

Ireland program offers internship opportunities

Wide-ranging internships grant students exposure to cultural and professional environment of Ireland

By **EMMA BORNE**
News Writer

Many Notre Dame students are all too familiar with the arduous search that is finding a summer internship. With that experience in mind, Irish Internship Program offers students a unique and challenging opportunity of not just an internship experience but a chance to live abroad in a country many on campus hold dear: Ireland.

Senior Megan Ball, who participated in the Irish Internship

Program last summer, said the program lasts for eight to 10 weeks and offers a wide variety of internship opportunities for students. The program is made possible by the O'Connell House, Notre Dame's study abroad headquarters in Dublin.

"It encompasses around 50 internship opportunities in various sectors from education to finance to research to the arts," Ball said. "The program also incorporates, in addition

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Photo courtesy of Ciarán Pollard

Last summer, Notre Dame student interns immersed themselves in the culture and scenery of Ireland. The O'Connell House intern program offers around 50 opportunities in a variety of industries.

2016 ELECTION OBSERVER: DAVID CAMPBELL

Professor provides insight on developments in primaries

By **JACK ROONEY**
Managing Editor

Editor's Note: Throughout the 2016 presidential campaign, The Observer will sit down with Notre Dame experts to break down the election and its importance to students. In this first installment, Managing Editor Jack Rooney asks Political Science Department Chair David Campbell about the upcoming primaries and the biggest issues of the campaign.

Jack Rooney: Iowa caucuses in less than two weeks and New Hampshire votes about a week after that. With voting now im-

David Campbell
chair
department of political science



minent and Donald Trump still near the top of most Republican polls, does he actually have a shot at the nomination?

David Campbell: This, of course, is the \$64,000 question. Everything we know — or thought we knew — about presidential nominations has been upended by Trump. Based on past research, it would seem that he does not have a chance — his supporters have a low likelihood of turning out, the party establishment is against him and (it is easy to forget) he is actually not all that conservative. On the other hand, he keeps defying expectations. I

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Panel probes Islamophobia

By **AIDAN LEWIS**
News Writer

A panel of international studies scholars discussed the rise of Islamophobia in Europe on Wednesday afternoon at the Hesburgh Center for International Studies. The panel, which is sponsored by the Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies and the Nanovic Institute for European Studies, examined reasons for the recent spike in anti-Muslim activity in several

European countries, as well as possible solutions.

Maurizio Albahari, an assistant professor of anthropology, said Islamophobia is nothing new, as the term itself was created in the 1990s.

"When the world is compelled to coin a new term to account for increasingly widespread bigotry, that is sad and troubling," Albahari said.

However, Albahari said Islamophobia now is worse than it has ever previously been in Europe.

"Opinions that you could not say out loud a few years ago about Muslims — opinions that would have sounded racist — are allowed," Albahari said.

Visiting assistant professor Aysegul Zeren said recent terrorist attacks are largely responsible for the recent rise in Islamophobia.

"Today, the escalation of Islamophobia in Europe has an obvious link to the January

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SMC launches hashtag campaign

By **STEPHANIE SNYDER**
News Writer

Saint Mary's initiated a new social media campaign this semester by implementing two new Instagram hashtags, #BellesOfSaintMarys and #SMCseniormoments.

Junior communications major Kate FitzMaurice, who is a new Saint Mary's media relations intern for Director of Media Relations Gwen

Kate FitzMaurice
junior
communications intern



O'Brien, thought of the hashtag #BellesOfSaintMarys in order to get students involved with the College on social media.

O'Brien said she initiated the campaign due to the past success of another Instagram tag, #SMCsummerlearn.

"Social media is one way ... to give other students, prospective students, and parents an opportunity to have a glimpse of what goes on here and what the student experience is," O'Brien said.

FitzMaurice said her idea was inspired by the popular blog, "Humans of New York."

"I was thinking about how

much I love that blog and thought, 'Why don't we do something here?'" FitzMaurice said.

"Humans of New York" is a blog started by photographer Brandon Stanton, according to its Facebook

Melissa Fitzpatrick
senior
media relations intern



page. Stanton goes around New York to interview people on the street and features these peoples' stories on his blog.

"He finds and brings out interesting things about them," FitzMaurice said.

She thought a similar idea would be a fun way to bring campus to life on social media, FitzMaurice said.

"I thought there are a lot of faces that you see and recognize on campus, but you don't really know anything about them," FitzMaurice said.

O'Brien said she quickly approved of FitzMaurice's idea.

"I wouldn't have come up, honestly, with the 'Humans of New York' idea on my own," O'Brien said.

"I need the younger perspective — it's very valuable."

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THE OBSERVER

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

QUESTION OF THE DAY:

If you could choose any celebrity to be a presidential candidate, who would it be?

Have a question you want answered?

Email photo@ndsmcobserver.com



Cassidy Purucker

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KELLY VAUGHN | The Observer

Saint Mary's students celebrate the feast day of Blessed Fr. Basil Moreau with a French-themed dinner Wednesday night. Moreau founded the Congregation of Holy Cross in 1837 under the motto “Ave Crux, Spes Unica” while living in France.

THE NEXT FIVE DAYS:

Want your event included here?

Email news@ndsmcobserver.com

Thursday

“Finding Vivian Maier”

Snite Museum of Art
5 p.m.-7:30 p.m.
Film about the street photographer.

“A Midsummer Night's Dream”

Washington Hall
7:30 p.m.-9:55 p.m.
Performed by Actors from the London Stage.

Friday

Labor Café

Geddes Hall
5 p.m.-6 p.m.
Discussion related to work, inequality and social justice.

Camille A. Brown & Dancers

DeBartolo Performing Arts Center
7 p.m.-8 p.m.
Storytelling and dance.

Saturday

Education and Research Forum

Jordan Hall of Science
8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.
Focus on technology use in education.

Men's Basketball vs. Boston College

Joyce Center
12 p.m.-2 p.m.
The Irish take on the Eagles.

Sunday

La Misa en Español

Dillon Hall
1:30 p.m.-2:30 p.m.
All are welcome to this mass celebrated in Spanish.

Women's Basketball vs. Virginia Tech

Purcell Pavilion
1:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m.
The Irish take on the Hokies.

Monday

Sustainability Expo

LaFortune Student Center
7:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m.
Environmental research opportunities.

Passionist Volunteer Campus Visit

Geddes Hall
10 a.m.-5 p.m.
Information about the program in Jamaica.

STUDENT SENATE

Group approves secretary, discusses residential life

By JUSTINE WANG
News Writer

Student Senate met Wednesday evening to approve sophomore Mae Raab as the new Student Union Secretary for the remainder of the 2015-2016 school year, and discuss recent announcements regarding housing changes.

Student body president Bryan Ricketts nominated Raab for the position, citing her commitment to the Green Dot initiative and "a safe and inclusive campus for all," as a valuable addition to the administration. Raab will take the place of former secretary Sibonay Shewit, who is now student body Chief of Staff.

"Mae's communications will be an asset as she crafts the minutes for our various committees, but more importantly, she is in it for the team, and values the interpersonal relationships that she is able to build wherever she goes," Ricketts read from his letter, addressing the Senate.

"I trust she will ably lend her skills to catalyze change on behalf of the student body," Ricketts said.

Raab previously served on the Residential Life and Gender Issues Committees, where her

efforts aided in the completion of Dorm Week and the It's On Us campaign launch.

Following the approval of Raab's nomination, Director of Internal Affairs Rebecca Blais resigned from her position, stating that her goals for the semester come into conflict with the Student Union Constitution: "Election Committee members may not campaign for any ticket while holding this position."

"One of the duties of Director of Internal Affairs is to serve as a non-voting member of the Election Committee; therefore, in respect of the duties of my position and the Constitution of the Undergraduate Student Body, I am formally resigning my position on Cabinet in order to pursue a position in the next term of Student Government," stated Blais.

Members of Senate proceeded to successfully vote on closing the previous semester's discussion of Diversity Council leadership in order to move forward with other agenda items. The Diversity Council leadership had chosen not to attend the Senate meeting, according to Nidia Ruelas, student body vice president.

"We will be talking to Diversity Council about moving

forward ... Talking and working through issues, in terms of discussion about what it means to be in leadership and the kinds of responsibilities that exist," Ruelas said.

The Senate proceeded to discuss recent announcements about future adjustments to housing, exchanging questions and giving feedback. Zahm House Senator John Julien addressed the rumors of removing common rooms from five-man rooms, which are often used as spaces for social gatherings, in order to accommodate overcrowding.

Julien and Keenan Hall Senator Wilson Barrett raised concern about the impacts such actions would have on tight-knit dorm communities. Others expressed concern about effectively targeting overcrowding in dorms and the lack of transparency in the announcement of the temporary dorm movements.

Pangborn Hall is currently planning an open house for the residents of Walsh Hall, Badin Hall, and Morrissey Manor, according to Pangborn Hall Senator Taylor Still.

Contact Justine Wang at
jwang27@nd.edu

ND alumnus named in Forbes '30 Under 30'

By JP GSCHWIND
News Writer

Since age 12, Emerson Spartz has been obsessed with what makes online content go viral.

Forbes recently named Spartz, a 2009 graduate of Notre Dame, as one of its "30 Under 30" in the media category for his work as founder of Dose, a tech-driven media company that curates content based on detailed analytics and predicts what stories will have success.

Spartz said he started his entrepreneurial career as a young "Harry Potter" fan who wanted to make a

Emerson Spartz
founder
Dose



website. MuggleNet quickly found success, and it hooked him on conceptualizing and using the mechanisms behind the popularity of online content to attract readers.

"The principles are still the same, but Dose is significantly more technologically advanced," Spartz said of this particular project.

Spartz said the fundamental goal of his work is to evaluate what content has the best potential to go viral, a task aided by sophisticated analytic tools that can pinpoint what makes certain pieces of content succeed and others fail. He said Internet content is becoming increasingly democratized — good content stands out and is rewarded by views and shares.

"Quality [of Internet content] is getting easier to measure," Spartz said.

Spartz said while negative Internet content that elicits anger may attract some attention, the most

successful stories on the Internet are inspiring and connect with positive human emotions.

"We share what images of ourselves we want to promote to our family and friends," Spartz said.

According to Spartz, typically, this image aligns with positive content and uplifting stories.

Dose has received more than \$30 million from investors and has grown into a substantial company with about 50 employees, according to Crain's Chicago Business. Since its inception, Spartz said his role and his priorities have shifted.

"My work now involves much more time management and delegating," Spartz said.

At Notre Dame, Spartz said he developed habits to become a more disciplined learner, including cultivating a voracious reading habit and completing tests to improve his information retention.

"I promised myself I would read one nonfiction book every day during college in order to get a broad perspective," Spartz said.

Spartz said college students interested in entrepreneurship should read widely. He recommends "The Lean Startup" by Eric Ries and "80/20 Sales and Marketing" by Perry Marshall, in particular.

"You need to learn how to sell — everything is sales, no matter what job you're in," Spartz said.

These days, Spartz devotes the first couple of hours of his day to personal development and learning, which involves a lot of research, reading and writing.

"If you can discover how to motivate yourself, then you can apply yourself," he said.

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Tuesday March 15	Star Trek: The Ultimate Voyage "50 th Anniversary Concert Tour"		

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Write News.

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Ireland

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

to valuable work experience, a cultural enrichment program that exposes participants to all aspects of Irish culture through trips, and a professional development series.”

Ciarán Pollard, intern coordinator for the program, said internship placements for 2016 include the Bank of Ireland, Abbey Theatre, Department of Foreign Affairs-Press Section and the Irish Cancer Society.

Ball said her favorite part of the

program was the immersion experience of living and working in Ireland.

“The best part of program is certainly the opportunity to completely immerse yourself in the world of another culture,” Ball said. “While studying abroad is a truly great experience, to live and work in a city brings things into a whole new perspective.

“You are a part of the hustle and bustle of a busy work day,” she said. “The office culture differs, and the lifestyle of Irish working persons is slightly different than Americans, [and] experiencing these things allows you

to re-enter the U.S. with a new perspective.”

Sarah Witt, a senior who also participated in the internship program last summer, said anyone can apply to the program. It is not restricted by interest or major but simply to students looking to spend time getting to know Ireland and Irish culture, Witt said.

Ball said the program is especially helpful for students in the College of Arts and Letters, who often struggle the most with finding summer opportunities.

“It is rare to find great internships in your particular field of study that are funded if you study in the liberal arts,” Ball said.

“But the Irish Interns program allows for a fully-funded opportunity that is not only fabulous for career and educational development, but is also super fun!”

Witt said she encourages all students to consider spending their summer in Ireland. The deadline to apply for the program is Friday, Witt said.

“This past summer was one of the best experiences of my life,” Witt said. “I strongly encourage you to apply. ... You will have a wonderful summer going on adventures across Ireland, gaining work experience and making life-long friendships.”

Contact Emma Borne
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Photo courtesy of Ciarán Pollard

Notre Dame students enjoy time off from their internships by hiking through Ireland's scenic forests and countryside.

Instagram

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

FitzMaurice said she hopes the campaign promotes a sense of community for students.

“I hope that #BellesOfSaintMarys further promotes the sense of community we have here at Saint Mary's,” FitzMaurice said.

“It gives us a chance to celebrate and be supportive of each other's unique talents and ideas.”

Senior Melissa Fitzpatrick, who is also a media relations intern under O'Brien, came up with the hashtag #SMCseniormoments exclusively for Saint Mary's seniors.

“It's their bucket list of things they want to do before they graduate, or their feelings and thoughts about Saint Mary's, or what Saint Mary's means to them,” FitzMaurice said.

Fitzpatrick said her idea was inspired by her feelings about her final semester at Saint Mary's.

“There are so many emotions - excitement, fear, relief, accomplishment - overall, it's bittersweet,” Fitzpatrick said.

“I want this social media campaign to give the senior class a chance to slow it

down, recognize our accomplishments, laugh a little and most importantly, remember our final moments at Saint Mary's.”

Both campaigns were made for the students, O'Brien said.

“The students have this energy that is truly what Saint Mary's is,” O'Brien said.

“It's confident, it's fun, it's fresh. It really can be anything they want to be.

“Who knows what we'll find out as students start sharing their stories.”

Both interns said how enjoyable they find getting to know the Saint Mary's student body.

“Honestly, it's just so fun getting to know people,” FitzMaurice said.

“I've loved interviewing people and I hope that I can bring that excitement to all of Saint Mary's through the social media campaign.”

If anybody would like to be featured or knows somebody else who would, contact Kate FitzMaurice at kfitzm01@saintmarys.edu to be featured in #BellesOfSaintMarys, or contact Melissa Fitzpatrick at mfitzp01@saintmarys.edu to be featured in #SMCseniormoments.

Contact Stephanie Snyder
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Islam

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2015 Charlie Hebdo shootings and the November attacks on Paris,” Zeren said. Zeren cited a Reuters report as evidence of this disturb-

“The reactions can vary from verbal and physical attacks to negative stereotyping in the media.” However, Albahari said European governments have failed to provide any help to Muslims. “Muslims remain outside the

Zeren said. Research scholar of Islamic Studies and peace-building A. Rashied Omar said the war on terror has only exacerbated the Islamophobia problem. “The war on terrorism is not helpful in ameliorating the root causes that provide the fertile ground on which religious extremism thrives,” Omar said. “On the contrary, it is generating conditions that favor extremism, thus rendering the task of eradicating Islamophobia extremely difficult.” In order to end the “vicious cycle” Zeren described, Omar said people of different faiths and cultures must set aside their differences and attempt to understand each other. “More efforts should be put in to mutual and respectful dialogue and interactions, so that people of different cultures, of different faiths and no faiths can get to know each other beyond mere toleration,” Omar said. In addition, an end to Islamophobia and terrorism in Europe will only be achieved if European citizens and governments treat migrants and refugees more justly, Omar said. “The challenge that global peace holds for Muslims, Christians, Jews, people of different faiths and people of no faith is to work towards the building of more welcoming environments as well as inclusive cultures for immigrants,” Omar said.

Contact Aidan Lewis at alewis9@nd.edu

Election

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

would put his chances, however, at no better than 1 in 3. JR: For the Democrats, Hillary Clinton seems to be the consensus candidate within the party. Is there any way she doesn’t get the nomination? DC: She is definitely the odds-on favorite. While it is tempting to compare Sanders to Obama in 2008, when Obama was able to beat Clinton in spite of her front-runner status, there are big differences between them. For one thing, Clinton’s lead in endorsements among the Democratic establishment is much greater this year than in 2008. And Sanders is no Obama. His difficulty attracting support among minorities is a huge problem for him. JR: The primary debates, especially the Republican debates, seem to have generated more interest and attention this campaign. Based on political science research, though, how much do the debates matter for candidates and voters? DC: Debates are like pep rallies, as they can fire up supporters. But they rarely change voters’ minds. JR: Moving beyond the upcoming primaries, in your research and opinion, which issue or issues are set to play the biggest role in the general election?

DC: At home, income inequality and the uneven performance of the economy are sure to be top issues — that is, by many indicators, the economy is booming, and yet wages have stagnated. I am curious to see whether the Democratic nominee decides to make gun control a high priority issue. In the past, they have skirted this, but it has recently become more salient. Abroad, expect to hear a lot of discussion about ISIS and safeguarding Americans from terrorism. Historically, this would make the election like a combination of 2004 — a national security election — and 2008, which was focused more on the domestic economy. JR: More specific to a college campus like Notre Dame, which issue do you think should matter most to college students this election cycle? DC: I would pick two. First, the inequality in the current economic system is a pressing issue, as it means that America is losing its traditional middle class. This affects all of us. Second, the environment should continue to be a concern, as it is for many millennials already. While I do not expect the environment to be a top issue in the general election, this does not negate its importance for the rising generation.

Contact Jack Rooney at jrooney1@nd.edu

“We can make an argument that Islam is not the real danger, but fear from it could be very dangerous for individuals, communities and state.”
Aysegul Zeren
visiting assistant professor

ing increase of Islamophobia. According to the report, 400 hate crimes were committed against Muslims in France in 2015, triple domain of anti-racism legislation in Europe,” Albahari said. “This is applied for other racial and religious minorities, but not

“The challenge that global peace holds for Muslims, Christians, Jews, people of different faiths and people of no faith is to work towards the building of more welcoming environments as well as inclusive cultures for immigrants.”
A. Rashied Omar
research scholar
Islamic studies

that of the previous year. Zeren said this rise in Islamophobia could continue to have some extremely negative consequences. “We can make an argument that Islam is not the real danger, but fear from it could be very dangerous for individuals, communities, and state,” Zeren said. Zeren said this discrimination against Muslims has contributed to the rising number of terrorist attacks. “This is a vicious cycle, with policies causing marginalization, and marginalization feeding terrorism, and terrorism igniting the Islamophobia,”

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INSIDE COLUMN

A four-way race?

Zach Klonsinski

Sports Editor

I'm a history major, meaning if you ask me political questions dealing with the completely — or mostly — dead, I can usually give you a rough answer that at least rhymes with part of the truth. The most up-to-date information about this cycle of campaigns, though? Not so much.

Which is why this election still allows my imagination to roam free over the possibility of something that hasn't happened for more than 100 years in the United States: a presidential election with four tickets.

The last time this happened was in 1912, when Woodrow Wilson (Democrat) won the presidency over Theodore Roosevelt (Progressive), William Taft (Republican) and Eugene Debs (Socialist).

The thing about 1912, however, is that Taft and Debs combined garnered a whopping eight of the total 531 electoral votes. Well, more accurately, Taft nabbed eight while Debs was completely shut out.

In fact, 1860 was the last time the United States had a four-candidate race where at least three of the candidates were competitive (meaning received at least 10 percent of the electoral votes.) Abraham Lincoln (59.4 percent) won the election over John Breckenridge (23.8), John Bell (12.9) and Stephen Douglas (4.0).

The only time in American history where four candidates all won more than 10 percent of the electoral votes? 1824, when John Quincy Adams (32.2 percent) was elected over Andrew Jackson (37.9), William Crawford (15.7) and Henry Clay (14.2). And yes, Adams was elected despite losing both the electoral and popular vote to Jackson. Look it up.

All of this can change in 2016, though. We literally have a chance to witness a historical cycle of an already historical event.

Why?

As with perhaps too many questions nowadays, the answer traces back to one man: Donald Trump. Well, and maybe a little Bernie Sanders, too.

Here's the thing: if the Republican Party doesn't nominate Trump as its presidential candidate, he might just run as a third-party ticket.

Actually, scratch that: why wouldn't he, given what we've seen so far?

So the Republican vote would be split between Trump and the party's candidate, meaning an easy win for the Democratic nominee.

Except Sanders has absolutely nothing to lose by running on his own ticket either.

The man is 74 years old and will be 75 before this election finishes. He'll be 79 before the 2020 election, one where there's an incumbent President he'd have to defeat, which rarely works out well for the challengers in politics.

Sanders has a strong and loyal following and is gaining in the polls on Clinton, who hasn't exactly seized the moment like party officials surely hoped.

Combine that with a weakened Republican side, and this might just be perfect scenario for a guy like Sanders to ascend to the Oval Office.

Like I said before, I'm no politician. I have no horse in the race yet and still have a long way to go before I even think about betting on one.

I just think it'd be one heck of a ride.

Contact Zach Klonsinski at zklonsin@nd.edu

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

Is 'relatable' overrated?

Jennifer Vosters

Bellevue

Last semester, my writing professor forbade us from using the word "relatable" to describe each other's work. I thought it was because the word was over-used, the same way I was forbidden to use the word "skillz" in seventh grade ("You've got mad skillz!"). But, after thinking about it, it's really the idea behind it that's overused. Yet only in some contexts.

As consumers of words and stories in literature, film, art, music and theater, our relationship with "relatability" is a difficult one, closely linked to our majority or minority status in American society. Everyone wants — and deserves — to see characters with whom they can relate on a personal level. We want to see people who "feel" like us, what they look like and where they live and what they do. We want to see our situations and identities validated through the arts. For children especially, this is an exceptionally powerful role that books, movies, shows, songs and art exist to fill.

But on the flipside, some people have a lot more characters who look and live like them than others. Men, white people, thin people, normally abled people and young people. And while some roles require a certain look or lifestyle, many roles that could really be anybody are by default filled with people who look very much the same and presumably come from similar backgrounds: usually male, usually white. So what message is that sending? Prioritizing white people, straight people and men for most major characters reinforces divisions based on our differences, selecting who is more deserving of our support and understanding. Less urgently but also concerningly, it also robs white or straight or male or all-of-the-above people from the invaluable experience of connecting to popular characters that are different than themselves.

Reading a book or watching a movie forces us to empathize with the protagonist; it's how we know whom to cheer for, and studies have shown that reading fiction — that is, stories — increases our empathy. So if we're always cheering for the attractive white guy, if we're always learning to relate to him, when do we learn to relate to others? When can we identify with characters of other genders, races, beliefs, and abilities? When can we put ourselves in their shoes?

Increasingly, people of color, women and LGBTQ people have been gaining more representation in literature and films like "Selma," "Suffragette," "Race"

and "The Danish Girl," which bring to the forefront the histories of oppressed minorities kept out of the spotlight. This is a great thing. So next, what about movies where the protagonist's race, gender, ability and sexuality aren't the focus of the conflict? Why can't we see more black superheroes, woman warriors (wearing decent outfits, please), gay secret agents or wizards in wheelchairs?

Boys, particularly white boys, are widely excused from engaging with stories focusing on girls or people of color, while girls and people of color have little choice but to engage with stories about white boys. Think of popular franchises that have, unsurprisingly, also dominated the film industry: "Harry Potter," "Percy Jackson," "Spiderman," "Superman," "Batman," "The Lord of the Rings" — all focusing primarily on white boys and men. "The Hunger Games," "The Chronicles of Narnia," "Fifty Shades of Grey," "Divergent," "Game of Thrones" — all focusing on white people. Where are the movies for Ursula Le Guin's "Earthsea Cycle," where the protagonists are mostly people of color? Where is the wide readership and subsequent film adaptations for Octavia Butler's — a woman author of color — science fiction and fantasy novels?

It's not that "white dude" books and movies aren't worthwhile for everyone (I'm a born-and-bred Potterhead and a devoted Tolkien fan myself). The point is: it's important for underrepresented minorities — which includes women — to be more represented so they too can "relate" to popular and academic culture, feel included, feel valued and see themselves as part of the movement. It's also important for "majorities" to not rely on relatability to judge the worth and value of a story. We who are used to seeing ourselves projected on screens and book covers don't need to feel distanced by characters of different races, genders, ethnicities, ages, abilities or orientations. To enjoy a story we don't need to fully relate to the protagonist, especially in terms of appearance; we just need to sympathize with him or her.

That's when stories are at their full power: when, through them, we come to understand people who are different than us, without judgment, without distance, without distinction. We come to respect them and to see them as the norm too, not just "us."

Jennifer Vosters is a senior living in Le Mans Hall. She is an English major with minors in theatre and Italian. She can be reached at jvoste01@saintmarys.edu

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

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"The world, unfortunately, rarely matches to our hopes and consistently refuses to behave in a reasonable manner."

Stephen Jay Gould

Paleontologist, evolutionary biologist and historian

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My friend the Carmelite

Christopher Damian

Ideas of a University

This fall, a friend began her life as a Carmelite nun. Becoming a cloistered nun is, in a way, like choosing your death. Though she's just reached her mid-twenties, I may never see or hear from her again. She can only receive visitors a year after her entrance, six years after, and 25 and 50 after. In between, time stops, and our last contact gives a final imprint, our lasting memory of each other.

It's hard to understand the life's work of someone who has chosen to close herself off from society. I have work to do everyday and constant cares and concerns. She lives in silence and prayer.

I made a small request of her when she joined, a prayer intention that was very important to me at the time. That intention now plays a different role in my life, but for her it will always be the same. If I never see her again, her memory of me will always be bound up with that prayer.

In a way, that makes her more honest than me. She remembers me better than I remember myself. Earthly life can be fickle. As our circumstances change, we come up with all kinds of excuses for forgetting the things that were once important to us. We feel the weight of the world and the desire to constantly pursue the novel, and the old falls aside as part of a past life. But that old thing that I've given her will be always be present with her prayers for me.

I hope I can love like her. All she has now is her

silence and her prayer. She's given up everything else for them. So when she prays for me, she gives me everything that she has. Everything is affixed to a religious promise made at barely 25.

I suppose it's easy to romanticize her life. I wonder if there are days that she regrets her decision, as she's holed up in the Carmel. I'm sure she wonders what life is like outside, with the coffee shop conversations and careers and her family.

I have access to countless books, lectures, and courses, but I suspect that she has learned long before me one of the greatest lessons of ancient philosophy: the things that truly exist are the things that last. You love what you loved. I think often of the promise that spouses make at their wedding: to have and to hold for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, until death do us part. I wonder what this promise means after a couple divorces. The test of the promise, like the test of all promises, is life. The answer to whether we meant what we said can only be the answer to whether we mean what we said.

That's why I have two questions when my friends' significant others say things like, "I love you" or "I want to spend the rest of my life with you." I want to know whether that person has said those things before and, if so, what those words mean to them now. It's a question of honesty, integrity and philosophy. Were they the simple vows of a novice or solemn vows for a lifetime? And should you be bound by your folly when you meant the latter at the time and wished the former later?

A philosophy professor once remarked that

you're old enough to marry when you're old enough to be in love. This seems silly, and we're left wondering whether we'd be better off with the marriage arrangements of Thomas More's "Utopia," in which a couple is presented naked to each other prior to marriage. Those of Utopia "wondered at the folly of mankind in all other countries; who, if they buy but an inferior horse, examine him all over and take off his trappings; yet a wife, on whom dependeth the happiness of the remainder of life, they take upon trust, regarding only her face, and leaving the rest of her body covered, where contagious and loathsome disorders may lie concealed." Similar tests of "sexual compatibility" and cohabitation mark the realism of contemporary life. And perhaps More's Utopia, which prohibits divorce, is less honest than modern life, which is aware that deformities can take years to uncover.

I don't think my friend the Carmelite is a realist, in the modern sense. She fell in love and made a choice. In a few years, she'll make her final vows. And setting aside all possibilities of future contingencies, the vow takes the horse as it is. She focuses on eternity and prays for lasting things.

Christopher Damian graduated from Notre Dame in 2013 with a B.A. in philosophy. He is currently a Terrence J. Murphy Fellow at the University of St. Thomas, where he is pursuing a J.D. and an M.A. in Catholic Studies. He can be reached at cdamian1@alumni.nd.edu

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

Elbel for everyone

Rebecca O'Neil

Guest Columnist

After living for three years on the Notre Dame-Saint Mary's campuses with their manicured lawns, my un-adventured eyes hadn't yet seen the wonders that the true South Bend has to offer. My move off campus senior year engendered appreciation for new kinds of green space as I found it: crab-grass persevering through concrete, my house's garden and overgrown empty lots.

Then, as director of a nonprofit dedicated to facilitating urban youths' engagement in the outdoors, my inclination to seek "green" became much more intentional. Mentors from Notre Dame and Saint Mary's took adolescents from the Robinson Community Learning Center and La Casa de Amistad to Juday Creek to help researchers identify kinds of life there that may indicate the creek's toxicity. My nonprofit's mission reflects the White House's youth initiative Every Kid in a Park. The National Park Foundation is providing free passes for 4th graders across the country through the 2015-2016 school year.

That said, it seems odd that the city of South Bend intends to sell 332 acres — a quarter of the city's parkland — for \$747,500. The buyers of Elbel Park Golf Course, who are most certainly developers, will evade paying the additional half-million (\$1.29 million in total) by delaying new home construction on that property for five years and purchasing

the land as a golf course. The proceeds are intended to "support other parks functions, as outlined in a five-year, \$36 million master plan," the South Bend Tribune reported Wednesday. This "master plan" seems to take little interest in merely preserving the land it intends to maintain.

What the city doesn't realize about the South Bend Parks and Recreation's sacrificial lamb is that Elbel is worth far more than what it is selling for (which, by the way, isn't even enough to run South Bend for a day). The environmental, social and educational value the park has certainly supersedes any — but particularly, its estimated — financial value. The park boasts rolling wetland, state-endangered species and a skyline touched by sycamore, beech, oak, dogwood and ash trees. Before it was taken down, the Elbel Park's website claimed that the appeal of this 18-hole golf course "designed with the natural beauty of Mud Lake in mind" was that it "blends perfectly with the surrounding landscape of farm land, wooded areas and water." The un-groomed wetland along the park's borders are federally owned and protected by the Environmental Protection Agency. The land next to Mud Lake will not receive such preferential treatment without the intervention of South Bend's citizens.

The rebirth of South Bend that began under the guidance of Mayor Pete Buttigieg will undoubtedly include more initiatives to beautify the region. Before the makeover continues, it is important to revere the assets we already have. A study

conducted by the Landscape and Human Health Laboratory at the University of Illinois showed that more green space is correlated to less domestic violence in cities. In a city that struggles with crime, the commodification of such a space seems unfathomable. A study from the University of Sheffield, England found that "psychological benefits of greenspace increase with biodiversity."

The for-profit ownership of Elbel will likely hinder public access and inhibit environmental accountability. While the public maintains access and a say in the park's future, I urge students to visit Elbel, to make a leap for underclass-kind and venture into South Bend — its urban areas and beyond.

I encourage constituents of Notre Dame and Saint Mary's who live on and off campus to engage. Those who regard public access and ecological responsibility as invaluable can tweet using the hashtags #IValueElbel or #DontPawnOurParksPete. If those reading are interested in dialogue with other residents of South Bend as well as their representatives regarding the privatization of Elbel please attend a Common Council meeting Monday at 3:30 p.m. at 227 West Jefferson Boulevard in South Bend. If you are interested in other events surrounding this issue "like" Elbel for Everyone's Facebook page.

Rebecca O'Neil is a 2015 graduate of Saint Mary's College. She can be reached at roneil01@saintmarys.edu

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

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'DOWN TO LUNCH'

on the rise



By **JACK ROONEY**
Managing Editor

Life as an on-campus senior is great. I get all the benefits of living close to my classes, meetings and most especially the dining hall (not having to cook for yourself is particularly clutch). Most of these benefits involve more sleep and less travel time, especially when the weather is as bitterly cold as it is now (full disclosure: If I lived off campus, I probably just wouldn't have gone to class this week).

Life as an on-campus senior is also awful. Living on campus means I live farther away from a lot of my friends. And, as an adult, I have to endure one last year of parietals, and some on my fellow on-campus seniors may very well sleep in a bunk bed as a 22-year-old.

And, although I do not have to cook for myself, I often end up eating alone in the dining hall because none of my on-campus friends are available and none of my off-campus friends have meal plans. I don't mind it too much, but I've missed being able to walk down the hallway and instantly find five people to eat lunch with.

But now there's an app for that. Down to Lunch, or DTL for short, exploded onto Notre Dame's campus at the beginning of the semester. It's the latest place the app has taken off since Stanford computer science grads Joe Lau and Nikil Viswanathan developed it last May.

The app allows users to notify other friends who have

the app when they are free to get a meal, chill, go out, study, get coffee or join in on a host of other activities. Based on Notre Dame user feedback, you can now let others know when you are "Down to Feve" and "Down to Mass."

When I spoke with Lau and Viswanathan over the phone Wednesday, the San Francisco-based friends said Notre Dame is one of the first places where they have started integrating user responses.

"We had a ton of people texting asking for Down To Feve," Viswanathan said. "At first we thought it was a joke and after talking to a bunch of really friendly students we realized it was legit and added it."

Users can also makes lists of friends within the app to notify only certain people when they are free. For instance, I have an "on-campus friends" list I use when I am looking for friends to eat with at the dining hall. When users tap the button that they are down to lunch, dinner, chill, etc., other friends get a notification on their phone and can text back if they are interested in joining.

And while thousands of users across the country and the world have downloaded the app, Lau and Viswanathan said it began as a simple way for them to reconnect with friends in San Francisco, and provided an alternative to sending blast text messages to make plans with large groups.

"We had the idea one Sunday afternoon and just built it for fun," Viswanathan said. "It was just a side project until

it blew up." Before the app took off at Notre Dame, Lau said students at the University of Georgia, University of Connecticut and Vanderbilt began using the app widely.

Lau and Viswanathan said they still run the app from their apartment by themselves. App users have the option to "Talk to Team DTL," which directly connects them with the two founders on their personal cell phones, and the pair said they receive between 3,000 and 5,000 texts a day.

Some of my friends at Notre Dame Have criticized the app, saying it's no different than a group text or that they don't understand the need for a whole app dedicated to the premise, but these critics appear to be in the minority. Lau and Viswanathan said within 10 to 12 hours of the app popping up at Notre Dame, 15 percent of the school had downloaded it.

"More than 15 percent of Notre Dame got it in less than a day. It was nuts," Viswanathan said of the rapid spread at Notre Dame, a growth that occurred despite the fact that he and Viswanathan said they have not done any marketing or promotion for the app anywhere. And while they said they don't know exactly where the app will go from here, they said they remain dedicated to interacting with users and incorporating their ideas into DTL. So, Notre Dame DTL users, look out for a "Down to Club Hes" option coming soon.

Contact Jack Rooney at jrooney1@nd.edu



With 'Death of a Bachelor,' Panic! At The Disco LIVES

By **DAKOTA CONNELL-LEDWON**
Scene Writer

Panic! At The Disco's fifth studio album, "Death of a Bachelor," dropped Jan. 15, and it packs a punch. An inconsistent punch, but a punch nonetheless.

In an interview with Alt 98.7, vocalist Brendon Urie told the station that the new album would be "this mix between Sinatra and Queen, if that makes any sense."

It doesn't. There are certainly songs reminiscent of Sinatra, such as "Impossible Year" and the titular "Death of a Bachelor," but Queen's influence—a s well as the operatic rock present on Panic!'s previous albums—seems to be absent.

"House of Memories" and "Golden Days" are both bland and unremarkable, and Urie's talent is wasted on the sing-songy "Victorious." While it's an upbeat start to the album, the chorus "Tonight we are victorious / Champagne pouring over us / All my friends were glorious / Tonight we are victorious" is trite.

However, there are several standouts on the album that warrant a listen.

Panic!'s strength lies in their vaudeville-inspired spooky pop sound, furthered by Brendon Urie's powerful voice. This compelling combination is most evident in "Emperor's New Clothes," a chilling account that embodies the lyrics, "I'm taking back the crown," in its

execution.

The track was released as a single before the album release, accompanied by a disturbing music video featuring a half-naked Urie falling from "heaven" and sprouting wings, horns and a gargoyle-esque chin. Skeletons sing a few verses in the background, because what would Panic! at the Disco be without their tendency to tread the line between weird and cheesy?

The song itself makes use of Urie's incredible range in low, quiet verses and an aggressive, self-assured chorus. At one point in the music video, Urie spreads his (literal) wings and lets out a falsetto note so high you might wonder if you're in heaven after all.

The title track, "Death of a Bachelor," showcases Urie's strong vocals as he channels Sinatra to both mourn and celebrate the end of single life: "I'm walking the long road, watching the sky fall / The lace in your dress tangles my neck, how do I live?" he croons.

The jazzy "Death of a Bachelor" is accompanied by an equally slick black and white music video where Urie serenades an empty room with his falsetto. The video has over 5 million views.

The rest of the album includes "Crazy=Genius," another throwback to Panic!'s jazz phase, and the melancholy "Impossible Year." It's not Panic!'s best, but it's certainly not their worst.

"Heroes always get remembered / But you know legends

never die," Urie growls in "Emperor's New Clothes." This is certainly true of Panic!, or maybe just Urie. The band has been around since 2004, when childhood friends Ryan Ross, Spencer Smith, Brent Wilson and Brendon Urie began recording demos.

Urie is the only original band member remaining. In fact, he's the only person on the band's official lineup. He sings, plays lead guitar, bass guitar, keyboard, piano, percussion and synthesizer—a one-man show definitely worthy of being called a legend. Despite the loss of his fellow band members, Urie has persevered: Panic! at the Disco will be touring with Weezer this summer and they created an album with a few great songs.

Contact Dakota Connell-Ledwon at dconnel5@nd.edu

"Death of a Bachelor"

Panic! At The Disco

Label: DCD2 / Fueled By Ramen

Reccomded If You Like: Paramore, Fall Out Boy

Reccomended Track: "Emperor's New Clothes"



OSCAR
SNUBS: OSCAR

Jimmy Kemper
Scene Writer

Oscar Isaac deserved to be nominated for an Academy Award this year. And no, I'm not talking about his work on the excellent new Star Wars movie as Poe Dameron. I'm talking about his excellent acting in April's "Ex Machina," a riveting sci-fi film that takes inspiration from the best the genre has to offer.

"Ex Machina" tells the story of Caleb Smith (Domnhall Gleeson), a programmer who gets invited on a week-long visit to the secluded estate of Nathan Bateman (Oscar Isaac), the billionaire CEO of the software company that Caleb works for. Upon Caleb's arrival, Nathan tasks him with giving a Turing test to his latest breakthrough: a hyper-intelligent and incredibly complex artificial intelligence named Eva (Alicia Vikander).

As Caleb explores the extent of Eva's ability to replicate human behavior, he also learns more of her mysterious and reclusive creator. Isaac's Nathan is equal parts charming and intimidating, just as determined as he is reckless. Behind his thin-framed dad glasses

and thick, black beard is a complex man who represents the worst of what Silicon Valley has to offer.

By day, Nathan is a relentless figure who pushes Caleb to probe his creation's and his own humanity. By night, he throws caution to the wind, abusively drinking and slowly letting Caleb in on the secrets behind Eva. And then he wakes up, works out, and starts the process all over again.

He's totally believable on every level – the embodiment of the swaggering, narcissistic tech billionaire. Sarcastic, quick witted, charismatic and unbelievably egotistical, Oscar Isaac's Nathan captures and satirizes the titans who rule over Silicon Valley.

Plus, he can dance. In the middle of this menacing and moody film, we get something unexpected: the now famous choreographed dance sequence. In this scene, Nathan and his assistant Kyoko break it down to the grooves of "Get Down Saturday Night" set to some far-out disco lighting. Isaac seamlessly transitions from dangerous drunk to disco master to relieve the tension that had been escalating since the opening credits and manages to unnerve Caleb in the process.

Like the dance scene, all interactions between Caleb and Nathan are engaging and intriguing. Over the

course of the film, Nathan's narcissistic disregard toward and belittling of Caleb slowly becomes more apparent and ultimately becomes his downfall.

In the amazing, final, Frankenstein-esque sequence after Caleb helps free Eva, Isaac's Nathan is murdered by his monster. Tellingly, Nathan's reaction isn't one of anger but amazement. He's proud of Eva's capacity for manipulation and cunning; more importantly, he's proud of himself for creating her. Even in his dying breaths, Nathan is still only concerned with his own achievement and intellect.

Oscar Isaac's portrayal of tech billionaire Nathan was more subtle and nuanced than the other roles that make up the list of Best Supporting Actors this year, but he absolutely nails the little traits that make this character great. His alternately restrained and bold acting forces viewers to question the titans of Silicon Valley who have elevated humanity to supposedly godlike status. He's sharp, subtle and scary, and his performance certainly among the best that this year had to offer.

Contact Jimmy Kemper at jkemper2@nd.edu
The views expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.

WEEKEND PREVIEW

THURSDAY

WHAT: CAMILLE A. BROWN & DANCERS
WHEN: 7 P.M.
WHERE: DPAC
HOW MUCH: \$15 FOR STUDENTS

CONCLUDING THE PREENTING SERIES HIGHER GROUND MLK WEEK CELEBRATION, CAMILLE A. BROWN EXPLORES AND RECLAIMS HISTORY THROUGH HER OWN STORY IN HER NEW 55-MINUTE PIECE BLACK GIRL: LINGUISTIC PLAY. THE PIECE INCORPORATES STORYTELLING, LIVE MUSIC AND DANCE TO ADDRESS THE COMPLEXITIES SURROUNDING BLACK FEMALE IDENTITY TODAY. A THIRTY-MINUTE MODERATED DISCUSSION WILL FOLLOW THE DANCE.

FRIDAY

WHAT: THE BIRDELL PROJECT'S STUDENT ART RECEPTION
WHEN: 7 – 10 P.M.
WHERE: 401 COLFAX AVE.
HOW MUCH: FREE

FOUR NOTRE DAME ART CLASSES WORKED WITH THEIR PROFESSORS TO CREATE INSTALLATION-BASED WORK THAT CHALLENGES THE DEFINITION OF 'DRAWING' FOR THE BIRDELL PROJECT. LOCATED IN THE COMMERCE CENTER'S EXPANSIVE BASEMENT, THE PROJECT FOCUSES ON THE ARTISTS' RESPONSE TO SITE, HISTORY AND MATERIAL. ETA CARINAE WILL PROVIDE LIVE ELECTRONIC MUSIC AND THERE WILL BE VEGETARIAN, VEGAN AND GLUTEN-FREE HORS D'OEUVRES.

SATURDAY

WHAT: SOUTH BEND FARMER'S MARKET: WINTER FESTIVAL
WHEN: SATURDAY 7 A.M. – 3 P.M.
WHERE: 1105 NORTHSIDE BLVD.
HOW MUCH: FREE

THE SOUTH BEND FARMER'S MARKET WILL BE HOSTING A WINTER FESTIVAL. HEAD OVER FOR ARTS, CRAFTS, ANTIQUES AND SPECIALTY FOOD ITEMS.

WEEKLY WATCH

IS A SERIES IN WHICH A SCENE WRITER PICKS A MOVIE OR SHOW AVAILABLE ON INSTANT STREAMING SERVICE, THEN WRITES A REVIEW.

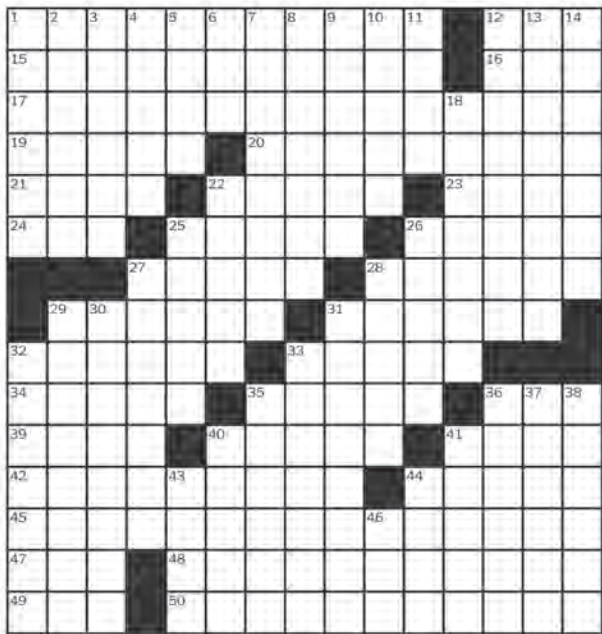
MURDER IS MESSY. YET IN FILM, IT'S OFTEN REDUCED TO LITTLE MORE THAN THE SOUND OF A GUN GOING OFF AS A STOCK 'BAD-GUY' YELPS AND FALLS TO THE GROUND. CATCH 'FARGO', A REFRESHINGLY UNIDEALIZED CRIME THRILLER, ON NETFLIX THIS WEEK. CATCH JOHN DARR'S REVIEW THIS MONDAY.

CROSSWORD | WILL SHORTZ

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16 Millerite, e.g.
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5 "____ Nobody's Business" (old blues standard)
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7 Salt
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9 Symbol of Apollo
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50 Hiking guide

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

A	D	E	S		A	T	T	A	C	H		A	S	H
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H	A	D	E	S		F	R	E	E	R		B	A	S
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E	S	S		E	L	L	E	R	Y		S	H	A	D



PUZZLE BY PATRICK BERRY

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28 Turns up
29 Celebrated matador during Franco's reign
30 Painting and ballet
31 Be an angel?
32 Tool
- 33 Title maiden in a Heinrich Heine poem
35 Home of the Karl Marx Theater
36 Endangered
37 Lower
38 Brent of "Star Trek: T.N.G."
- 40 Company boycotter?
41 Don Quixote, e.g.
43 Kind
44 Payroll tax, for short
45 Oil in a can

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JUST ADD WATER | ERIC CARLSON & JOHN RODDY



FLING BY SPRING | RILEY McCURRIE



SUDOKU | THE MEPHAM GROUP

Level: **1** 2 3 4

2	7	3		5			4	
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4				7				
	1	2				3	7	
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SOLUTION TO TUESDAY'S PUZZLE 5/15/13

7	3	4	8	5	2	6	9	1
9	2	8	6	1	3	7	5	4
6	1	5	7	9	4	2	8	3
3	5	9	1	4	7	8	6	2
8	7	2	9	3	6	1	4	5
1	4	6	2	8	5	3	7	9
2	6	1	5	7	9	4	3	8
4	9	7	3	2	8	5	1	6
5	8	3	4	6	1	9	2	7

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

HOROSCOPE | EUGENIA LAST

Happy Birthday: Take money matters seriously and you will avoid a loss. Helping others will prove to be costly and less rewarding than anticipated. Try to focus on the options that will lead to your own prosperity, good health and future prospects. This is a year to build and secure your position, reputation and your life. Your numbers are 4, 11, 23, 25, 33, 37, 45.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Express what you want through your actions, not your words. You will make the best impression if you are progressive and precise. Someone you love will appreciate a romantic gesture or surprise. A commitment from the heart looks promising. ★★★★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): You can make a strategic move that will influence your position, status or reputation. Speak your mind and don't be afraid to use a little pressure to get others on board. You will make a difference if you are bold. ★★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Emotional issues are best resolved quickly. If you sit around ignoring what's going on around you, matters will escalate. Don't follow what other people do if it isn't what's best for you. Love can be deceptive. Try to assess your motives. ★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You can make a significant lifestyle change that will improve your quality of life, lower your stress and add to your enthusiasm. Get out and do the things you enjoy most with the people who bring you joy. ★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Initiate change instead of waiting to see what happens. Don't expect to please everyone. Your concern should be that you are true to yourself and your beliefs. Time spent with family and friends will be enlightening. ★★★★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Take care of domestic responsibilities before moving on to interesting pastimes with people who stimulate you. An unusual connection will be made if you attend a function that encourages networking. You have a tendency to be indulgent. ★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Plan a trip or make time for a little romance. An update to your image, appearance or to your fitness routine will bring good results. Don't let someone's disgruntled attitude bring you down. Bring about a positive lifestyle change. ★★★★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Sign up for an activity or event that will motivate you to try something new and exciting. A unique change to the way you live will spark an original plan that will be conducive to working from home. ★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Don't lose sight of your goals. If you need to, pick up additional skills, but don't overload your plate. Take one step at a time, and try to do things right the first time rather than getting in a hurry to complete your work. ★★

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Stick to what you know and do the best job possible. Don't be concerned with someone's unpredictable nature. Do your own thing and focus on getting ahead. Keep your personal life a secret to avoid rumors. ★★

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Take care of matters concerning parents or children. Your help will be appreciated and make you feel good as well. Romance is on the rise, and a pick-me-up that you can share with someone you love will bring you closer together. ★★★★★

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): A partnership with someone who shares your beliefs or concerns will help you reach your objectives. Look for donations that will make it easier to reach your goal. Don't let an emotional matter stifle your productivity. ★

Birthday Baby: You are generous, creative and helpful. You are open and resourceful.

JUMBLE | DAVID HOYT AND JEFF KNUREK

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

TORLL

○ ○ ○ ○ ○

DENRT

○ ○ ○ ○ ○

GEWHIT

○ ○ ○ ○ ○

YALELV

○ ○ ○ ○ ○

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Find us on Facebook <http://www.facebook.com/jumble>

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer here:

○ ○ ○ ○ ○

○ ○ ○ ○ ○

○ ○ ○ ○ ○

(Answers tomorrow)

Saturday's Jumbles: EVOKE PLAZA CAMPUS EXPIRE
Answer: They had no chance of winning the balloon race because they couldn't — KEEP UP

THE OBSERVER

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SPORTSAUTHORITY

ESPN finally embraces esports

Marek Mazurek
Sports Writer

Oct. 13 of last year, I wrote a column that argued for a greater respect for esports in our culture.

Thus, I was happy when ESPN recently included esports as part of its sports coverage.

Now, when you go to ESPN there is an “esports” tab just as there is one for the NFL, the NBA or any other “traditional” sport.

Setting aside the discussion of whether or not esports should be considered sports in the traditional sense, ESPN made an incredibly smart move by choosing to cover esports.

For a traditional sports outlet like ESPN, esports fans are the textbook definition of an untapped market. Esports matches are televised live on sites such as Twitch, and in South Korea, League of Legends matches are shown on network television. Last year’s League of Legends world championship between Samsung White and Royal Gaming drew 27 million viewers worldwide. For comparison, only 23.5 million tuned in for Game 7 of the 2014 World Series between the San Francisco Giants and the Kansas City Royals and 18 million watched the San Antonio Spurs topple the Miami Heat in the NBA Finals.

Where did I find that statistic? ESPN.

The 2013 world championships sold out the Staples Center in Los Angeles, and the number of esports players is steadily growing. According to the creator of League of Legends, Riot Games, the game has increased from 32 million players monthly in 2012 to 67 million in 2014.

Clearly esports has a huge following, not just in the U.S. but all around the world. And as the first traditional sports news site to cover esports, ESPN will undoubtedly gain readers. Many esports enthusiasts will turn

to ESPN to get their esports coverage in the same place as they get coverage of their traditional sports. And many more traditional sports fans will check out ESPN’s coverage of esports just to see what the fuss is about.

Esports also fits in nicely with ESPN’s fan-centered, interactive content. League of Legends recently started a “fantasy” League Challenger Series (LCS) system that works much like the fantasy football most traditional sports fans are familiar with.

Esports is also highly statistically driven, something ESPN loves, and comes rife with offseason drama with players changing teams frequently. Additionally, esports is divided by geographic regions, which creates debates as to which region(s) are superior, much like the conference system in college football. All of this creates content for ESPN in the form of fantasy cheat sheets, power rankings and offseason updates.

However, the best part of ESPN’s decision to cover esports is the look of dumb-founded disgust that graced sports broadcaster Colin Cowherd’s face when he heard the news. For those new to the subject, Cowherd said that if he were ever forced to cover esports, he would quit. Cowherd is no longer with ESPN so he cannot quit the network, but it would have been enjoyable to see closed-minded people like him when arguably the most influential sports network in the U.S. decided it would move into the 21st century and cover a sport that deserves coverage.

I commend ESPN for its decision to cover esports. It is a win-win scenario and hopefully ESPN’s example will pave the way for esports’ acceptance in American sports culture.

Contact Marek Mazurek at mmazurek@nd.edu

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

NBA | WARRIORS 125, BULLS 94

Warriors inch closer to history after win over Bulls

Associated Press

CHICAGO — Stephen Curry glanced at the “72” banner hanging from the rafters during the morning shootaround. A number that for two decades seemed unattainable just might be in reach for the Warriors if they keep playing this way.

Curry scored 25 points, and Golden State made it look easy again, beating the Chicago Bulls 125-94 on Wednesday night.

Curry tied a season high with 11 of his team’s 38 assists and grabbed seven rebounds.

Klay Thompson added 20 points. Harrison Barnes scored 19, and the defending champions simply outclassed Chicago after embarrassing LeBron James and the Cavaliers in Cleveland on Monday night.

That’s two straight dominant wins over two of the Eastern Conference’s top teams after losing at Detroit and dropping two of three.

“Good teams bounce back quick and we were able to do that,” Curry said. “It says a lot about our resiliency.”

The Warriors are more than just a good team. They’re a team that set a league record with a 24-0 start. And they’re a team that could challenge the single-season mark of 72 wins set by the 1995-96 Bulls.

“I feel like we kind of have that chip back on our shoulders,” Draymond Green said. “It kind of fell off a little bit.”

The Warriors built a big lead in the first quarter and never were threatened after that, improving their league-best road record to 20-4.

Derrick Rose scored 29 and Jimmy Butler added

23 points after a slow start for Chicago. Pau Gasol was a nonfactor with one point and the Bulls missed 19 of 20 3-pointers on the way to their fifth loss in seven games.

“It’s embarrassing,” Rose said. “We stopped communicating while we were out there. You could easily tell there was no communication on both sides of the ball. The only thing we can do from it is learn.”

Strong Start

Two nights after they pounded Cleveland in the arena where they captured the championship last spring, the Warriors wasted little time seizing control in this one.

Playing in the shadows of that “72” banner, they continued their assault on the mark.

Golden State was trailing by one midway through the first quarter when a cutting Curry converted a three-point play. Rose, who committed the foul, got subbed out after a strong start. And in a flash, the Warriors broke this one open.

They were up 34-18 going into the second and led by as many as 21 before heading to the locker room with a 63-44 cushion.

Curry had 15 points and seven assists in the half. Barnes scored 11 and the Warriors simply put on a clinic in ball movement that led to 30 points in the paint.

Rose scored 21 for Chicago, but the rest of the team combined for just 23 points in the half. The numbers barely describe how one-sided this was.

There were comical moments like when Chicago’s E’Twaun Moore crashed to the floor in the first quarter trying to defend a crossover by Curry, who buried

a 19-foot jumper. There was a neat pass from Shaun Livingston to Leandro Barbosa for a reverse layup that made it 41-20 early in the second. There was also a somewhat scary moment when the Bulls’ Aaron Brooks tripped Rose, sending him into Curry as they raced out to defend a 3-point attempt from the corner with 4:28 left in the half.

Honoring Bach

The Bulls held a moment of silence before the game for longtime NBA and college coach John Bach, who died this week at age 91.

The funeral was Wednesday, and Hoiberg and his staff attended as well as Golden State coach Steve Kerr and assistant Ron Adams.

Bach’s defensive expertise as an assistant to Phil Jackson helped the Bulls win three NBA titles from 1991 to 1993. He was the head coach of the Golden State Warriors from 1983-86 before joining the Bulls as an assistant.

Tip-ins

Warriors: Green said he was fine after taking a shot to the face from Chicago’s Taj Gibson early in the third quarter. He returned to the game in the fourth

Bulls: Coach Fred Hoiberg said C Joakim Noah is “in great spirits” after having what could be season-ending surgery to repair his dislocated left shoulder on Tuesday. He said Noah hopes to rejoin the team this weekend, although he is not sure when and where he will rehab. Cornhuskers a 68-62 lead.

Up Next

Warriors: Host Indiana on Friday.

Bulls: Visit Boston on Friday.

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ND WOMEN'S TENNIS

Irish prepare for ITA tournament

By Michael Ivey
Sports Writer

Notre Dame travels to the ITA Kickoff Weekend Tournament at Greenwood Tennis Center in Stillwater, Oklahoma, this weekend to continue early-season action.

The Irish play the home team, 12th-ranked Oklahoma State, on Saturday and then either 26th-ranked Northwestern or Arizona State on Sunday. Irish head coach Jay Louderback said he expects the competition at the upcoming tournament to be tough.

"Oklahoma State has a very strong singles lineup so we need to be ready to play great singles. I feel like our doubles combinations are very good so we will focus on our singles," Louderback said.

The Irish got their spring season started Tuesday night with a dominating 7-0 win over Western Michigan at Eck Tennis Pavilion. The Irish won all matches in the event as junior Mary Closs, sophomore Allison Miller, senior Quinn Gleason, senior Julie Vrabel and sophomore Brooke Broda won their singles matches in straight-sets. Junior Monica Robinson won her match in three sets. The doubles teams of Broda/Miller, Closs/Fennelly and Gleason/Robinson picked up wins in the doubles

competition for the Irish.

Louderback said he believes finishing the first match allows his team to focus on the future.

"I think getting the first match jitters out of the way will help us as we prepare for this upcoming weekend," Louderback said. "I was very happy with our doubles, and the way we handled our service games. We didn't lose our serve in any of the doubles, which is such a key in winning the doubles point."

Oklahoma State comes into the tournament with a 3-0 record which includes wins over Adeline Christian, Oral Roberts and Wyoming. Northwestern's last event was a dual-meet that included wins over players from 15th-ranked Alabama and No. 22 TCU. Arizona State enters the Kickoff Weekend after participating in their first spring meet of the season, the Palm Springs Invite, last Friday.

Louderback reiterated that the opponents his team faces this weekend are going to be prepared for the Irish, and his team needs to be prepared for them.

"All three teams are very good teams that don't beat themselves so we have to look to be aggressive and finish points and not wait for them to miss."

Contact Michael Ivey at
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NCAAM | NEBRASKA 72, MICHIGAN STATE 71

Michigan State loses third consecutive game

Associated Press

EAST LANSING, Mich. — Shavon Shields scored 28 points, playing through hip pain, and Denzel Valentine missed a shot just before the buzzer to allow Nebraska to hold on for a 72-71 win over No. 11 Michigan State on Wednesday night.

The Cornhuskers (12-8, 4-3 Big Ten) have won four straight, three on the road. They've also won three straight against the Spartans.

Michigan State (17-4, 3-4) has lost three straight and suddenly looks nothing like the top-ranked team it was earlier in the season.

Shields, who left the game with a hip injury in the first half and came back to play after halftime, made a shot to put Nebraska ahead by eight points with 2:31 left.

The Spartans pulled within two with 45.8 seconds to go when Eron Harris connected on a 3-pointer. Shields made a floater over Valentine on the ensuing possession. Valentine's 3-pointer with 5.2 seconds left cut the deficit to one point, but he couldn't make

one more shot to win for a second straight game. The senior guard didn't connect on a jumper to that could've given Michigan State a win Sunday at Wisconsin.

Valentine finished with 24 points, six rebounds and six assists. Deyonta Davis had 13 points and seven points for the Spartans, who made just 42 percent of their shots and let Nebraska make half of it attempts.

Nebraska's Glynn Watson scored 13 and Tai Webster had 10 points and missed a free throw with four seconds left that gave the Spartans an opportunity to avoid another loss, but they couldn't make the most of the opportunity.

Tip-ins

Nebraska: The Cornhuskers got some relatively good news at halftime when Shields was cleared to return to the game. The senior forward hurt his hip with four-plus minutes left in the first half, and had to be helped off the court as he kept weight off his right foot. Shields showed he was healthy in the second half, making a pair of go-ahead baskets in the opening

minute. Midway through the second half, he had his right hip stretched on the sideline before going back in the game slightly hobbled. The next time Nebraska had the ball, he scored a three-play on a driving layup and free throw to put Nebraska ahead 64-56 with eight-plus minutes left. Shields left the game again, briefly, to get his hip stretched before going back on the court.

Michigan State: The Spartans are struggling in part because Bryn Forbes has lost his shooting touch, especially at home. He was 1 of 8 against Nebraska and scored three points, one home game after going 0 for 5 and scoring just two points in a 17-point loss to Iowa. Forbes had a chance to pull Michigan State within a point, but missed an open 3-pointer with just less than three minutes left. Shields made a shot on the ensuing possession to give the Cornhuskers a 68-62 lead.

Nebraska hosts Michigan on Saturday.

No. 11 Michigan State hosts No. 7 Maryland on Saturday night.

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EMMET FARNAN | The Observer

Senior captain Quinn Gleason prepares for a serve during a 7-0 win against Western Michigan at Eck Tennis Pavilion on Tuesday.

FENCING

Notre Dame prepares for road trip

By BEN PADANILAM
Sports Writer

Notre Dame travels to Queens, New York, to take the strip in the St. John's Duels and the NYU Invitational on Saturday and Sunday, respectively.

This past weekend, the No. 1 women's (5-0) and No. 2 men's (4-1) squads hosted five varsity teams and nine club teams in the DeCicco Duels. Both teams swept the strip in a weekend that saw starters and reserves compete for the Irish.

"It's like restarting the engine," Irish head coach Gia Kvaratskhelia said. "I felt like we needed to get together as a cohesive unit before

we hit the road and face the toughest competition of the year."

The two duels will feature five of the current top-eight teams on the women's side and six of the current top-seven teams on the men's side according to the CollegeFencing360.com Coaches' Poll.

At the St. John's Duels on Saturday, the Irish face St. John's, Penn State, Ohio State, Harvard and Columbia, the defending men's and women's national champions. Then, on Sunday, NYU and Yale replace Harvard and Penn State in the field.

Given the strength of the competition, Kvaratskhelia

said this weekend will be a measuring stick for his teams as they work towards their goal of an NCAA championship.

"This is usually a statement competition," Kvaratskhelia said. "Usually, the teams that perform well at those two duel meets end up in a very desirable spot at the [NCAA championships]. So we're going to gauge, at the end of this tournament, where we are at and what adjustments we have to make to get to the top at the end of the season."

Additionally, the duels will also allow Kvaratskhelia to see how the team handles top competition without several of its best fencers,

who have taken the year off to train for the Olympics, he said. It is a test the team has not truly faced up to this point in the year.

"This year is really special for us and unusual for us because it is an Olympic year," Kvaratskhelia said. "Three of our top athletes, potential NCAA winners, are taking the year off to train for Rio. We're going to miss them a lot, and having that caliber of athletes absent will have an effect on us, but our recruiting classes have been good and our returning athletes are strong, so we are hopeful that we will live up to the expectations of our fans."

After watching both

starters and reserves compete this past weekend, Kvaratskhelia said the final lineups are far from set in stone, as the members of the team will continue to fight for their spots in the final lineup that goes to the NCAA Midwest regional qualifier over the next few weeks.

"I think it's always a tinkering until we get to the end," Kvaratskhelia said. "We have a lot of talented athletes, and they're trying to find a place on the team to qualify and get a foothold on the squad that will go to the regional qualifiers."

Kvaratskhelia said there will be a few athletes he will be following closely to see where they are at this point in the season and how they react to the competition.

"We have a defending NCAA champion, [sophomore sabreuse] Francesca Russo, who is a second-year starter for our women's team," Kvaratskhelia said. "A few freshmen too: [sabreuse] Tara Hassett, [men's foilist] Axel Kiefer, [women's foilist] Sabrina Massialas, and [men's epeeist] Dylan French. Those are a few heavily recruited athletes who are promising fencers for us. It will be good to see how the freshman react."

The Irish will begin with the St. John's Duels on Saturday before finishing the weekend with the NYU Invitational on Sunday. Both duels will take place at St. John's Arena in Queens, New York. Champaign, Illinois.

Contact Ben Padanilam at bpadanil@nd.edu

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M Bball

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

open man. ... I'm a point guard, so just trying to create, whether it's for myself or somebody else."

Jackson hit another layup with 2:06 to play, but Hokies redshirt junior forward Zach LeDay answered with two free throws to cut the lead back to one.

The advantage grew to four — Notre Dame's largest lead of the night — when Zach Auguste, the senior forward, drove the lane for a vicious dunk, putting the Irish up 81-77 with 1:38 left. Brey praised the leadership of Auguste, who finished with 22 points and a career-high 15 rebounds.

"I really have liked how he's led," Brey said. "He has taken responsibility to kinda talk to guys. He was great at halftime, and it was a frustrating halftime. And he was great throughout the second half, kinda being a calming guy and talking positively to guys, and I give him a lot of credit there. He really wanted it for his team, and he went and got it off the backboard to do it."

Two free throws from Hokies redshirt junior guard Brandon Allen cut the margin back to two before junior guard Vasturia drove for the bucket to restore Notre Dame's four-point advantage. A LeDay layup on the next possession cut the lead to 83-81, but Jackson couldn't close the game out for the Irish on the next trip down the floor, missing as the shot clock wound down.

It gave Allen, who finished with 20 points on the night, and the Hokies one last chance — but the guard's 3-point attempt at the buzzer rimmed out, moving the Irish to 4-2 in league play and giving them a third straight victory.

"I'm very proud of our group to do some really tough stuff to escape with a win because it was one of those escapes in league play, and we're thrilled to be 4-2, and we're fortunate to be 4-2," Brey said.

The Irish head coach praised the play of his three captains Wednesday, each of whom finished in double digits against the Hokies.

"I thought Demetrius and Steve were fabulous just driving at key times after we moved it a little bit," Brey said. "Zach Auguste was unbelievable. He was a force, he was all over the



EMMET FARNAN | The Observer

Senior forward Zach Auguste throws home a dunk during a 83-81 victory over Virginia Tech on Wednesday at Purcell Pavilion.

place, and that's two games in a row he's made two big free throws. I think that's growth for him."

For the majority of the opening 20 minutes, it was a tight, back-and-forth affair. But after the Irish took a 32-31 lead with 4:05 left in the half, Virginia Tech opened the first significant run of the game to seize an eight-point lead at the half. An 11-1 Hokies run was thwarted by a quick 4-0 spurt from the Irish to cut the lead to four, but Jackson fouled Allen while the latter was heaving a half-court shot at the buzzer, handing Virginia Tech three more points and a 45-37 lead headed into the break.

Changes were necessary for the Irish in the second half, Auguste said, to keep the Hokies from putting up 90; Virginia Tech scored all of its first-half points in the paint, behind the arc or at the free-throw line.

"We had to lock in more defensively [in the second half]," Auguste said. "They're a great team, obviously they got to the rim easily. We just had to adjust and that's something that we did."

Despite redoubled efforts from both the Irish and the Purcell Pavilion crowd after a flat first half, Notre Dame wasn't able to claw back and take the lead for most of the second half. Big shots from sophomore forward

Bonzie Colson, who scored 15 off the bench, and Auguste aided the effort, but whenever Notre Dame pulled close — or even tied the game, as it did at 54-54 — the Hokies had a response.

When Vasturia hit five straight points to tie the game at 69-69, it seemed as though the Irish would finally grab the lead: Junior forward V.J. Beachem forced a steal on the ensuing Hokies possession, taking it coast-to-coast for what would have been the go-ahead layup. He left it short though, and LeDay, who posted a joint-high 22, made the Irish pay straightaway, hitting a 3-pointer to put the Hokies back ahead. The Irish tied the game once more at 73 before Jackson put them ahead for good at 76-75.

"You're gonna take some punches, but for us to be a great team, I think we're making great strides and you're gonna have to take some punches along the way," Vasturia said. "To win close games like this, at the end of the day, it doesn't matter how you win 'em — you gotta win."

Notre Dame goes for a fourth consecutive win Saturday when it hosts last-placed Boston College. Tipoff is set for noon at Purcell Pavilion. Purcell Pavilion.

Contact Alex Carson at acarson1@nd.edu



Kathryne Robinson | The Observer

Irish senior guard Steve Vasturia dribbles through the lane during an 83-81 victory over Virginia Tech on Wednesday at Purcell Pavilion. Vasturia had 14 points and two rebounds in the win.

W Bball

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

having lost to No. 5 Maryland, No. 8 Arizona State and Tennessee.

Despite that, the Orange are still a very difficult matchup on paper for the Irish. In particular, the Orange defense combines press and zone defense to force turnovers at a high rate, as they have gotten opponents to give up the basketball more than 25 times a game.

"They have got some great players — [senior guard] Brianna Butler [and redshirt junior guard] Brittney Sykes are two of the best that have come through and really built the program," McGraw said. "I think [Orange head coach Quentin Hillsman] has done a good job in who he's recruited and how they're playing. They play to their strengths, and they play well defensively, and I think that they're going to continue to get better."

On offense, Butler has been one of the driving forces for the Orange. She currently leads the nation in three-point attempts and is second in conversions, which could pose a problem for the Irish.

"She's a tough matchup for us," McGraw said. "I think we really have to know where she is all the time. It's a kind of game where, if you're in the zone, you have to know if she's on your side of the floor. It's going to take a lot of awareness from the team. Transition is going to be important, and just trying to find her as soon as the ball goes up."

In order to come away with a victory, the Irish will need to play a complete game and continue to improve in their rebounding efforts, McGraw said.

"Every game is critical," McGraw said. "We've got to win every game with a really good plan. We've got to be prepared, and we have to play our game. We can't have any let up in intensity on the defensive end, which is

where we've been improving the most.

"We've got to shoot the ball well. I think that's important if [the Orange] play zone, and then we've got to handle the press. They are the two big keys. Rebounding is always a factor for us. That is something that we're just not that good at right now and we need to get better at."

McGraw said sophomore forward Kathryn Westbeld will be an important player for the Irish on Thursday, as the team will lean on her to make smart decisions in the high post and facilitate offense against the zone.

"I think [Kathryn's] a big factor for us because she has the ball a lot at the high post, so she's got to make a lot of decisions, and she's making really good decisions right now. She finally got out to the 3-point line and made a shot [against Tennessee], which is something she's been working on all year long, so I was happy to see her do that."

Additionally, the Irish will be counting on freshmen guards Arike Ogunbowale and Marina Mabrey to continue to be aggressive and provide an offensive spark off the bench, McGraw said.

"Our bench, with Arike and Marina coming in, they're just instant offense," McGraw said. "They can come in, and it doesn't matter. You can't take away everyone, so they have to pick and choose, and Marina has been benefitting from the defense that [graduate student guard Madison Cable] is seeing.

"Fearless is what I like to say, because they don't care who we're playing, they don't care about anything. They're gonna take the ball to the basket, they're gonna get their shots, and they're gonna really make things happen on offense."

The Irish and the Orange are set to tip at Purcell Pavilion on Thursday at 7 p.m.

Contact Ben Padanilam at bpadanil@nd.edu

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“I think there’s people who don’t even attempt to shoot it

"She has great timing," McGraw said. "I think she's a really quick jumper. [Against Tennessee on Monday] she went down on the break and missed a layup, and I think before it came off the rim, she was already back up to try to get it in again. Timing with her blocking shots. She really has

Her 130 career blocked shots, totaled in less than two complete seasons, have already put her in the top 10 in that category in program history, and it's the player who sits at the top of that list, former Irish

"It does," she said. "... Some of them, she comes out of nowhere, and she still gets it and gets the break going, and I think the transition game has been obviously much better since she's been back." back."

**Contact Mary Green at
mgreen8@nd.edu**

ND to play in tournament

Observer Staff Report

The two-day competition is comprised of 15 four-team brackets, and it will be hosted all around the country, as the number one seed in each bracket hosts all four games that will be played within its respective bracket.

The Irish and Illini are set to face off Friday at 6 p.m. at Atkins Tennis Center in Champaign, Illinois.

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MEN'S BASKETBALL | ND 83, VIRGINIA TECH 81

Leaving it late

Jackson, Augustine fuel come-from-behind victory as Irish win third consecutive game

By ALEX CARSON
Associate Sports Editor

When Notre Dame needed them most Wednesday night, its captains stepped to the forefront at Purcell Pavilion, leading the effort down the stretch to secure an 83-81 win over Virginia Tech.

The Irish (13-5, 4-2 ACC), who trailed 45-37 at halftime, spent most of the second half trying to catch up — on three occasions, Notre Dame tied the game, but each time, the Hokies (12-7, 4-2) answered to re-take the lead.

“Tonight was the ultimate,” Irish head coach Mike Brey said. “There was nothing — every time you cut that game to one possession, they made a big play or we fouled and an and-1 or we get screwed up on a matchup and they hit a 3 down

the corner. But we kept coming back and kept digging, and I think we’ve grown in that area.”

But when junior guard Demetrius Jackson, the Mishawaka native, completed a three-point play to put Notre Dame ahead, 76-75, with 3:23 left, it gave the Irish a lead they didn’t surrender.

“Especially how the team looks at me this year, they look at me to execute in those situations,” Jackson said. “That last media timeout, [I was] just looking to really be aggressive and create and make some things happen.”

“... [I was] trying to stay within myself, just knowing what I can do, but at the same time not forcing it. If I’ve got an open man, then I’m hitting that

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EMMET FARNAN | The Observer

Junior guard Demetrius Jackson dribbles up the court during a 83-81 victory against Virginia Tech on Wednesday. Jackson had 18 points and 4 assists in the game.

ND WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Let the good times roll

Irish dive back into ACC play against Orange

By BEN PADANILAM
Sports Writer

Following a win over No. 18 Tennessee on Monday, No. 3 Notre Dame returns to conference play as it welcomes Syracuse to Purcell Pavilion on Thursday night.

The Irish (17-1, 5-0 ACC) got everyone involved on offense in the win over the Volunteers (11-6, 2-2 SEC), as six players scored in double figures. Following the performance, Irish head coach Muffet McGraw said she believes the team is beginning to come together on both the offensive and defensive ends.

“I think we’re starting to gel,” McGraw said. “I think we’re headed in the right direction. I thought we played really well at Virginia and against North Carolina. We played really well in the third quarter [against Tennessee] — I thought we had some really good stretches against Tennessee — so I think we can really see what we can be, and it’s fun to watch.”

As the Irish return to the ACC slate, they look to keep that momentum rolling against the Orange (14-4, 4-1 ACC). The Orange have put together a strong season but have struggled against ranked opponents. They are 0-3 against teams currently ranked in the AP Top 25,

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GRACE TOURVILLE | The Observer

Irish sophomore forward Brianna Turner looks toward the basket during a 79-66 victory over Tennessee on Jan. 18 at Purcell Pavilion. Turner had 14 points, nine rebounds and 5 blocks in the game.

Turner shines on both ends of the floor for ND

By MARY GREEN
Assistant Managing Editor

It seems like five blocks listed next to Brianna Turner’s name in postgame box scores has become more common than not this season for the sophomore forward — she’s posted that number of rejections four times so far and twice in the last three games.

But when it comes time for the No. 3 Irish to practice, in sessions that can sometimes be harder than their own games, is Turner getting her hand on the ball that much?

“I am not. No, I’m probably averaging about one per practice,” she admitted with a laugh, before hitting the court for Wednesday’s practice in pursuit of that lone block.

However, Turner also credited those teammates who keep her average in check during practice with her defensive development from her freshman to sophomore seasons.

“We have such great players,” she said. “I mean, I’m never blocking their shots in practice, but in the game, I’m

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