

## Details emerge in investigation

*Complaint alleges University allowed repeat offender to avoid Title IX hearings*

**MARGARET HYNDS**  
Editor-in-Chief

The United States Department of Education's Office of Civil Rights (OCR) said Tuesday it had opened an investigation Feb. 19 into the University's handling of a sexual assault case last spring. The office also has four open investigations into the University for its handling of sexual harassment cases as far back as September 2013.

In 2013, the OCR opened two investigations into the handling of two graduate students' complaints of possible Title IX violations pertaining to sexual harassment.

The OCR launched the two most recent sexual harassment investigations against Notre Dame on Oct. 21, 2015, and Feb. 19, 2016. The latter harassment

investigation has the same complainant as the sexual assault investigation launched the same day.

All three of those cases — the most recent harassment cases and the sexual assault case — involve the same alleged perpetrator.

According to University spokesperson Dennis Brown, the alleged perpetrator in question was dismissed from the University nearly a year ago.

"... The University acted swiftly in this matter, and the accused student was dismissed from the University nearly a year ago, months before any Title IX complaint was filed with the OCR," Brown said in an email Wednesday night.

Laura Dunn, who represents

see OCR **PAGE 4**

### How the Office of Civil Rights Handles Complaints

- 1 OCR evaluates each complaint it receives in order to determine whether it can investigate the complaint.
- 2 If OCR determines it will investigate a complaint, the Office sends the complainant and the recipient of the complaint a letter of notification. Opening an investigation into the complaint does not imply that OCR has determined if the complaint has merit.
- 3 OCR then investigates the complaint.
- 4 After completing its investigation, OCR releases its finding in a letter to the complainant and recipient.
- 5 If OCR determines a violation of Title IX has occurred, OCR attempts to work with the recipient to negotiate a resolution agreement.

Source: [www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/complaints-how.html](http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/complaints-how.html)

SUSAN ZHU | The Observer

## Student's death ruled natural

### Observer Staff Report

Michael O'Connell, deputy coroner for St. Joseph's County, ruled junior Jake Scanlan's death as due to natural causes Tuesday, according to a South Bend Tribune report. Scanlan, who was found unresponsive in his dorm room the morning of Nov. 11, "died as a result of an enlarged and weakened heart," the report stated.

The 20-year-old resident of Siegfried Hall was a mechanical engineering major from North Potomac, Maryland.

## ND named a top Fulbright producer

**By SELENA PONIO**  
News Writer

For the second consecutive year, Notre Dame has been on The Chronicle of Higher Education's Fulbright U.S. Student Program Top Producing List. Fourteen students have received Fulbright grants for the 2015-2016 program and have been given chances to pursue their academic passions and inquiries in countries such as Brazil, Senegal, Italy and more.

Mae Kilker, a Medieval Institute graduate student and native of South Bend, is a Fulbright recipient currently studying and conducting research in Sweden.

"My research explores how people from the Medieval Ages understood the physical environment — and not only the way that they experience that, but also how they told stories about it," Kilker said. "The reason I'm in Sweden is my particular field is looking at Anglo-Saxon England, but the current scholarship is to understand the North Atlantic

cultural sphere as a whole because England was settled by Scandinavian-Germanic tribes."

Kilker said she has always had a passion for the Middle Ages because of its language and poetry, and it was this passion that inspired her to apply for the Fulbright program. She said she hopes that completion of the program will bring her closer to a career in academia.

"In addition to just being able to have a year in Sweden and do my research and connect with scholars in my field, it has actually brought me to other opportunities such as postdocs and publication," Kilker said.

Mike Westrate, associate program director for the Office of Grants and Fellowships, works in the graduate school to help graduate and undergraduate students distill their research into written form in order to apply for grants and fellowships.

"I have always said that there are two sort of gateway fellowships and that you can

see FULBRIGHT **PAGE 5**

### 2016 ELECTION OBSERVER: GERARD BAKER

## WSJ editor analyzes races

**By RACHEL O'GRADY**  
News Writer

*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 seventh installment, News writer Rachel O'Grady asks Editor-in-Chief of the Wall Street Journal and Managing Editor of Dow Jones Gerard Baker about his experience*

*moderating a GOP debate and covering the election for the Journal.*

ROG: It increasingly looks like Trump will get the Republican nomination. What are the implications of that? How does the GOP avoid getting trounced in the general election?

GB: The GOP faces some tough challenges if, as seems likely, Trump is the nominee. Mainstream and so-called establishment

Republicans will have to decide whether they can back him, which is difficult for many of them because of his unorthodox views. If they don't, they will have to further decide whether to actually field a candidate against him in the general election. If they do, they will likely hand the election to Mrs. Clinton, as they will surely split the Republican vote, and at the same time could

see ELECTION **PAGE 4**

## Activists host 'edit-a-thon'

**By MEGAN VALLEY**  
News Writer

Students, staff, faculty and members of the South Bend community will gather Friday at 6 p.m. at the Notre Dame Arts and Culture Center to research, write and publish the stories of Notre Dame black faculty and alumni on Wikipedia.

Visiting assistant

librarian Kai Smith organized the "edit-a-thon."

"The ND Black Lives Matter [event] is a Wikipedia edit-a-thon that I've decided to put together to highlight the notable black alumni and faculty here at the University of Notre Dame," she said. "Some of the people they'll be featuring are current faculty, including some from the Africana Studies department: Richard

Pierce, Dianne Pinderhughes and a number of different athletic alumni, like Dave Duerson."

Smith and some of her colleagues will be on site to support participants with technical issues, research and writing.

"We've done a lot of the research beforehand,

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WOMEN'S BASKETBALL **PAGE 16**

## 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**  
Margaret Hynds  
**Managing Editor**  
Jack Rooney  
**Business Manager**  
Cristina Gutierrez

**Asst. Managing Editor:** Mary Green  
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**Office Manager & General Info**

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

**Advertising**  
(574) 631-6900 ads@ndsmcobserver.com

**Editor-in-Chief**  
(574) 631-4542 mhynds@nd.edu

**Managing Editor**  
(574) 631-4542 jrooney1@nd.edu

**Assistant Managing Editors**  
(574) 631-4541 mgreen8@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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The news is reported as accurately and objectively as possible. Unsigned editorials represent the opinion of the majority of the Editor-in-Chief, Managing Editor, Assistant Managing Editors and department editors. Commentaries, letters and columns present the views of the authors and not necessarily those of The Observer.

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

*Questions regarding Observer policies should be directed to Editor-in-Chief Margaret Hynds.*

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## Today's Staff

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Katie Galioto  
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**Graphics**

Susan Zhu

**Photo**

Emmet Farnan

**Sports**

Manny De Jesus  
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Scott Olehnik

**Viewpoint**

John Darr

## Corrections

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:

What is your favorite restaurant in South Bend?

*Have a question you want answered?**Email [photo@ndsmcobserver.com](mailto:photo@ndsmcobserver.com)*

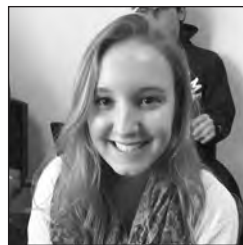
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**Nathan Troscinski**  
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“Fiddler's Hearth.”



CAITLYN JORDAN | The Observer

*Freshman fencer Madeline Antekeier competes in the Atlantic Coast Conference Championships on Feb. 27. Both the women's and men's teams claimed conference titles and are now preparing for the NCAA Midwest regional qualifier on March 12.*

## THE NEXT FIVE DAYS:

*Want your event included here?**Email [news@ndsmcobserver.com](mailto:news@ndsmcobserver.com)***Thursday****Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie**

O'Laughlin Auditorium  
7:30 p.m.-9 p.m.  
Lecture about her life and writing.

**Iron Sharpens Iron**

Coleman-Morse Center  
10 p.m.-11:30 p.m.  
Fellowship for all denominations.

**Friday****Graduate Student First Friday Dinner**

Coleman-Morse Center  
6:15 p.m.-7:30 p.m.  
All faiths are invited.

**Edit-a-thon**

Notre Dame Center for Arts & Culture  
6 p.m.-8 p.m.  
Edit Wikipedia with ND Black Lives Matter.

**Saturday****Men's Basketball vs. NC State**

Purcell Pavilion  
12 p.m.-2 p.m.  
The Irish take on the Wolfpack.

**Hats Off to Reading**

Notre Dame Bookstore  
10 a.m.-11 a.m.  
Reading of “The Lorax” and sustainability discussion.

**Sunday****Men's Tennis vs. Louisville**

Eck Tennis Pavilion  
12 p.m.-2 p.m.  
The Irish take on the Cardinals.

**Chamber Music Concert**

DeBartolo Performing Arts Center.  
2:30 p.m.-3:45 p.m.  
“20th Century Masters.”

**Monday****Spring Break**

campus wide  
March 5-March 13  
No classes in session.

**Nun Run**

off campus  
March 5-March 12  
Campus Ministry trip to various religious communities.



## STUDENT SENATE

# Group approves new Judicial Council president

By Justine Wang  
News Writer

Student Senate met Wednesday evening to approve a new Judicial Council president and make amendments to both the Student Union constitution and the Hall of the Year presentation,

review board and scoring system.

Senior Zach Waterson, current president of Judicial Council, nominated junior Caitlin Geary for the position. Geary serves as vice president of elections under Waterson, a position she has held for the past two years.

"There is no one more qualified for this position than Caitlin. She has been an excellent vice president of elections, demonstrating adept knowledge of the Student Union and its constitution and collaborating with myself on important judicial council initiatives," Waterson said. "Over the past year, she has demonstrated composure under pressure, a strong foundation in ethics and morality and extraordinary skill at managing responsibilities, deadlines and the members of a team."

Earlier in the meeting, Waterson also proposed amendments to redundancies and errors in the Student Union constitution, addressing grammatical corrections and more specificity regarding outdated subsections.

Waterson also nominated 2014-2015 Judicial Council president and Notre Dame alumna Kathryn Margaret Peruski as judicial council president emeritus, in recognition of her dedication and contribution to the University.

"Kathryn leveraged her experience to readily and generously provide support and counsel to Judicial Council president Zach Waterson and vice president of elections

Caitlin Geary during several unprecedented situations, even well after her term had completed and she had graduated," Waterson stated in his resolution.

Bestowing the title of judicial council president emeritus upon Peruski will be the first time this has been done in Judicial Council history, according to Waterson.

Other senatorial orders included amendments to the Hall of the Year review process, put together by focus groups within the Hall Presidents Council (HPC). Seniors Meredith Fraser and Seamus Quilty, co-chairs of HPC, proposed three amendments, all of which were passed by Senate.

The first amendment will allow four members of a residence hall to contribute to presentations received by the review board. In past years, only three residents from each dorm were allowed to be on the presenting team.

"We heard from the focus groups that one of the things [the hall presidents] wish they could have is a testimonial or a witness from a random resident in the hall ... to share about why [their hall] is a great place to be, just to share why [their] hall is the

best," Quilty said.

The second amendment proposed that the director of the department of residence life be added to the nine-person Hall of the Year review board, effective immediately.

The third amendment changed the the Hall of the Year scoring system, so that 55 percent of the points come from a presentation and 45 percent from Rockne awards. Previously, 65 percent of points came from the hall presentations, while the Rockne awards only counted for 35 percent of the total score.

"Part of that 65 was a signature event form, where you submit a separate form about your signature event telling us more details about it," Quilty said. "That's graded and that's part of that presentation score. Now, we're just moving it to the Rockne because we felt that it's more representative of what Rocknes are."

"In addition, we created a favorite event form, so we're moving that to the Rockne category too," Fraser said.

Senate will not meet the week after Spring Break.

Contact Justine Wang at  
jwang27@nd.edu

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Friday April 22	Red Green "I'm Not Old - I'm Ripe Tour"	Thursday May 12	Johnny Mathis "The 60th Anniversary Tour"

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## ND announces honorary degrees

### Observer Staff Report

Notre Dame will confer six honorary degrees at this year's commencement ceremony, the University announced in a press release Wednesday.

Diane Nash, Richard Notebaert, Arturo Sandoval, Cardinal Donald Wuerl and Pauline Yu will join U.S. Army Gen. Martin Dempsey, the 2015 commencement speaker, as honorary degree recipients.

Dempsey, the former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, will receive an honorary doctor of laws degree.

Nash, a civil rights movement leader, will also receive a doctor of laws. Nash helped shaped the Selma right-to-vote movement that eventually led to the Voting Rights Act of 1965, according to the press release.

Notebaert, chair of Notre Dame's Board of Trustees, will receive a doctor of laws. Notebaert is the retired chair and CEO of Qwest Communications International. During his time as chair, the University has provided more financial aid, welcomed more diverse groups of incoming students and launched the

Campus Crossroads construction project, the press release stated.

The University will honor Arturo Sandoval, an internationally acclaimed jazz and classical musician and composer, with a doctor of fine arts. Sandoval, who began playing the trumpet at age 12 at his home in Cuba, has since received 10 Grammy Awards, six Billboard Awards, an Emmy Award and the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2013, according to the release.

Wuerl, the archbishop of Washington D.C., will receive an honorary doctor of laws. Wuerl was appointed a cardinal by Pope Benedict XVI in March 2010 and is a chair of the Board of Trustees of the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, according to the release.

The University will award an honorary doctor of humanities to Pauline Yu, president of the American Council of Learned Societies, a private, nonprofit federation of 73 national scholarly organizations that represent American scholarship in the humanities and related social sciences, according to the release.

The commencement ceremony will be held on May 15.



## Election

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

do even more lasting damage to the party. If the number of Republicans who refuse to support Trump is small — as it could be — I would not rule out at all the possibility that he could win the presidency in November. He has tapped into and articulated a deep anger among many middle class Americans and if he can get them to come out and vote in unusually large numbers, he could beat Mrs. Clinton, who is in many ways not the most skilled campaigner and whose own negative ratings among voters are high.

ROG: You moderated a GOP debate a few weeks ago. Can you give us some insight on how that was? I imagine it's certainly a unique experience.

GB: It was literally unique for me. It was also a great privilege. I must confess it was fairly nerve wracking. Though I have done plenty of television, appearing live before more than 15 million people for more than two hours in prime time was certainly daunting. But we were very well prepared, and we made a conscious decision to stick very much to policy

issues in our questions as opposed to some of the more trivial topics or “horse-race” coverage, which I felt, as editor of the Journal, was appropriate for me. It was a wonderful and invigorating experience.

ROG: What were your goals or aims for the Wall Street Journal's coverage of the election season? How has the media played a role in the 2016 election, and has it been

**Gerard Baker**  
editor-in-chief  
Wall Street Journal



different than any other year?

GB: The media has clearly played a very important role in 2016. The attention given to Donald Trump — and the TV ratings associated with him — have been extremely important in his rise. But we shouldn't forget also that social media has played an increasingly important role. Mr. Trump himself is a big tweeter and has gained widespread and sustained attention through his tweets. At the Journal, we have aimed to focus as much as possible

on the big topics — with important investigative stories on Trump's background and Mrs. Clinton's political and fundraising record, as well as on the other candidates. And we've looked hard at the major policy issues and how each candidate would handle them.

ROG: You've covered economics for the BBC and you've been an economist for the Bank of England. How does the economy play into this election?

GB: “It's the economy, stupid” was how Bill Clinton's campaign manager described the key factor driving the election in 1992. And that is still true today. While the U.S. economy has grown over the last few years, growth has been disappointing for millions of people, with stagnant wages and a sense that technology and trade are destroying American jobs. While economic uncertainty and fear is understandable, it is important to try to sift fact from fiction, so helping voters understand the big changes at work in the global economy and how they affect them is a very important role for the Journal.

Contact Rachel O'Grady at [rogrady@nd.edu](mailto:rogrady@nd.edu)

## OCR

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

both complainants, serves as Executive Director of SurvJustice, a Washington, D.C.-based nonprofit that offers free legal assistance to sexual violence survivors. In a phone conversation Wednesday, Dunn said the alleged perpetrator was dismissed from the University on disciplinary charges separate from her clients' sexual harassment and sexual violence complaints.

In a SurvJustice press release sent to The Observer on Tuesday, Dunn said the separate charges led to the alleged perpetrator being temporarily dismissed, allowing him the option to apply to return to the University at a later date.

“[The University] allowed an identified repeat perpetrator to avoid a Title IX hearing on campus that could have led to expulsion so he would retain the option to re-enroll later — that's unacceptable,” Dunn said in the release.

Brown said the University deals with separate complaints against a single respondent on an individual basis.

“If more than one complaint is made against a student, each incident is thoroughly examined,” Brown said. “ ...

A student with multiple complaints is therefore likely to have separate hearings. If the accused student is found responsible for a conduct violation, outcomes for that complaint will be assigned, up to and including dismissal. The best interests of the overall campus community may require implementing the dismissal of a student before all pending charges can be fully resolved, especially where the student may pose a threat to the community.”

Brown said at the time the complainant's case was being evaluated, the existing policy was not to conduct hearings if the accused student was no longer enrolled. He said that policy was amended last summer.

“If a student is dismissed as the result of a hearing and additional conduct matters are pending, he or she would be subject to additional hearings immediately upon readmission,” he said. “It is important to note, however, that readmission to the University is not guaranteed.”

Associate News Editor Kayla Mullen contributed to this report.

Contact Margaret Hynds at [mhynds@nd.edu](mailto:mhynds@nd.edu)

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## Fulbright

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

use your application materials to apply," he said. "The first of those is the National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship and the second is the Fulbright Program."

Westrate, a Fulbright recipient himself, went to Ukraine in 2010 and 2011 for the program. He was the only graduate student to go on the Fulbright that year.

"Having been a Fulbrighter myself, I can tell you that a year of research or study abroad is a life changing experience," Westrate said.

"Furthermore, doing that year abroad as a Fulbrighter is even more rewarding. You get to tap into the world's largest international network of scholars."

Westrate said this year Notre Dame has an award rate exactly equal to Harvard, which is the top-producing Fulbright award university in the country.

"Notre Dame students are some of the best students in the world, and when properly assisted they're also some of the most successful students in the world," Westrate said. "Other schools have much higher student populations and not only does it say that our students are successful,

but that our students apply at a much higher rate."

He said aside from the academic opportunities that the Fulbright program offers its scholars, the professional and scholarly alumni network is yet another benefit. Westrate said since the mid-1940s, the Fulbright program has brought between 10,000 and 12,000 students to the United States from all over the world.

The instant students decide they might want to apply for a Fulbright, they should meet with the Center for Undergraduate Scholarly Engagement (CUSE), Westrate said.

Kilker said the application process was writing intensive and having ties to the community worked in the applicant's favor.

"The more you can do ahead of time to create those relationships and create that project idea, the sooner you can hit the ground running," Kilker said. "Getting help from other people to read your materials and give you feedback makes your applications so much better. Be prepared to write and rewrite, five, six and seven times — it will be better each time."

Contact Selena Ponio at [sponio@nd.edu](mailto:sponio@nd.edu)

## Wikipedia

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

intentionally, because it is only two hours, so we wanted to take that component out a bit," Smith said. "We've done research to help them jump off, so they're not completely researched, but it's enough to get them started."

Some members of the Black Faculty and Staff Association — who are co-sponsoring the event with Hesburgh Libraries — have also been trained by Smith so they can plan and oversee these kind of events in the future.

"The idea for this is to, hopefully, start something that will go on again," Smith said. "I'm trying to teach people how to do these types of events. I've been involved with a number of people throughout the community to help them do edit-a-thons since last spring. There was one on South Bend, there was one at the Civil Rights Heritage Museum."

Smith organized another edit-a-thon last spring that was centered around the New York organization, Art+Feminism. According to Smith, Wikipedia is "notorious for having editors who are mainly white males." She said

events like the ND Black Lives Matter edit-a-thon are important to encourage people to participate in that culture.

"This event is going to hopefully encourage people to become editors from a diverse background — male and female and from diverse communities," Smith said. "I'm also trying to empower people, not only here at Notre Dame, but within the whole community, to highlight these ideas and people within our community and uplift them and empower them to understand the process that involves research."

Smith said she's hopeful that edit-a-thons will gain traction in the Notre Dame community. According to her, a few faculty members even approached her about incorporating the process into their class curriculums.

"It's pretty easy to do, so it's interesting to see how it can grow in the community," she said. "I'm really excited about this and I really do hope that it spreads. I never expected that people would be so interested. I know things take time to grow, so hopefully I've planted the seeds to make that happen here at Notre Dame."

Contact Megan Valley at [mvalley@nd.edu](mailto:mvalley@nd.edu)

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## INSIDE COLUMN

# One last thank you

**Jack Rooney**

Managing Editor

I began my term as Managing Editor while studying abroad in Dublin last March. I watched from afar, entirely helpless and useless as my friends at the paper transitioned into their new roles while they covered the biggest story of their Notre Dame careers when Fr. Hesburgh died.

As much as I wanted to, I could not be there to help lay out the next day's paper, nor conduct interviews for one of the many beautiful stories that followed Fr. Hesburgh's death. I could only keep in touch via email, offering encouragement and letting my friends know how proud I was.

My friends here still make fun of me for those emails, which almost always ended with something like, "I'm so very proud of all of you!" But as admittedly cheesy and dad-like as those words were, I sit here at the end of my term unable to think of a better way to encapsulate how I feel about my four years at The Observer.

I remain so very proud that my colleagues and I have worked so tirelessly to serve Notre Dame and Saint Mary's over the past year. I take pride in the work we have done and the stories we have told. Despite all this paper's flaws and shortcomings — the misspelled headlines, the layout goofs, the stories we missed — I am still satisfied with our end result. Through late nights that became early mornings and work acquaintances who have become lifelong friends, I can rest easy knowing my colleagues and I have given every last bit of energy and effort to this paper.

In this way, the end of my term brings with it a certain sense of relief — no more late nights in the office or fretting over those layout mistakes. But more than anything, I feel an overwhelming gratitude to this paper and the people who work so hard to produce it every day. Putting together a daily newspaper is almost always a thankless task. It requires a truly miraculous amount of time, collaboration and deliberation, crammed in the midst of a student schedule. But we do it anyway, somehow.

And, as my friend and (now former) boss Greg Hadley wrote last week, it was all worth it. It is nothing short of an honor to help tell the story of a place like Notre Dame. So, to everyone who makes it possible for us to tell that story — our reporters, editors, staff members, advertisers, and most importantly, readers — thank you.

Contact Jack Rooney at [jrooney1@nd.edu](mailto:jrooney1@nd.edu)  
The views expressed in the Inside Column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.

# Saint Mary's shadow

**Jennifer Vosters**

Bellevue

I love Saint Mary's. I love the campus, the professors and the alumnae. I love the empowerment of a women's education, of having a women's space: I love going to Mass with female lectors and acolytes and ministers, prayer services presided over by women and classes full of women raising their hands to discuss. I love feeling safe as I walk across campus at night. I love the bond — the sisterhood — that connects the students here. It is a special place. A holy place.

And yet in the last several months, as I approach my graduation and impending alumna-hood, I've become aware of a side of Saint Mary's that I've never encountered before. For all the light and joy I've seen at Saint Mary's, I never noticed its shadow — until now.

I'm not referring to the small frustrations and daily irritations that happen everywhere: the ordinary conflicts between people that are quickly resolved and forgotten, the mistakes and misunderstandings of college-aged women. It's not the paper-thin walls or the fact that we don't get Labor Day off. It's not even some of the more serious issues that have been raised lately: the imperfect sexual assault policy or the need for greater sustainability on campus. It doesn't come from the administration or staff or faculty. It comes from the students.

When actor, writer and activist Anna Deavere Smith came to campus last week as part of the Margaret Hill Endowed Visiting Artists Series, she hosted a talk about diversity with students, faculty and staff members as well as a separate talk with members of the community downtown. I left with the grim realization that the warmth and positivity I've received at Saint Mary's has not been offered to everyone. For some, it's been the opposite.

In that discussion I heard a student recall a recent event in which a white classmate used the N-word to her face. I heard a student remember how she'd been told as a first-year, again by a white student, that she "didn't belong" at Saint Mary's. I heard my classmates mention what I had uneasily noticed as well: that in the dining hall, white students and students of color rarely sit together; that in classes, students don't know that certain terms like "colored" and "Negro" are unacceptable terms for academic papers; that students are afraid to bring up topics like abortion — topics that demand respectful discussion — for fear of being stigmatized as radical or dismissed as anti-feminist;

that still no one has come forward about the anonymous hate messages targeting an individual student and making the entire school suddenly unsure about who exactly their "sisters" really are.

So who are we, Saint Mary's? Yes, we are a small school, predominantly white, predominantly Catholic, with a lot of wealth and privilege and opportunity making our education what it is. On paper, that's what we are. But who are we? Aren't we 1,600 women of all colors and creeds, beliefs and backgrounds coming together to empower one another in a world that wants to pit us against each other? Aren't we Belles, sisters, companions, classmates, friends, supporters and allies?

But as long as even a few people write homophobic messages on our neighbors' whiteboards; as long as even a few people casually use slurs against people of different races, abilities, genders, orientations and religions; so long as even a few people judge their peers by stereotypes they should be smart enough to dismiss; as long as even a few people refuse to acknowledge how their implicit biases and beliefs can harm and exclude others; as long as even a few people are comfortable making others feel unwelcome, we are bystanders. And if we are bystanders, if we are comfortable in a status quo that only protects the privileged and leaves an "other" to fend for herself, then we are not who I thought we were.

We know how great it is to be a Belle; we don't need another article about that. It's time to face our shadow: the exclusivity and superiority that allow discrimination, hatred and blatant disrespect in what otherwise is touted to be a supportive campus community. It is our responsibility — not our choice — to defend, protect and listen to each other. All of each other. Don't wait for administrators, professors or security officers to teach you how to be decent to each other. Don't wait for someone to agree with you or live like you or look like you to treat her with the basics of respect. Don't wait for someone else to be the bigger person, to "welcome the stranger," to spread the good news. Find the courage to be open to what you don't know — ideas, opinions, and especially, people — and to defend it for others. That's what college is about. That's what this College is about.

Stand up. Speak up. Grow up.

*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](mailto:jvoste01@saintmarys.edu)*

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

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

# It is just a cigar

On Feb. 29, Stephen Raab wrote an article criticizing Knott Hall and the Knights of Columbus for promoting the consumption of cigars to raise money for charity and commemorate the life of perhaps the most influential and greatest man to sit at the helm of this university. His main point being that cigars cause cancer and go against the principles of both organizations.

This is ridiculous. If the author is concerned about the cancer-causing effects of smoking one cigar for one day of the year, he might as well never leave the house because the sun can cause cancer, never have a glass of champagne or wine for celebration because alcohol causes cancer or wear a radiation suit before microwaving any food.

Raab falls victim to the slippery slope fallacy. Does

one day of smoking a cigar or two mean that soon "our campus [will go] up in smoke?" No. Certainly not. Should the tradition of pigging out on burgers and hotdogs while watching fireworks on the Fourth of July be stopped because that unhealthy eating will lead to obesity and damage to the environment from firework smoke? No.

Sometimes we do wasteful or irresponsible things for celebration or commemoration. Maybe the cigars that were smoked this past weekend were not good for my health, but even so, it was worth the reminiscence that was had on Fr. Hesburgh's life and accomplishments.

**Matthew Bartilotti**

Alumni Hall

March 2

## Share your opinion

Submit a Letter to the Editor to [viewpoint@ndsmcobserver.com](mailto:viewpoint@ndsmcobserver.com)



# So you want to write a column...

Christopher Damian  
Ideas of a University

I’ve written Observer columns for three years now. Some columns have received a lot of positive feedback, and some have — rightfully — endured considerable criticism. Writing for the Observer, or any paper, can be a great way to engage in the life of your community and to contribute to dialogue on a number of important issues. Unfortunately, a lot of people who have good things to say can be ineffective when it comes to actually communicating their ideas. Here are some things that I’ve learned from writing.

First, it’s usually best to ditch your first paragraph. With only a few hundred words in a column, you don’t have room to ramble on or engage in a long wind-up. Most writers are still working on how to frame their work as they’re writing the first sentences. I’ve found that, with most columns, cutting the first paragraph makes it punchier and more engaging.

Second, don’t try to say everything. You can’t pack a column like a clown car. Don’t try to say everything to everyone. Pick your strongest points, and make them well.

Third, know to whom you’re writing. When you’re making an argument, this usually comes down to the question: are you writing to inspire your supporters while attacking your detractors, or are you trying to thoughtfully engage with those who disagree with you? Few people

can do both of these, and many people think they’re doing the latter when they’re actually doing the former. Sometimes there’s value in being a caricaturing polemicist. After all, the only way to gain Trump supporters is to be Donald Trump. But make sure you know whether you’re Trumping or dialoguing.

Fourth, make sure your paragraphs flow naturally from one to the next. Read and reread each paragraph’s last sentence and the first sentence of the following paragraph. Do these sentences follow each other, or are they distinct, disconnected thoughts? If you only had these two sentences, would they make sense next to each other? In a column of a few hundred words, your first draft is likely to have at least two disconnections. Smooth them out, or cut one of them.

Fifth, edit, edit, edit. After you write your first draft, put it away for a day and then read it again the next day. The less time you allow between drafting and publishing, the more likely you’ll publish something you’ll later regret. This regret is inevitable when you publish frequently enough, but don’t let the regret happen because you had a typo in the first sentence. I’ll always regret the published version of a 2012 column I wrote on race and the admissions process where I “walked about walking along the quiet beach...” (which makes no sense).

Sixth, don’t do the editing on your own. Have some friends edit and critique your drafts. They’re going to see it anyway, and they’re going to have opinions when it’s published. You might as well get those opinions now and try to craft

a piece that takes them into account. It can be very helpful to have friends who disagree with your viewpoint to edit and critique, especially if you’re hoping your column will engage with opposing views. This can also help you learn the difference between what you’re writing and what people are reading. There can often be a big difference, but you won’t know it unless you really engage with your readers.

Seventh, ask your friends before you write about them or the things they’ve said. If you start publishing your private conversations, even if you don’t include names, your friends will probably be less open with you. You’ll become more of a reporter than a friend. When it comes to personal relationships, avoid publishing without permission.

Finally, understand that you are responsible for how you’re read. Notre Dame’s Ralph McNerny used to have over his desk: “No one owes you a reading.” If no one understands what you’re saying, don’t immediately conclude it’s just because you’re smarter than everyone else. Even if you are smarter, you might be a terrible writer. But we all start out as terrible writers, and the only way to improve is to write.

*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.*

# Make Canada great again

Seamus Ronan  
Guest Columnist

Let’s all move to Canada, eh? Think about it. Canada is pretty great! Ice hockey, Tim Horton’s, Toronto, maple syrup, Drake and Ryan Gosling. They’ve got a new, young, good-looking prime minister in Justin Trudeau. The Human Development Index ranks Canada ninth and among the highest in civil liberties, quality of life, economic freedom and education. They also have socialized health insurance that provides coverage to all Canadian citizens, but hey, we all have our faults.

Canadians even want us to come to Canada! They’re extending a warm, mittened hand of friendship. A Canadian radio host, Rob Calabrese, created the website cbiftrumpwins.com, which stands for “Cape Breton If Donald Trump Wins.” On the website, Calabrese writes, “Hi Americans! Donald Trump may become the president of your country. If that happens, and you decide to get the hell out of there, might I suggest moving to Cape Breton Island?” A quick search for Cape Breton Island reveals a breathtaking island in Nova Scotia, complete with rolling hills, a lush landscape and Cape Breton

Highlands National Park. It sounds tempting, doesn’t it?

After Super Tuesday, Americans frantically Googled “move to Canada,” overwhelming Canada’s website for Immigration and Citizenship (CIC). With Donald Trump winning in seven out of 11 states, many Americans were clearly petrified by democracy in action. And who can blame them? The 2016 election cycle has just been too much. The Democratic candidate will either be an admitted democratic socialist or a woman who may have committed a crime. A rogue, incredibly anti-establishment businessman has based his campaign on building a better wall between the United States and Mexico, verbal exchanges with Pope Francis and Rosie O’Donnell jokes. His main opponent has compared anti-Muslim bigotry to hating the New England Patriots. I don’t like Belichick either, but it has apparently been too much to bear for some.

So, why wait? Book that Air Canada ticket right now. Fill out those Canadian study and work visas. Call the estranged uncle living in Saskatchewan and see if he has an open couch. Let’s make Edmonton great again! Or Winnipeg! Run for the (Cypress) Hills! There is no other way.

It is simply inconceivable to mobilize ourselves

into responsible citizens. What’s the point of voting, anyway? It’s just one vote; it can’t make a difference. It would take too long to fill out an absentee ballot, anyway. It would just be so much easier to pack up and leave for the Blue Water Bridge border crossing. This is no time for heroics, social change or political responsibility! Restoring the moral fiber of this country takes quite a bit of work, you know; any engagement in political and civic life among students is too much to ask. There’s no need to participate in voter education, registration or mobilization. Will going to an NDVotes ’16 event actually do anything? Historically, mobilized university students have accomplished incredible things in this country, and there is an opportunity now to continue the noble tradition of student activism. Or, instead, there is an opportunity to curl up in a log cabin in Vancouver — with some ketchup chips, poutine and a Labatt Blue — and watch the Leafs take on the Canucks. Much like Trump, it almost sounds too good to be true.

*Seamus Ronan is a senior political science, international peace studies major and Head Writer Emeritus for the Keenan Revue. He can be bothered at sronan@nd.edu*

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# CHIMAMANDA NGOZI ADICHIE

By **NORA MCGREEVY**  
Scene Writer

I'm only seven pages into "Americanah," the poignant and incisive novel by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, when Adichie delivers the first of many lines that strike me at my core:

"It had been there for a while, an early morning disease of fatigue, a bleakness and borderlessness. It brought with it amorphous longings, shapeless desires, brief imaginary glints of other lives she could be living, that over months melded into a piercing homesickness."

These words describe Ifemelu, the main character, and her longing to return to her home country of Nigeria after a 15-year stay in the United States. Adichie writes in vivid, poetic prose that reads as naturally as breathing. In this instance, as well as in all of "Americanah," she displays a power to capture uniquely nuanced emotions, demonstrating a keen sensitivity to the complexity of the human experience.

Adichie will give a lecture on her life and writings at the O'Laughlin Auditorium at Saint Mary's this evening at 7:30 p.m. The event is sponsored in conjunction with the Saint Mary Alumnae Club's "One Book, One Saint Mary's" initiative, which selected "Americanah" as its book for the 2015-2016 school year.

Adichie's lecture, like her writing, promises to stand out. Since its publication in 2013, "Americanah" has garnered overwhelmingly positive critical praise. It won the 2013 National Book Critics Circle Award in Fiction, NPR named it a "Great Reads Book," and the New York Times included it in its 2013 Ten Best Books of the Year. Previous lectures of hers — including the TED Talks "We should all

be feminists" and "The danger of a single story" — have reached 2.6 million and 2 million views on YouTube respectively — not to mention that Beyoncé sampled "We should all be feminists" in her 2013 song "\*\*\*\*Flawless," released later that year.)

What gives Adichie's words much of their power is her fearless ability to dole out empathy and searing criticism in equal measure. Born in Nigeria but educated in the United States, Adichie writes with authority and acute sensitivity to issues of identity, especially racial and gender identity. In "Americanah," she focuses on the stories of Ifemelu and Obinze, a Nigerian man and woman who are long-lost lovers — Ifemelu traveled to America for school and post-doctoral education at Princeton, and Obinze moved to England as an undocumented worker before returning to Nigeria. Their romance drives the arc of the plot forward; yet it's the navigation of muddled racial and social waters in America, England and Nigeria that forms the bulk of the narrative for both characters.

In each setting, across various continents, Ifemelu and Obinze remain outsiders. In England, Obinze faces trials as an illegal worker and ultimately fails to succeed "in the harsh glare of life abroad." In America, Ifemelu struggles to find her place, highlighting the not-so-subtle distinctions between African Americans and Africans — distinctions many white Americans disregard entirely. When she returns to Nigeria, her friends write her off as an "Americanah:" a pretentious pseudo-Nigerian, with a Nigerian heritage now distorted by "American eyes."

The love between Obinze and Ifemelu is inspired, in part, by the realization that both Ifemelu and Obinze feel most at home when they are together. When Ifemelu rests her head against Obinze's shoulder, she registers a new

phenomenon: " ... A self-affection. He made her like herself. With him, she was at ease; her skin felt as though it was her right size."

Social criticism in "Americanah" appears in varied forms. Interspersed throughout the novel are excerpts from Ifemelu's blog — "Raceteenth or Various Observations About American Blacks (Those Formerly Known as Negroes) by a Non-American Black" — that deal with her experiences head-on. "In America, tribalism is alive and well." Formidable images, such as Ifemelu's changing hairstyles, also speak volumes about her journey toward self-realization — when Ifemelu decides to "relax" her natural texture, she laments "the smell of burning, of something organic dying which should not have died." When she desires to keep her braids, her aunt warns her, "If you have braids, they will think you are unprofessional. ... You are in a country that is not your own."

Although Adichie writes in specifics, the stories she shares don't work to alienate her readers. This quality, not endemic to "Americanah," informs her whole body of work — her public writing and speeches consistently underline a shared humanity. In her 2009 TED Talk, "The danger of a single story," she said. "Stories matter. Many stories matter ... when we reject the single story, when we realize that there is never a single story about any place, we regain a kind of paradise."

The event this Thursday is scheduled to last from 7:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. Tickets cost \$8 for adults, \$7 for seniors and \$6 for Saint Mary's, Notre Dame and Holy Cross students.

Contact Nora McGreevy at [nmcgreev@nd.edu](mailto:nmcgreev@nd.edu)

## Frustration and Growth in Automagik's 'Dark Daze'

By **ADAM RAMOS**  
Scene Editor

Perseverance can mean many things. For Andy Cluxton, the drummer of the plucky prog-rock-funk outfit Automagik, it means coming back to play a show at South Bend's Well despite crashing the band's van on the last trip out. Undeterred, Cluxton assured me in a recent phone interview that the Cincinnati quartet aims at righting their previous transportation faux pas. With a new batch of songs off the band's splendid new EP, "Dark Daze," it seems Automagik is poised to do so.

Aptly describing Automagik's sound as "pop and roll," Cluxton cites his group's eclectic energies as a key factor in their success. "We are all super influenced by a ton of different stuff and really nothing is off limits," he explains. "It's great to be that kind of band where you don't have to stick to anything." And he's right — a quick listen through Automagik's limited anthology proves anything but boring. From the RCHP "One hot minute"-era bass line in "Pink Champagne" to the swinging doo-wop intro of "Rick Rubin" and the twangy guitar licks of the 1970s' psychedelic "Pop Kiss," it's clear that Automagik has yet to find their sound — and that's a good thing.

The dynamism of Automagik's blend of pop is refreshing. "It's a nice a freedom we have until someone picks us up and tells us we have to play pop tunes," Cluxton jokes. While Cluxton's comment was certainly tongue in cheek, the claim still has merit. Recently, there has been clear trend for indie pop bands — most obvious with indie super-group Walk the Moon — where the band decides to shed the creative process for a more formulaic approach, producing methodically catchy hooks and listless lyrics. Yet, I would be naïve to blame these "sell-out" indie pop groups. In a world continuously devaluing creativity and art, artists must find a way to make a buck.

For Automagik, the struggle between preserving the art and playing to the crowd for profit is a main theme on the Automagik's recently released "Dark Daze," culminating on the bubbly abrasive "F\*\*\*ed up." The track features front man Zachary Evans crooning, "I've forsaken my dreams in black leather," before releasing an onslaught of chaotic, self-destructive musings behind searing guitar chords and head-banging percussion.

Cluxton explained how it was this frustration that Automagik channeled towards real growth from 2013's one-dimensional "Black Sundae" to their current, more vibrant sound, stating that while "Black

Sundae is very carefree, punch(ing) you in the face with rock and roll power chords, the songs on 'Dark Daze' have a lot of heavy content and it's just real and raw. It's just a lot of raw emotion of frustration coming to the forefront, it's definitely the next logical step."

Lucky for us, it's a step is in the right direction. "Dark Daze" is Automagik's best. The creative collaboration of Evans and lead guitarist Devin Williams blossoms in "Dark Daze," producing more innovative productions and a new sonic confidence.

Though frustration may bear creativity, Cluxton admitted to feeling the burden of this frustration from time to time. Ultimately though, it's all in days work. "For me it's about doing what I really have felt that I've wanted to do my whole life," Cluxton affirms, adding that "the fact that we're building towards something, it's this ultimate belief that what we're doing is right." Well said.

Catch Automagik this tomorrow, March 4, at the Well in South Bend. The Quartet will join other indie rockers SPACESHIPS, Leones and Scanlines. Music begins at 7 p.m., and while it's a free show, donations are highly encouraged. Come to celebrate the start of spring break, or better yet, the end of midterms.

Contact Adam Ramos at [aramos6@nd.edu](mailto:aramos6@nd.edu)



## HOW INNOVATION GOT OLD: A STUDY OF 'TRADITIONAL SYNTHESIZER MUSIC'



By **ADRIAN LORE**  
Scene Writer

Venetian Snares has been busy. The prolific electronic composer, who brought a semblance of notoriety to the breakcore genre he helped pioneer in the late 1990s and early 2000s, has slowed his output considerably in the past decade but not for lack of ideas. Rather, as he made clear in an announcement to his fans in mid-2015, his output has stagnated under the pressure of “very serious financial trouble.” But fortunately for Aaron Funk, the man behind the project, his loyal fan base subsequently flooded him with donations. Maybe this means that Funk will not go the way of van Gogh; certainly it has enabled him to return to the studio and release all-new music. Following last year’s quickly-assembled “Thank You for Your Consideration,” a free download that doubled as Funk’s token of gratitude to his benefactors, “Traditional Synthesizer Music” is the latest installation in the Venetian Snares musical saga of electronic experimentation.

This time around, Funk elected to produce an album solely through the use of modular synthesizers, to which the music owes its characteristic early-electronic sound. Of course, this decision is hardly a creative obstruction — Funk has clearly tamed his instruments to work the usual wonders. Indeed, the tracks on this LP are bouncy, aggressive and hyperactive, and in terms of quality, Funk certainly does not disappoint. But he doesn’t quite

impress either. The sound of this LP doesn’t deviate from the project’s typical sound; it’s pleasantly familiar, but not exactly refreshing.

This problem is not unique to Funk. Indeed, to achieve a fresh sound using familiar techniques is the greatest hurdle that has kept many of the pioneers of the so-called IDM umbrella genre from maintaining their relevance in the electronic landscape of today. Boards of Canada, once the poster boys of industrial downtempo, stuck to formula on their tepidly-received “The Campfire Headphase” in 2005 and retreated into obscurity soon thereafter. Once one of underground electronica’s most prominent names, Aphex Twin virtually disappeared after the flop of his uninspired LP “Drukqs” in 2001. Ambient house group The Orb has precariously remained afloat amid ill-informed forays into reggae-infused techno. Massive Attack’s 2010 would-be comeback “Heligoland” was haunted by the specter of their former glory. Members of Drexciya and LFO literally died, bringing those projects to a whimpering halt. Of course, the list goes on.

Evidently, artists and even genres that cannot evolve (and this evolution could very well be wholly unorthodox) with the times are set to become history. While Boards of Canada released the wonderfully alien “Tomorrow’s Harvest” in 2013 and Aphex Twin took the Grammy for “Siro” in 2015, many of the rest — Venetian Snares included — simply have not been able to revitalize their sound for the new decade. So while “Traditional Synthesizer Music” would have been revolutionary 20 or

even 15 years ago — in Funk’s heyday — today it quite passively recedes into the background, overtaken by the output of electronic frontrunners like Oneohtrix Point Never, Arca, Jlin and so on.

I will always admire Funk’s artistic capabilities. This is the guy who gave modern classical music electro-shock therapy on “Rossz Csillag Alatt Született” — one of IDM’s signature LPs and a demonstration of music in one its most out-of-the-box forms. And I am sure that just as he did it once, he can do it again. But then again, “Traditional Synthesizer Music” is Funk “doing it again.” If projects like Venetian Snares are to thrive today, what they need to understand, rather, is that the world doesn’t want them to do it again. It wants to hear them innovate, work their magic in a wholly new and unexpected way.

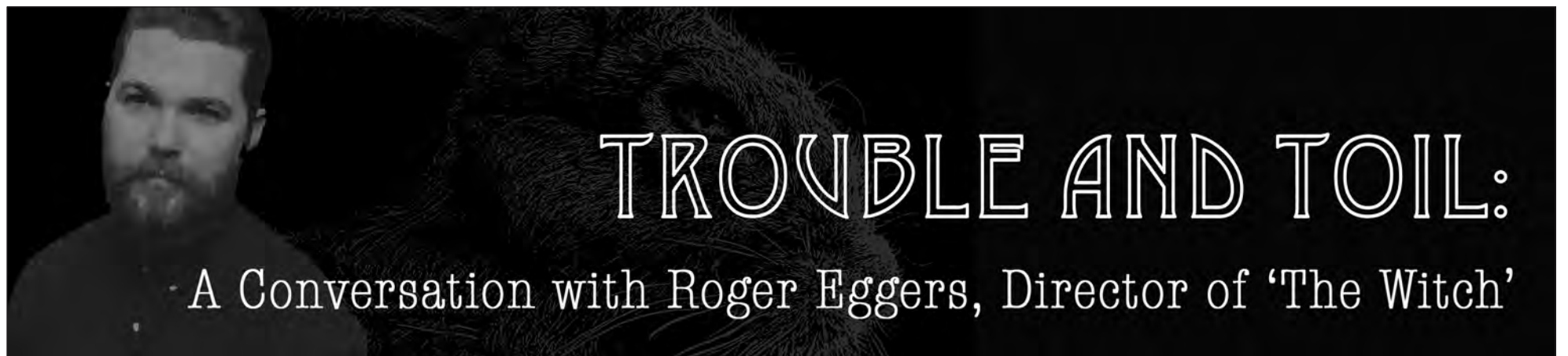
Contact Adrian Lore at [asanchez11@nd.edu](mailto:asanchez11@nd.edu)

### *“Traditional Synthesizer Music”* Venetian Snares

**Label:** Timesig

**Tracks:** N/A

**If you like:** Dntel, Boards of Canada, Ryoji Iyeda



By **NICK LAUREANO**  
Scene Writer

I’m generally skeptical of movie review aggregators like Rotten Tomatoes — quantitative measures like the algorithms applied by Rotten Tomatoes rob our appreciation and understanding of the movies. There are moments, however, when sites like Rotten Tomatoes are essential to understanding a movie. The release of Robert Eggers’ new horror movie, “The Witch,” ushered in one of these moments.

“The Witch,” now playing in movie theaters nationwide, holds an impressive approval score of 89 percent among critics. The corresponding fan-score is a meager 53 percent. What could possibly account for this split reception? Having seen “The Witch” I understand why many moviegoers dislike it: its slow, the 17th century dialogue can be difficult to follow and there aren’t many jump-scares. So is “The Witch” just a dull horror movie dressed up as a pretentious art house film?

Well, no, it isn’t. “The Witch” is a fascinating installment in the horror canon, and it continues the genre-bending tradition of recent horror films like “The Cabin in the Woods,” “Antichrist,” “The Babadook” and “It Follows.” Last Thursday I had the privilege of speaking with writer-director Robert Eggers, and one of the chief pleasures of the conversation was hearing his take on how “The Witch” fits into horror.

“The Witch” documents the misadventures of a family exiled to the Massachusetts wilderness in the 1630s: Babies are stolen, sibling rivalry hits Old Testament lows and, of course, there is a witch hunt. Eggers claimed that the film’s style — its quiet photography characterized by long, often stationary cameras and the film’s languid pace — was born not from a desire to be contrarian or pretentious, but from a genuine love of understated filmmaking. For one thing, Eggers may not be familiar enough with contemporary horror to react against it: “I don’t watch many contemporary horror movies,” he said.

But don’t doubt Eggers’ cinephilia — he professed his love of “slow, boring movies,” particularly those of Ingmar Bergman, Carl Theodor Dreyer and Andrei Tarkovsky. Indeed, as a meditation on religion and mortality among other themes, “The Witch” evokes Bergman’s “The Seventh Seal,” and Eggers’ frequent use of long takes points to Tarkovsky’s “Solaris.”

For Eggers, this is far from style for style’s sake, and he insisted, “Working with my cinematographer and editor in the context of a horror movie, we hoped to use the long takes and slow pace to create and sustain tension and dread.” Eggers’ claims ring true throughout the film, and especially at its climax, when he presents an exorcism in an uninterrupted shot. Writhing bodies, demonic shouts and Biblical imagery populate the scene. In seamlessly transitioning from symbols

of childlike innocence to icons of original sin, Eggers creates true terror.

“The Witch,” billed as “A New England Folktale,” is clearly a personal statement for Eggers. A native of the area, Eggers has always been fascinated by 17th century culture, particularly the Salem witch trials. Perhaps it’s no surprise that he asserts that the film’s central conceit is the idea that people in this moment in history perceived witches to be a very real threat, and that the film is ultimately an exploration of how that threat interacts with the intense Puritanism of the time.

Ultimately, this level of authorship — the combination of stylistic influences and deep-seated obsession with a particular set of themes — is what Eggers’ thinks is missing from most contemporary horror movies ... at least from the ones he has seen. “The reason ‘Antichrist,’ ‘The Babadook’ and ‘It Follows’ are so strong is because the filmmakers behind those movies are clearly bringing a very personal vision to the screen,” he said, before going on to argue that the flip side of this coin is crass commercialization. “When you have a movie that is a product and is about formula rather than artistic form, when you’re merely trying to get someone to throw popcorn on his girlfriend using jump-scares, is when this genre falls apart.”

Contact Nick Laureano at [nlaurean@nd.edu](mailto:nlaurean@nd.edu)







SPORTS AUTHORITY

# MLB is better when Cubs are better

**Brett O'Connell**  
Sports Writer

For a Chicago sports fan like myself, there is a special thrill that always accompanies the closing days of February. Despite the horrendous weather — which seems determined to lead us on every few days with another tantalizing sampling of spring before ruthlessly burying us beneath a fresh wave of snow-fall — doing its best to ruin my mood, I must admit that the winter weather in South Bend, Indiana, becomes a little more bearable once March is around the corner.

Why is that? It's because pitchers and catchers reported to spring training about a week ago. To me, that means winter is officially over. Baseball season is back, and I couldn't be happier.

To be honest, I don't know whether my love of spring came before or after my love of baseball. Perhaps it's something of a Pavlovian reaction at work; pair the turning of the season with the glee-inducing sights and sounds of the ballpark enough times, and eventually, you'll just get giddy at the slightest sign of the springtime. Some of my fondest baseball memories circle around spring training. After all, from the yearly enterprise of getting my little league gear in order after a winter spent collecting dust to my memories of making the long trek to Arizona to watch the Cubs play against a backdrop of dark mountains and green cacti, spring break always meant more than just a few days off of school.

Today, though, spring training feels a bit different than it has in the past. As a Cubs fan, I am in the unfamiliar position of actually being excited for the results of the upcoming season. Not that I haven't been

hopeful for good seasons in the past, but this year carries with it a certain set of expectations for what has become one of the youngest, most talented and most exciting teams in baseball.

It's a bit cliché to say that baseball is at its best when the Cubs are good. And, to be honest, it's a difficult claim to argue, since that would basically mean that baseball hasn't been at its best in roughly 100 years. But honestly, I think that statement might hold true. That Cubs fans are excited about the product the team is putting on the diamond of late comes as little surprise. What does strike me as interesting, though, are the number of fans of other teams — or even people who don't claim to follow baseball at all — that suddenly seem invested in the Cubs' quest to claim a pennant for the first time since the fall of the Ottoman Empire.

More than merely a baseball team, the Cubs have become a cultural institution in America — one that serves to foster baseball as both a sport and a brand when they are firing on all cylinders.

There's no telling whether the Cubs will win anything at all this year. The baseball season is astronomically lengthy, and there is no predicting with any sort of accuracy what may or may not happen. Still, for the first time in a long time, I get to look forward to seeing good baseball being played at the corner of Addison and Clark.

I suppose I can't speak for anyone else, but that's more than enough to get me through the last dredges of winter with a smile on my face.

*Contact Brett O'Connell at boconnel@nd.edu*  
*The views expressed in this Sports Authority are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.*

MEN'S GOLF

# Irish to travel to Alabama and Texas over break

**By DOMINIC IANNELLI**  
Sports Writer

Notre Dame competed in the National Invitational Tournament two weeks ago at the Catalina Course of Omni Tucson National in Tucson, Arizona, and placed 13th out of the 14 teams competing, finishing 31 strokes behind the tournament winner, Santa Clara.

Irish head coach Jim Kubinski said he and the team were not satisfied with their performance, as they failed to build on their progress in previous tournaments.

"We're disappointed we didn't take any momentum from our second-place finish outside Tampa three weeks ago," Kubinski said. "We felt we could put ourselves in the mix here."

Notre Dame finished the tournament with a final score of 13-over par. On the first day of the tournament, the Irish shot a one-over par 289, but failed to match or exceed that performance the next two days of the tournament. The Irish shot a seven-over

par 295 on the second day of the tournament before following it up with a five-over par 293 on day three.

Individually, freshman Ben Albin finished tied for eighth place with a final score of five-under par. Juniors Matthew Rushton and Blake Barens finished tied for 41st and 48th with scores of five-over par and six-over par, respectively. Rounding out the weekend for the Irish were freshmen Kevin Connors and Miguel Delgado, who finished tied for 64th and 76th at 11-over and 18-over par, respectively.

Although Kubinski said the team's performance fell short of expectations, Albin's play was one of the bright spots that the Irish can take away from this weekend, he added.

"Ben played beautifully all week," Kubinski said. "He gave himself dozens of great birdie looks. He was probably a couple shots and putts from contending for the win. I'm both proud of his effort here and happy to see his hard work yielding strong results."

The Irish will look for

their upperclassmen to step up in their next tournament, Kubinski said. He also stressed the need for the golfers to shoot the scores that they have proved they're able to hit on a more consistent basis.

"We just need our capable players to post scores," Kubinski said. "At this level, you need four scores each day. Matt broke out today with a good round and Blake played two of three this weekend. I'm confident Miguel and Kevin will hit their stride at Auburn. This week was our first stroke play format since October. I expect more good scores next week."

Notre Dame has a quick turnaround, as the team will travel to compete in the Tiger Invitational from March 6-8 at Grand National Lake Course in Opelika, Alabama, before following that with the Border Olympics from March 11-12 at Laredo Country Club in Laredo, Texas.

**Contact Dominic Iannelli at riannell@nd.edu**

SMC LACROSSE

# Belles hope to build on last season's success

**By ELIZABETH GREASON**  
Sports Writer

Although 2016 will only be Saint Mary's third year with a varsity lacrosse program, the team has improved over its short history. In the the Belles' second season, they more than doubled their win total from their first and finished last season with a 7-10 record. According to Belles head coach Amy Long, the team is looking to make similar progress this season.

"Our team did make a huge amount of progress during our second year, and I expect an even larger amount of growth this season," Long said.

One of the characteristics of this year's team is its youth. After only losing a few seniors, the team will be captained led by three juniors: Katlynn Dee, Emilie Vanneste and Shannon Weyer. The Belles also return six of their seven leading scorers from last year. On top of retaining the majority of the team, the Belles have added six new members to the roster. As a result, Long says that team-building has been a major focal point of preseason training.

"Throughout our preseason,

we have focused on working together and the development of our offensive unit and our defensive unit," Long said. "With six new players and four players who were abroad during our fall season, we have placed an emphasis on building relationships and communication to ensure we are working together as a team effectively. We have also been paying special attention to the small details of many of our basic lacrosse skills to create consistency, as these little things will be the difference maker in many of our games."

While other teams and coaches might consider fielding such a young team to be a risk, Long expects the team to maintain a high caliber of play.

"Emilie Vanneste and Katlynn Dee were our program's first All-MIAA selections, and I have even higher expectations for them this season," Long said. "Vanneste along with [sophomore] Clare Theisen will lead our offense and midfield. Dee will continue to have an important role as a main leader for our defense and our two goalies, Shannon Weyer and [freshman] Cara Givens who will also serve as vocal leaders."

The Belles are looking to expand upon their reputation for strong defense this season. Last season, Weyer had 120 saves as goalkeeper last season and the Belles totaled 185 caused turnovers.

On top of sustaining its strong defense, the Saint Mary's lacrosse team has optimistic hopes for the season as a whole. As Long outlined, the team hopes to both start and finish the season in a strong manner.

"Our team goals include coming back from our spring break training trip to Hilton Head with at least one win and qualifying for our conference tournament this season," Long said. "More than qualifying for the MIAA tournament which is accomplished through a top-four finish, our goal is to win at least six of our eight conference games to earn a home game in the tournament."

The Belles will embark on their season during their spring break trip from March 5 to March 13, when they will travel to Hilton Head, South Carolina, to take on Shenandoah, Elms and Bryn Mawr.

**Contact Elizabeth Greason at egreason@nd.edu**

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## ND SOFTBALL

# ND puts winning streak on the line in Florida

## Observer Staff Report

No. 21 Notre Dame will return to Florida this weekend to compete in the Four Points by Sheraton Spring Break Classic hosted by Florida Gulf Coast in Fort Myers.

The Irish (12-3) spent this past weekend in Kissimmee, Florida, playing in the Diamond 9 Citrus Classic. In five games, the team swept its competition and outscored their opponents, 33-6.

This weekend, the Irish will play four more nonconference games before their regular weekend slate of ACC games gets underway. On Saturday, Notre Dame will face Stony Brook and host Florida Gulf Coast. Then, on Sunday, the team will battle Stony Brook for a second time before finishing their weekend against Ball State.

The Irish will carry their eight-game winning streak into the weekend, which includes wins over No. 13 UCLA and No. 25 UCF. During this streak, the Irish lineup is averaging over seven runs per game, while the pitching staff is holding opponents to less than two runs per game.

The offensive success has largely been an all-around, team effort for the Irish this season, as the team has nine players batting over .300 and a team average of .359, which is currently the 16th

best mark in the country. Junior outfielder Karley Wester has been particularly effective at the top of the lineup, as she leads the team with 19 runs, 29 hits and a .492 average. The freshmen class has made its impact felt as well, as third baseman Melissa Rochford, outfielder Ali Wester and pitcher Caitlyn Brooks all have averages of .390 or better.

The pitching staff has also begun to find its form on the field during this winning streak. Junior Rachel Nasland leads the rotation with a 1.22 earned-run average, while senior Allie Rhodes has a team-high five wins. Rhodes also sports an ERA of 2.84 and leads the staff with 58 strikeouts in under 50 innings pitched. While no other pitcher has an ERA under three, the rotation has shown improvement in the last eight games. Each pitcher saw her ERA drop last weekend, and sophomore Katie Beriont saw the most improvement after throwing a one-hit shutout against Bryant on Saturday.

Stony Brook (4-6) has struggled offensively this season, with their team average of .220. The Seawolves have been carried by senior catcher Allie Pisciotto, who is the only member on the team batting over .310, and she leads Stony Brook in eight offensive

categories. The Seawolves are also led by a senior on the mound, as Jane Sallen has five complete games in six starts and a 3.10 ERA.

Florida Gulf Coast (9-5) carries an eight game winning streak of its own into the weekend, with six of those wins coming over Oakland and Sacred Heart last weekend. Offensively, freshman first baseman Racquel Fournet leads Florida Gulf Coast in seven offensive categories. The strength of the team, however, is its pitching staff. In 14 games this season, the Eagles' staff holds an ERA of 2.38, which ranks 49th amongst Division I teams.

Ball State (8-6) also carries an extended winning streak into play this weekend, having won its last six games. The Cardinals have won primarily behind the strength of their lineup, which features three players hitting at least .400. They also boast power in their lineup, as five hitters have better than a .500 slugging percentage. Their rotation has struggled thus far, however, as their staff ERA is 6.94 and opposing lineups sport a .330 batting average against them.

Notre Dame will first take the field this weekend Saturday at 1:15 p.m. when they battle Stony Brook at FGCU Softball Complex in Fort Myers, Florida.



MICHAEL YU | The Observer

Junior outfielder Karley Wester steps into her swing during Notre Dame's 10-1 win over Syracuse on April 18 at Melissa Cook Stadium.

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## ND WOMEN'S GOLF

# Irish to host Clover Cup over spring break

By **TOBIAS HOONHOUT**  
Sports Writer

During spring break, Notre Dame will be busy as the Irish host the Clover Cup in Mesa, Arizona, at Longbow Golf Club.

The Irish opened their spring campaign two weeks ago at the Westbrook Spring Invitational, where the team finished sixth among a field of 15 teams. Despite dropping four strokes in the final three holes on the last day of the tournament, Irish head coach Susan Holt said she feels her team is ahead of where it should be at this point in the season, and is focused on improving as the Clover Cup approaches.

"After the tournament, they all had their own areas they needed to work on, so we've had a really good couple of weeks of practice," Holt said. "I was happy with the overall

play from the tournament, I mean first tournament out and we played really well and shot below our stroke average for the year and there were a lot of positives. I feel like we're ahead of the curve as far as preparations from where we would normally be this time of year."

Holt also said she is excited to host the Clover Cup and plans to get in multiple practice rounds before the tournament begins.

"I'm excited for the tournament in Arizona, especially since it's a tournament we host and there's a lot to do with all of that and with the planning," Holt said. "I think we are in pretty good shape. We are going to get out there on Saturday so we are actually going to get four practice rounds in before the event and have four solid days of practice and play so I think we will be ready to go once

the tournament starts."

Led by senior captain Talia Campbell, who finished in ninth at the Westbrook Spring Invitational, the No. 25 Irish will compete against a field that includes TCU, SMU, Oklahoma, Tulsa and Arizona State, among others. Holt said the team will rely on the freshmen trio of Isabella DiLisio, Emma Albrecht and Maddie Hamilton, who came in ninth, 33rd and 48th respectively in the Westbrook Invitational, to perform well again. Entering the tournament, Holt said the Irish expect to face stiff competition from SMU, TCU and Oklahoma.

"Well based on the rankings, I mean, we are the best ranked team in the field," she said. "SMU, they beat us by one shot at the last tournament we played in and they are ranked right behind us so I think they are our most

immediate competition. There's also TCU — they're a good team — Oklahoma, so I think us and those three teams will probably be in contention come the last day."

"[The freshmen] have certainly been a big part of our success," Holt said. "I thought all three played really well in the first event of the spring and I'm just looking for them to continue their good play."

Sophomore Kari Bellville and junior Jordan Ferreira will also be important factors in the contest. Bellville finished tied for 79th at the Westbrook Spring Invitational with a 15-over par 231, while Ferreira tied for 56th place with an eight-over par score of 224. Holt said she likes her team's depth and that the team's busy schedule will allow it to improve rapidly as the spring

season picks up.

"We've had really good team depth and team effort all year and we're going to really need that to continue as we move through our spring schedule," Holt said. "We have big goals and I think this team is good enough to do some really special things this spring. We're just excited to get things going, because when we play three tournaments in a month, we're gonna be super busy. But I'm also excited for the fact that I think our weather is going start turning once we get back. It's supposed to be in the 50s and 60s which means we should be able to get outside and practice here, which is huge as well."

The Irish tee-off March 11 in Mesa, Arizona, for the Clover Cup.

Contact Tobias Hoonhout at [thoonhou@nd.edu](mailto:thoonhou@nd.edu)

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## Hockey

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

that night. Notre Dame then held off a late charge from the Terriers (19-10-5, 12-6-4) on Saturday night to clinch the third seed with a 1-0 victory on Senior Night at Compton Family Ice Arena.

The 1-0 win in the final game of the season for the Irish snapped the team's three-game losing streak entering Saturday night's action.

Notre Dame found success against both Northeastern and Maine during the regular season. The Huskies visited Compton Family Ice Arena on Nov. 12 and 13, when Notre Dame won the first night's contest 3-2, and then the two teams skated to a 2-2 tie the following night.

The Irish swept the Black Bears when Maine visited South Bend exactly three months later, Feb. 12 and 13. Notre Dame took Friday's contest 4-1 while triumphing again 5-1 in Saturday night's matchup.

Sophomore goaltender Cal Petersen started every regular season game in net for the Irish, allowing just 2.08 goals against per game while posting a .932 save percentage. Petersen was named a Mike Richter Award nominee last Friday and currently leads the NCAA in saves with 970. No other goaltender has more than 900 (St. Lawrence sophomore netminder Kyle Hayton is second with 880).

Petersen posted his first shutout of the season in Saturday night's 1-0 win over BU, but after the game he said it was more important for the team to build momentum heading into the postseason with a high-quality win.

"That was a total playoff game," Petersen said following Saturday night's win. "... They were battling for their playoff lives, and we

were too, even though we had that bye. We need to put ourselves in the best position to be successful and to reach one of our goals: going to Boston Garden.

"That was a playoff game for both teams, and I think it showed."

Sophomore center Jake Evans leads the Irish with 32 points this season (eight goals and 24 assists), but Notre Dame boasts one of the most balanced offenses in the country. Seven players have registered more than 20 points and the team boasts 12 skaters with at least 10 points. Senior center Thomas DiPauli has a team-high 12 goals while left wings sophomore Anders Bjork (11) and seniors Mario Lucia and Sam Herr and freshman Dylan Malmquist (10) have also hit double-digits in the goal category.

The Irish pulled off a surprise run to the Hockey East semifinals in Boston during its first season in the conference in 2014 after defeating BU in a single-game elimination series in the first round and then winning two games on the road against Boston College in a best-of-three series.

Notre Dame reached the second round of the Hockey East playoffs last season, defeating Massachusetts in a three-game series at Compton Family Ice Arena before falling to UMass-Lowell in three games.

The winner of the series between Notre Dame and either Northeastern or Maine will advance to the semifinals of this season's conference tournament held at TD Garden in Boston. Puck drop for Game 1 will be March 11 at 7:35 p.m. while Games 2 and 3 (if necessary) will start at 7:05 p.m. the following nights at Compton Family Ice Arena.

Contact Zach Klonsinski at [zklonsin@nd.edu](mailto:zklonsin@nd.edu)

## Baseball

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

the No. 5 Cardinals (5-2) in a three-game series, kicking off ACC play for both squads.

"This weekend, Alabama's an SEC team with a lot of potential, and Louisville is ranked pretty high in the polls across most of college baseball," Smoyer said. "To have those teams this early is challenging, but it also puts the task upon us to raise our level of commitment as far as our work goes day to day. The focus we put into our preparation with those kinds of teams is a great challenge that we're

ready to take on, and, especially with the talent those teams bring, it's going to be a great test to see what we're made of right away. Hopefully down the road it helps us out."

Following the end of the stressful midterms week, Smoyer said being able to focus on baseball should help the team gel early in the season.

"We're gonna be traveling a lot over spring break," Smoyer said. "We have a little bit of a bus ride from North Carolina to Kentucky when we're in between those two weekend series, but for our routine it doesn't really change much. ... It's just a little more down time. Guys

get to kind of hang out and decompress from the stress of the academics that have been hitting us at the end of this half of the semester. It kind of gives us that mental break and allows us to focus on something other than academics for a little while."

The Irish will play seven road games over break before returning for their home opener against Toledo on March 16.

The USA Baseball-Irish Classic gets under way Friday evening as Notre Dame faces Alabama in Cary, North Carolina.

Contact Hunter McDaniel at [hmcDaniel@nd.edu](mailto:hmcDaniel@nd.edu)



MICHAEL YU | The Observer

*Irish junior Ryan Smoyer pitches during Notre Dame's 8-3 win over Central Michigan on March 18 at Frank Eck Stadium. Smoyer is currently leading Notre Dame with a 1.35 ERA through seven games.*

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KELLY VAUGHAN | The Observer

*Irish sophomore goalie Cal Petersen protects the net during Notre Dame's 3-2 loss to Boston University on Feb. 26 at home.*



## W Bball

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

seed Virginia. This season, the Irish edged the Blue Devils (19-11, 8-8) on the road Feb. 1, 68-61, and blew past the Cavaliers (16-14, 6-10) on Jan. 7, 74-46.

Notre Dame then would most likely play No. 4 seed Florida State in the semifinals, followed by either No. 2 seed Louisville or No. 3 seed Syracuse in the championship game.

"We've got a tough, tough draw with Duke ending up in the 8/9 game, which — nobody expected that," McGraw said. "Florida State was picked to finish second, finishes fourth, and then Louisville and Syracuse in the other games, so it looks like we're played what were originally the top three teams in the league each round, if we can advance."

"And that is gonna be a big question for us. I think this is the toughest draw, and we've gotta be ready. Duke really will be ready for us, and everybody will be. Everybody's trying to knock us off and make their seed in the NCAA tournament a little better, so we've gotta be ready."

McGraw said she has noticed her players, especially the younger ones, lose focus in the second halves of games recently, a trend her veteran leaders add they've

seen as well and need to correct if they want to capture their third consecutive tournament title.

"Us, as upperclassmen, we've got to set that mentality," senior guard Michaela Mabrey said. "It's not a game. It is possible for us to lose. I know that they [the freshmen] might not think that that's a thing, but it is. I think just setting the tone of being really mentally and physically focused."

Joining Mabrey in the starting lineup will be the usual group of junior guard Lindsay Allen, graduate student guard Madison Cable and sophomore forward Brianna Turner, all three of whom were named Tuesday to the 10-player All-ACC first team, while Turner earned the conference's Defensive Player of the Year award Wednesday.

However, the fifth spot is still up in the air, as usual starting forward Kathryn Westbeld has not played since suffering an ankle injury against Florida State on Feb. 22, and she has not participated in practice through Tuesday of this week.

McGraw said Westbeld is "probable" for Friday's game, adding she hoped to have her back in practice by Thursday.

"We're a little thin in the post, and without Kat lately, it's seemed even worse," McGraw said. "I like the

four-guard look, but we play a couple of teams that have a lot of big guys, so it's difficult to go four guards against some of them, so I think subbing is going to be really key. We're going to really need the freshmen to be ready; we're going to need Koko [junior forward Kristina Nelson] and [junior forward] Diamond [Thompson] and [sophomore guard] Mychal Johnson; we're going to need everybody, so everybody has to be able to come in for three or four minutes and give somebody a spell and give them a rest."

Fortunately for McGraw, the freshmen she's tasked with being ready for the tournament are two of the conference's best: Both Marina Mabrey and Arike Ogunbowale were selected for the ACC All-Freshman team Tuesday.

With a target on their back, the Irish will open the ACC tournament on Friday at 2 p.m. against either Duke or Virginia, with possible semifinal and final-round games to take place Saturday and Sunday, respectively. All matchups will be held at the Greensboro Coliseum in Greensboro, North Carolina, and the tournament's winner will secure an automatic bid to the NCAA tournament.

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

## M Bball

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

leading scorer and junior guard Demetrius Jackson starting the game 2-for-11 from the field while junior guard Steve Vasturia missed all nine of his shot attempts.

"When your guards can't get going like that — and I love my guards, and our guards have been key — we won't beat many teams," Brey said.

The Irish were able to bounce back to a degree, at one point closing the gap to 29-22 late in the first half with an 8-0 run. The Hurricanes would counter with a 6-0 run, however, making the halftime deficit 13. Notre Dame would only get within nine points from that point on.

"We gave ourselves chances," Brey said. "It would have been interesting to see how the second half would have been if we didn't turn it over three times in the last three minutes, when you're getting a bit of momentum."

Senior forward Zach Auguste led the way for the Irish, finishing the night with 18 points and 11 rebounds. With just under 10 minutes to play, Auguste and sophomore forward Bonzie Colson had 25 of Notre Dame's 38 points.

"I thought Zach Auguste, again, in an ugly afternoon was just a warrior," Brey said. "He's been flat-out fabulous."

With the win, the Hurricanes tied No. 8 North Carolina atop the ACC standings. They were led by senior guard Angel Rodriguez with 19 points. Senior guard Sheldon McClellan added 17 points while senior forward

Tonye Jekiri was good for 14 points and nine rebounds.

Despite the loss, Notre Dame can still earn a double bye in the ACC tournament next week. With Pittsburgh's loss to Virginia Tech Wednesday night, the Irish now just need a win and a Duke loss to North Carolina on Saturday.

Looking to salvage the double bye, Notre Dame now looks to its Saturday matinee tilt with North Carolina State.

NC State (15-15, 4-12) has struggled this season after notching 22 wins last season and reaching the Sweet Sixteen. Despite their poor showing on the year, the Wolfpack did upset Miami on Jan. 30.

The Wolfpack are led by junior guard Anthony Barber, who has scored 30 or more points eight times this year on his way to averaging 23.2 points, 4.6 rebounds and 4.4 assists per game. Outside of Barber, the Wolfpack have threats in freshman guard Maverick Rowan (12.7 ppg), sophomore forward Abdul-Malik Abu (12.6 ppg, 8.6 rpg) and freshman guard Caleb Martin (11.3 ppg).

"Saturday, I want it bad for Zach and [senior forward A.J. Burgett]," Brey said. "... I'd love to win for them and have a little juice going into D.C."

Tip-off is scheduled for noon Saturday.

After Senior Day, Notre Dame will have a few days off before the ACC tournament begins Tuesday. The Irish will either play their first game Wednesday in the second round or Thursday in the quarterfinals.

Contact Brian Plamondon at [bplamond@nd.edu](mailto:bplamond@nd.edu)

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KATHLEEN DONAHUE | The Observer

**Zach Auguste attempts a free throw during Notre Dame's 68-50 loss to No. 7 Miami on Wednesday at Purcell Pavilion.**



## MEN'S BASKETBALL | MIAMI 68, ND 50

# Notre Dame's offensive struggles continue at home

By BRIAN PLAMONDON  
Sports Writer

No. 7 Miami dominated Notre Dame from the opening tip at Purcell Pavilion on its way to a 68-50 victory over the Irish.

The Hurricanes (24-5, 13-4 ACC) scored the first 12 points of the game and jumped out to a 21-3 lead just over six minutes into the game.

"I wouldn't be surprised if they win the national championship, first of all," Irish head coach Mike Brey said. "They're really good. And they're really old and their men were playing against our boys I thought most of the night. We can't get off to a start like that and try and dig out of a hole against a team like that."

Notre Dame (19-10, 10-7 ACC) never looked comfortable during the game, with

see M BBALL **PAGE 15**



GRACE TOURVILLE | The Observer

*Junior guard Demetrius Jackson shoots a three-pointer during Notre Dame's 68-50 loss to No. 7 Miami at Purcell Pavilion.*

## ND WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

# Irish aim for third straight title

By MARY GREEN  
Assistant Managing Editor

Whenever No. 2 Notre Dame takes the court at Purcell Pavilion, the stands are packed, most of the time at almost full capacity, with fans decked out in blue, gold and the ubiquitous lime green.

But when the Irish go down to Greensboro, North Carolina, for this weekend's ACC tournament as the conference's top seed, they're not expecting that same kind of friendly reception.

"The welcoming committee gets smaller and smaller every year we go down there, and I think that we'll have a lot of people cheering against us," Irish head coach Muffet McGraw said. "I think that they'd like to see some of the familiar teams win, and so it'll be good for us to really get motivated to be ready."

There will be plenty of

teams eager to knock off the top-seeded Irish (28-1, 16-0 ACC), with plenty reason: In just three seasons in the conference, Notre Dame has collected three outright regular-season titles, two conference tournament rings and amassed a 47-1 ACC record, along with all but locking in a No. 1 seed in the upcoming NCAA tournament.

On paper, it might not look like the Irish have much to be challenged by, especially after sweeping ACC competition with a perfect 16-0 record this season. But that's not how McGraw, who was named this season's ACC Coach of the Year on Wednesday, and her team see it.

They'll open the tournament Friday with a match-up against the winner of Thursday's game between No. 8 seed Duke and No. 9

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## BASEBALL

# Squad travels to North Carolina

By HUNTER McDANIEL  
Sports Writer

After taking three of four games at the Alamo Irish Classic last weekend, Notre Dame heads into spring break looking to build on its newfound momentum.

Junior righty Ryan Smoyer, who has opened the season with a 1.35 ERA in two starts, said the way his team was able to win two close games last weekend should give them confidence heading into a tough stretch.

"It's great, especially the comebacks — those walk-offs," Smoyer said. "The game where we gave up the lead late and were able to battle back and grab that win is huge. It really gives the pitching staff confidence to know that we can come back and get bailed out by our hitters. They did a great job all weekend at having really good at-bats."

"Especially in the beginning of the season, it just seems like the bats across college baseball are a

little behind. To know that we have that kind of support behind us, not only in the field but at the plate is a great feeling."

Over the first weekend of break, the Irish (4-3) hit the road for the USA Baseball-Irish Classic in Cary, North Carolina, at the USA Baseball National Training Complex.

Notre Dame will face opponents from four different conferences at the classic, including Alabama (7-1) on Friday, Brown (0-0) and Bucknell (4-3) in a Saturday doubleheader and Niagara (2-8) to conclude the Classic on Sunday morning.

While each of these teams will present a specific challenge to the Irish, the Crimson Tide, who have won their last six games, will arguably be their toughest opponent.

Then, following the conclusion of the USA Baseball Irish Classic, the Irish will head to Louisville the following weekend to take on

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## HOCKEY

# ND turns focus toward Hockey East tournament

By ZACH KLONSINSKI  
Sports Editor

After clinching the third seed in the Hockey East playoffs last weekend, No. 10 Notre Dame will host a best-of-three series next weekend against either Northeastern or Maine in the second round of the conference tournament.

The Irish (19-8-7, 15-5-2 Hockey East) earned a bye during the first round of the playoffs because they clinched a top-four finish in the conference during the regular season. Notre Dame will meet the winner of a best-of-three series between the sixth-seeded Huskies (16-13-5, 10-8-4) and the 11th-seeded Black Bears (8-22-6, 5-15-2) at Northeastern's Matthews Arena this weekend.

The Irish clinched a first-round bye last Friday despite losing to No. 9 Boston University, 3-2,

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KELLY VAUGHAN | The Observer

*Sophomore center Jake Evans prepares for a faceoff during Notre Dame's 3-2 loss to Boston University on Feb. 26.*