interference. Someone will mislead you if you rely on hearsay. Put more effort into an important relationship. ★★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Be open about the way you feel and what your expectations are. The changes you want to make will be much easier if you have the approval of the people who mean the most to you. Secure your position by taking action. ★★★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Form an alliance with someone who feels the same way you do about a concern you have. Making a difference in your community will put you in a position requiring diplomacy, strength and determination. Don't let anyone stand in your way.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Don't believe everything you hear. Being gullible will make you look bad and can end up being costly as well. Do your own research and make changes based on your needs, not on what someone else wants. Don't give in to bullying. ★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Get your documents in order to avoid any trouble with banks, government agencies or other institutions. Preparation will spare you grief as well as legal troubles. Follow your intuitions and act quickly. Contracts and financial deals look promising. ★★★★

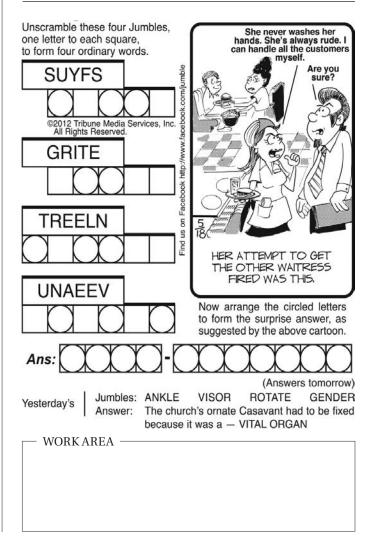
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Follow your heart, not what someone else wants. You have to stand up for your rights. Deferring to someone in order to avoid discord will only make matters worse. Do your own thing and don't look back. ***

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You can make positive changes at home or to the way you live. Don't be tempted to copy what someone else is doing. Putting greater effort into a personal relationship will help you avoid an outpouring of complaints.★★★

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Restlessness will kick in if you aren't challenged by your current career. Consider your options and determine how you can use your skills differently. Don't be afraid to set your goals high. You'll find it easy to learn as you go. *****

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Refuse to give in to someone who is using emotional manipulation. Stand up for your rights and follow through with the plans that interest you the most. A change at home can be made if you act quickly. ★★★★

JUMBLE | DAVID HOYT AND JEFF KNUREK



OBSERVER

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SPORTS

MEN'S BASKETBALL | NOTRE DAME 81, WICHITA STATE 70

Elite at last

Notre Dame stomps Wichita State

By MIKE MONACO

Senior Sports Writer

CLEVELAND — One of the nation's most efficient offenses looked decidedly average.

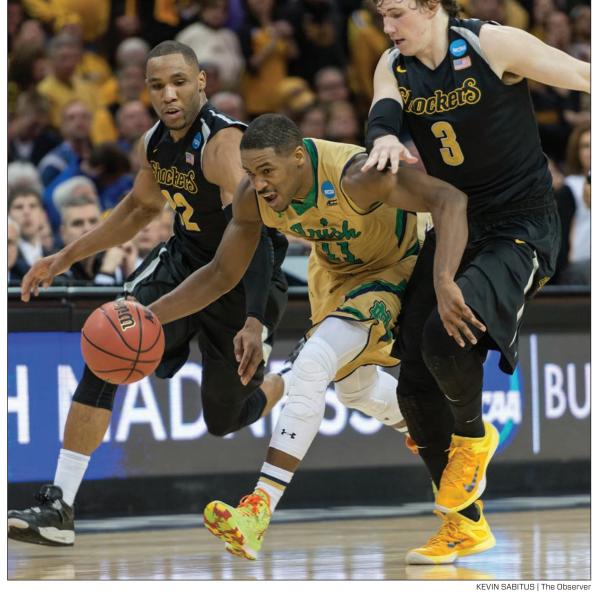
All-American guard Jerian Grant hadn't hit a shot in more than 20 minutes, and Notre Dame had just committed a shotclock violation, barely threatening with a good look.

Wichita State waltzed down the court and snatched its first lead of the game early in the second half. Irish head coach Mike Brey watched seven seconds of the next possession before signaling for a timeout.

"We've been here before. Little did I know it would be another lightning strike," Brey said of the timeout. "It was a flat-out lightning strike."

From there, No. 3 seed Notre Dame (32-5) buried 15 of its next 17 field goals and never looked back in a second-half stomp of No. 7 seed Wichita State in the Sweet 16, advancing to the Elite Eight for the first time since 1979 with an 81-70 win over the

see M BBALL PAGE 14



Irish sophomore gurad Demetrius Jackson splits two Wichita State defenders during Notre Dame's 81-70 win on Thursday in Cleveland. The Irish advanced to the Elite Eight for the first time since 1979.

Jackson's 20 points spark Irish secondhalf outburst

By BRIAN HARTNETT

Senior Sports Writer

CLEVELAND — On a day when Notre Dame inflicted several of what Irish head coach Mike Brey called "lightning strikes" on Wichita State, it was sophomore guard Demetrius Jackson who provided the opening jolt.

Jackson hit four 3-pointers Thursday night, but his beyond-the-arc scores sparked two opportune runs for No. 3 seed Notre Dame (32-5) in its 81-70 victory over No. 7 seed Wichita State (30-5).

Nearly two minutes into the game, Jackson hit a 3-pointer to put the Irish up 5-0. Twelve seconds later, he stroked another 3-pointer to give the Irish a six-point lead, helping launch a run that would give Notre Dame a 20-7 advantage to open the game.

"Demetrius Jackson is so good off the bounce, and we were able to keep him out of the paint and away from the

see JACKSON PAGE 14

ND WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Irish arrive in Oklahoma City for Sweet 16

Despite travel woes, team continues to prepare for multi-faceted Stanford offense

BV RENEE GRIFFIN Sports Writer

In the program's sixth-consecutive Sweet 16 appearance, No. 2 Notre Dame meets No. 14 Stanford tonight in Oklahoma City at 10 p.m.

Both teams had the benefit of hosting the first two rounds inside their home arenas and now will play at a neutral location. The Cardinal (26-9, 13-5 Pac-12) are a No. 4 seed in the tournament and defeated California State Northridge and Oklahoma last weekend. The top-seeded Irish (33-2, 15-1 ACC), meanwhile, are coming off wins over Montana and DePaul.

Notre Dame and Stanford have not met since 1991 and Irish head coach Muffet McGraw said in her Thursday press conference the Cardinal's intelligence on the court could be difficult to adjust to without much prior experience.

"You know, I think the biggest concern is how smart they are," McGraw said. "They're just

a really disciplined team that they run their offense, but they're also really good at recognizing personnel and seeing some mismatches and weaknesses and really exploiting them. So they're not a team that you can say they're actually going to run this when I think they're very flexible in what they do."

Sophomore guard Lindsay Allen said the newness of the Cardinal as an opponent was a factor in the way the team prepared.

"Some teams we've seen before like DePaul and then the ACC schedule," Allen said. "We've seen Stanford play before on TV and things like that, but just learning what they're about and what plays they actually run is a little difficult."

Through its first two tourney games, Notre Dame has depended on a balanced attack and contributions from a variety of players. Junior guard Jewell Loyd, the team's leading scorer,



WEI LIN | The Observer

Junior guard Jewell Loyd attempts a 3-pointer during Sunday night's win against DePaul in the second round of the NCAA tournament. Loyd had 10 points in the 79-62 victory at Purcell Pavilion.

see W BBALL **PAGE 13**