

New president, vice president take office

Robinson, Blais discuss plans for upcoming year

By KATIE GALIOTO
News Editor

Corey Robinson and Becca Blais, who take office as student body president and vice president today, plan to hit the ground running in their mission to lead, connect and serve Notre Dame students.

"We want to give the students all we've got," Robinson said. "We're going to be fighting for [the student body's] best interests — with the administration, with polices,

see ROBINSON **PAGE 5**



OLIVIA MIKKELSEN | The Observer

Ricketts, Ruelas reflect on past year's impact

By RACHEL O'GRADY
Associate News Editor

As their time in office comes to a close on April 1, outgoing student body president and vice president Bryan Ricketts and Nidia Ruelas said they were proud of the work they did and excited for the work left to do.

"It's very bittersweet. I'm excited for Corey and Becca to get a start, for the cabinet to take on some issues that affect our students. I'm excited to get some time back to myself, but

see RICKETTS **PAGE 5**

ND students attend Easter Mass in Vatican City



Photo courtesy of Alex Coccia

More than 100 Notre Dame students attended the Easter Mass in St. Peter's Square celebrated by Pope Francis.

By EMILY McCONVILLE
News Writer

ROME — Though Easter Mass with Pope Francis didn't start until 10:15 a.m., dozens were already lined up Sunday outside Vatican City at 6:30 a.m., determined to get some of the limited seats near the front of St. Peter's Square.

About 130 of these people,

according to Campus Ministry, were Notre Dame students and their friends, gathered in Rome from study abroad programs in London, Dublin, Angers, Toledo and other locations across Europe. Everyone had gotten their tickets to the Mass through the annual Campus Ministry Easter pilgrimage; several had

see ROME **PAGE 4**

Dating violence incident reported to University

Observer Staff Report

An incident of dating violence was reported to a University administrator Tuesday, according to the Notre Dame Security Police (NDSP) crime log.

The alleged crime occurred last Friday in a men's

residence hall, according to the log entry. The complaint will go through the Title IX review process.

According to du Lac, the University's code of conduct, dating violence is defined as "physical violence or the threat of physical violence committed by a person who

is or has been in a social relationship of a romantic or intimate nature with an individual."

The existence of a relationship is determined on "factors such as the length and type of relationship and frequency of interaction between the persons involved," du Lac states.

Dominican sisters reflect on supporting Iraqi nuns

By MARTHA REILLY
Associate Saint Mary's Editor

While the U.S. State Department has issued a warning against travel in Iraq for American citizens, Dominican Sister Durstyne Farnan felt compelled to take on the danger and travel to the country in 2005, in order to demonstrate solidarity with the Iraqi Dominican nuns fleeing religious persecution. Farnan, along with Sister Arlene Flaherty, spoke at Saint Mary's on Thursday night on how encounters with displaced

Iraqi people have enabled them to see light in the midst of darkness.

"These young sisters in the congregation had only known war since [they were] about toddler's age," Farnan said. "They were also unable to complete their education because the university was open one day and closed the next."

The decision to flee the violent reality of war and terrorism is complicated, though, by the Iraqis' fierce loyalties to their hometowns, Farnan said.

"That is where they grew up,

that is where their faith is from, and that is where their family and friends are," Farnan said. "There's something about those roots that is so deep. Nothing, not even conflict, will never take away their love, their desire, their hope to return home."

Flaherty said over 120,000 Christians have been forced to abandon their homes in northern Iraq, adapting to lifestyles of poverty with which they are unfamiliar.

"They're upper middle-class

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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
Kayla Mullen
Business Manager
Cristina Gutierrez

Asst. Managing Editor: Alex Carson
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Online Editor: Jimmy Kemper
Advertising Manager: Mariah Villaseñor
Ad Design Manager: Marisa Aguayo
Controller: Emily Reckmeyer

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 kmullen2@nd.edu

Assistant Managing Editors
(574) 631-4541 acarson1@nd.edu,
zklonsin@nd.edu, ckossler@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
ncaratas01@saintmarys.edu

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

Systems & Web Administrators
(574) 631-8839

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Today's Staff

News

Katie Galioto
Megan Valley
Meghan Sullivan

Graphics

Olivia Mikkelsen

Photo

Emmet Farnan

Sports

Marek Mazurek
Elizabeth Greason

Scene

Matt McMahon

Viewpoint

Tabitha Ricketts

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 dog breed and why?

Have a question you want answered?

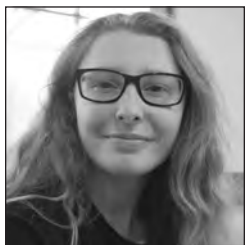
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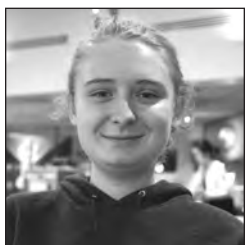
"Pit bulls because despite the reputation of pit bulls, they are the sweetest dogs ever."



Annelise Steele

junior
Le Mans Hall

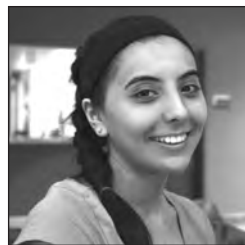
"Huskies because they have really pretty eyes."



Nina Steele

first year
McCandless Hall

"Yorkie terrier mix."



Yaritza Vidaurre

junior
Holy Cross Hall

"Pugs, especially black pugs and French bulldogs. Super cute and adorable."



Molly Voge

first year
McCandless Hall

"Shibis because they're fluffy."



Teresa Valencia

junior
Holy Cross Hall

"Bulldogs. They're fierce and tough."



MICHAEL YU | The Observer

The Notre Dame Leprechaun looks at the scoreboard after Notre Dame's 88-74 loss to North Carolina in the NCAA tournament at Wells Fargo Center in Philadelphia on Sunday. Notre Dame's appearance in the Elite Eight marked its second trip in two years.

THE NEXT FIVE DAYS:

Want your event included here?

Email news@ndsmcobserver.com

Friday

Comparative Politics Workshop

Hesburgh Center for International Studies
3 p.m. - 5 p.m.
Research forum.

A Cappella Fest 2016

Carey Auditorium
8 p.m.
See all five ND a cappella groups perform. \$5 tickets.

Saturday

Interfaith Crawl

Coleman Morse Center
10 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Visit various faith traditions in Michiana.

ND Softball vs. Florida State

Melissa Cook Stadium
1 p.m. - 5 p.m.
The Irish take on the Seminoles.

Sunday

2016 Human Dignity Lecture

McKenna Hall
7 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
Cardinal John Onaiyekan will speak.

Rejoice! Mass

Dillon Hall
8 p.m. - 9 p.m.
Mass celebrating African-American tradition.

Monday

Diverse Student Conference

Rice Commons
5 p.m. - 7 p.m.
Featuring keynote speaker Mary Burke.

"Intensitalia: An Evening with Mina"

Washington Hall
7:30 p.m. - 9 p.m.
Live music influenced by Italian singer Mina.

Tuesday

Fourth Annual Poetry Slam

Snite Museum of Art
5 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
Competitive poetry event.

"Full of Grace" Screening

Jordan Hall of Science
7 p.m. - 9 p.m.
Includes Q&A with producers.

UN expert promotes international solidarity

By AIDAN LEWIS
News Writer

Independent expert on human rights and international solidarity for the United Nations Human Rights Council Virginia Dandan spoke about the importance of international solidarity in a lecture Thursday afternoon sponsored by the Kellogg Institute for International Studies. Dandan said the goal of international solidarity is to allow local issues to be solved on an international level.

"International solidarity is a platform that broadens the participation of implementing human rights across borders," Dandan said.

This is especially important in developing countries, Dandan said, since they may not have the means required to solve a problem.

"Many countries lack the financial resources and lack

the human resources necessary to handle problems on their own," she said.

Yet international solidarity is still important in more established countries, Dandan said.

"Even in wealthy countries, there are still pockets of poverty that remain," Dandan said. "In trying to eradicate inequality and discrimination, what country in the world can do this on its own? They need international cooperation."

This international cooperation is universally beneficial, Dandan said.

"Countries are still interdependent with each other," she said. "They are still interrelated in what they're doing."

Dandan said fighting human rights violations through international solidarity would make the causes of these violations clearer to other countries dealing with similar issues.

"International solidarity tries not only to encourage human rights, but is able to get to the root causes of the violations of human rights at the international level," she said.

The movement aims to help all countries involved by promoting the values of the United Nations, Dandan said.



CAITLYN JORDAN | The Observer

Virginia Dandan, an independent expert on human rights and international solidarity for the United Nations Human Rights Council, lectured on solving local issues on an international level.

"The collective purposes and actions of international solidarity must be directed towards fostering the three pillars of the United Nations, which are peace and security, development and human rights," Dandan said.

Luigi Crema, a visiting Kellogg fellow from the University of Milan, provided commentary on Dandan's talk and discussed her role in the United Nations.

"She is trying to take an idea from the limited boundaries of a political body and

move it towards international needs," he said.

The global fight against terrorism is an example of international solidarity, since many countries acknowledge the threat terrorism poses and have worked together in an attempt to eliminate it, Crema said.

"This fight embodies a political view that is global and not just local," Crema said.

Everyone can participate in international solidarity by remaining aware of global issues and becoming

involved in attempts to eradicate these issues, Dandan said.

"Those hopes that you have for your own individual tomorrow must include a very real engagement with what is happening around us," she said. "Let us not give [future generations] a world where they have no more choices to make because they have to live with what we have done today."

Contact Aidan Lewis at
alewis9@nd.edu

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Sisters

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people, who lived in enormous houses," Flaherty said. "We may have an erroneous understanding of who they are, as if they're poor people ... as a result, we're talking about people who had never lived on the street corner before, so they had no idea what it was like."

According to Flaherty, Iraqis encounter difficulty obtaining the refugee status that would grant them basic requirements outlined by the United Nations, due to the fact that countries such as Jordan, Turkey, Lebanon and Syria only regard them as temporary guests.

"Because they're denied refugee status, Iraqis who are fleeing war are unable to apply for work, unable to access education, social services and healthcare," Flaherty said. "Children continue to be denied their rights, as their access to education and healthcare is sporadic at best."

Flaherty said the expanding presence of ISIS gives Christians and religious minorities no option but to flee their towns, seeking shelter in parks, schools, churches, cemeteries and mosques.

"They have three choices: stay and convert to Islam, pay an enormous tax or choose to be beheaded," Flaherty said. "They're living in limbo, trying to etch out

a survival from one day to the next."

According to Flaherty, the United States imposed sanctions on Iraq that were designed to oppose the government of Saddam Hussein. Consequently, the Iraqi people were deprived of basic necessities, and many died from diseases since there were no antibiotics available, she said.

"The people really couldn't get what they needed," Flaherty said. "About 5,000 Iraqi children were dying every month from these sanctions."

Flaherty said ISIS aims to promote attitudes of despair and desolation among innocent Iraqis, but she knows joy and mercy also exist.

"Certainly, Iraq's story has all the markings of a tragedy, and that's the only way many people will ever read it," Flaherty said. "We want you to see through our experience the resilience, the capacity, the talent, the irrepressible hope that continues to keep Iraq alive."

Farnan said she is blessed with the friendships of her Dominican sisters and other displaced Iraqis, for they teach her the importance of maintaining hope in all circumstances.

"This is a story of treasure, not only of tragedy," Farnan said. "Yes indeed, we have family in Iraq."

Contact Martha Reilly at
mreilly01@saintmarys.edu

Rome

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

also gone with Campus Ministry over the weekend to other churches in the city, among them all four of the major basilicas of the Catholic Church.

“Everyone comes from different experiences of faith and everyone came with different questions,” junior Emily David, the student minister in Rome, said. “That’s the beauty of a pilgrimage — you’re having your own experience of growth, but you’re helping each other.”

It was two hours before people would even be allowed to file into St. Peter’s Square. The Notre Dame students used the time to catch up — the line became a crowd as people moved up and down it, seeing some of their friends for the first time all semester.

At 8:30 a.m., the time St. Peter’s Square opened, approached, the crowd, now numbering in the hundreds, pressed together. “Don’t push!” a guard shouted in Italian, as the students were propelled, not of their own volition, toward the security booths set up between Bernini’s columns.

The bottleneck of metal barriers was partly due to heightened security following terrorist attacks in Brussels. The United

States Embassy in Rome had kept American universities and study abroad programs updated about potential threats, David said, and Campus Ministry had reiterated safety recommendations.

“There’s naturally a little fear in everybody, going to such a big event, but everyone still came, and that’s a clear sign that faith is stronger than fear,” David said.

Junior Aly Cox, who is studying in Rome, said she was still apprehensive about the size of the crowd.

“Honestly, I was a little scared the whole time that I was going to be a target at the event,” Cox said.

But the Notre Dame group made it safely inside, where they got seats — actual chairs — near a pathway where the Pope would later greet the crowd in his Popemobile. Then there was more waiting, as the square filled and ceremonially-dressed guards assembled. Students studying in Rome translated parts of the program and PA announcements in Italian for their friends.

After a Latin rosary, the crowd at St. Peter’s, now in the thousands, murmured and took pictures. Finally, a voice on an announcement system asked the churchgoers not to shout or wave flags once the Pope

appeared. Flags from many countries were certainly visible, ready to be waved when the Pope drove through the square.

A moment later, once the opening music had begun, Pope Francis emerged from the Holy Doors of St. Peter’s. Everyone leaned in with phones

“Everyone comes from different experiences of faith and everyone came with different questions. That’s the beauty of a pilgrimage — you’re having your own experience of growth, but you’re helping each other.”

Emily David
student minister

and zoom lenses, then sat back as the Mass begun, the Pope reciting the opening prayers in Spanish-tinged Latin.

The service itself reflected the faces and flags in the crowd. Prayers were in Latin (and a Gospel in Greek), but the scripture readings were in Spanish and French and the intentions

in English, German, Russian, Arabic and Chinese.

“It was probably the most actually global Mass I’d ever attended,” Cox said.

After the closing prayer, the crowd began to stand and cheer as television screens showed the Pope leaving the altar to climb into his open-cover Popemobile. The car moved through the square, past the people standing on chairs, with phones and cameras in the air, screaming the Pope’s name or just cheering. Pope Francis waved and blessed them, then slowly made his way back to St. Peter’s and, a moment later, emerged onto the balcony for his Easter address.

He spoke of infinite mercy, the love of God and the sacrifice of Jesus, which calls the faithful to show compassion towards the marginalized. He called for peace in Syria and between Israel and Palestine and in Ukraine. He called for an end to terrorism, wherever it was.

“May he draw us closer on this Easter feast to the victims of terrorism, that blind and brutal form of violence which continues to shed blood in different parts of the world, as in the recent attacks in Belgium, Turkey, Nigeria, Chad, Cameroon and Côte d’Ivoire,” Pope Francis said, according to a Vatican translation. “May

he water the seeds of hope and prospects for peace in Africa; I think in particular of Burundi, Mozambique, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and South Sudan, marked by political and social tensions.”

He also prayed for migrants and refugees and those affected by climate change, as well as “those in our society who have lost all hope and joy in life, to the elderly who struggle alone and feel their strength waning, to young people who seem to have no future.” And, with a final blessing and to the renewed cheers of the crowd, the Pope withdrew.

The Notre Dame students, along with thousands of others, spilled into the streets surrounding the square. Many of them would attend a reception later that evening at the Notre Dame Rome Global Gateway, and, the next day, would fly back to their study abroad locations or elsewhere for more traveling.

But the luck of attending the Mass was not lost on Cox.

“We got to go to Easter Mass, the highest Mass of the year, during a Jubilee Year, with the Pope, and with the Pope who’s probably going to be one of the most influential Popes of our lifetimes,” she said.

Contact Emily McConville at emcconv1@nd.edu

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Ricketts

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

it's also, as we're getting ready and giving them all these transition materials and prepping ... it's bittersweet," Ricketts said.

Ricketts said the inability to continue working on the many initiatives set forth by their administration is frustrating; however, he said he is excited to see how the next administration steps up.

"We're putting together these materials on issues that are going on — I keep saying 'Oh, I could do this,' but no, I can't anymore and that's hard," he said.

Ruelas said it has been a privilege to serve as vice president for the past academic year.

"I feel very proud of everything we've accomplished this year. We've had so many successes and failures. I think that in all of those, though, we've learned so much — about ourselves, about the people we work with — and I'd like to say that we've all grown, as individuals and as a group," she said.

In a high-pressure and result-driven environment, growth is something that is hard to quantify, Ruelas said.

"It's something you can't put a timeline on, you can't put any kind of measure or value on, but I feel very proud that we've come this far and been able to accomplish so much," she said.

Ricketts said he was happy with the execution of their campaign promise to promote sexual assault awareness.

"With the 'It's on Us' campaign out in the dorms and getting people talking about that and helping funnel them into the Green Dot program, I think we were very successful," he said. "I'm happy with the work we did on our board report, researching and walking with survivors of sexual violence, in particular with the conduct process and the Title IX process and what we needed to improve with that."

The University has promised to release the campus climate survey results from last year, which Ricketts said was a major success for his administration.

"I'm pretty happy on the transparency front as well," he said. "Getting the promise of releasing the survey was huge. I think that was one of, if not our biggest goal. That's all stuff to be proud of, I think."

Ruelas said the administration also made progress improving the climate at the University as it pertains to sexual assault.

"From the prayer services, and getting students to attend those, to asking people to think about being active bystanders and understanding that it's all on us as individuals to really make sure that we identify situations and step in ... we've created a culture of caring, all the time — even when it's the hardest thing to do," she said.

Ricketts said he has learned a lot about himself and grown as a leader during the past year.

"I understand a lot more about who I am and what I want to accomplish, but also how to do all that through relationships

— with the administrators, with the cabinet, with the people that aren't in student government at all. You go back to at the end of the day and ask for help, and all those relationships were key," Ricketts said.

Ruelas said she also learned about the importance of relationships, particularly hers with the student body.

"I've learned about how resilient we are as a student body, and how important that is to accomplishing our goals, and it really is that we hold each other accountable to a higher standard of character," she said. "I think that that's been super important, as we've had to learn for ourselves, and we've had to tap into that desire to always be better and that desire to always be the best people we can be."

As they leave office and the incoming Robinson-Blais administration takes over, Ricketts said he hopes that they have left a strong foundation, particularly in regards to the relationship between the University and South Bend.

"I know [that relationship] is a major focus of so many people, Corey and Becca included, but also so many people across the community, and we've tried to get the word out there about South Bend," Ricketts said. "... The future of Notre Dame is with the future of South Bend, and that's become evidently clear. I hope we've left a good foundation for that to grow on."

Contact Rachel O'Grady at rogrady@nd.edu

Robinson

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

with ideas, programming, events, relationships with the community."

Starting next week, the administration will launch a student senate reform initiative, Blais said, implementing a new structure that separates senators into four committees — health and wellness, sustainability, student affairs and community engagement. At each meeting, which will now be held Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m. in the Notre Dame Room of LaFortune Student Center, senators will spend a portion of the time in their committees discussing items on the agenda.

"Each senator would share the perspective not only of their committee, but of the departments they sit on, their residence halls, the constituents they represent," she said. "The small group discussion in the committee is not only to bring that committee's perspective, but also give them a chance to vocalize where they're coming from."

After committee discussions, Blais said all members of the senate will assemble to decide what action to take moving forward.

"Every committee will approach it in a different way, so it will be nice to spur dialogue and attack the same subject from different viewpoints," Robinson said.

Three days after the pair was elected in February, they met with St. Liam's to discuss their plan to train Notre Dame nurses as Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners (SANEs), Robinson said. Junior Gracie Watkins, the administration's policy liaison, is working on a research report to present to St. Liam's before the end of the school year.

"We've got to show that there's similar and successful satellite programs," Robinson said. "... We're going to give them the report. Then hopefully over the summer, we'll co-present it to St. Joseph Hospital, so that we're ready for the fall."

To further the administration's community engagement goal, student government is also working to increase student involvement in the Riverlights Music Festival, a three-day event in South Bend in May, Robinson said. The festival features a variety of local bands and other performers at various venues throughout the South Bend area.

"Hopefully we can make this not only a Notre Dame staple, but a South Bend music festival that is permanent," he said. "It's a really cool event for both college students and the people of South Bend."

Blais said their administration will continue to work on some of the same issues the Ricketts-Ruelas administration focused on, in small-scale and large-scale ways.

"They have a lot of similar ideas as us — diversity and inclusion, sexual assault — generally working towards those goals of making it better. Honestly, that's not something that ends with one administration. Those are things that we're carrying on," she said.

Robinson will be on campus over the summer, working on events and policies for the upcoming school year. He said he and Blais both have an open door policy and welcome students to share their ideas with student government.

"Right now what we have to do, in my opinion, is be able to foster communication on these important issues," he said. "We can't keep going around them, beating around the bush."

"Talking is great, but the most important thing we want to do is have a result — an attainable result. But we realize we can't get that tangible result in policy, unless we have discussion about it, unless we know what the students think."

Blais said she hopes to increase awareness about resources the University offers, such as the McDonald Center for Student Well-Being (McWell Center).

"We have all of these structures and resources in place," she said "Now it's just about making them accessible to students, making it a part of the everyday talk, everyday lingo, so you know that you have them and that you actually utilize them."

Robinson said he is trying to pursue goals that are realistic yet ambitious.

"For us, this is not necessarily doing anything different or reinventing the wheel. It's just continuing the great legacy already left," he said. "Diversity and inclusion, sexual assault, health and wellness — these things don't just disappear. We're trying to push it forward a little more, before we pass the torch on to the next administration."

Contact Katie Galioto at kgalioto@nd.edu

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INSIDE COLUMN

‘Boys will be boys’



Caitlyn Jordan
Photo Editor

The phrase “boys will be boys” has been long overused by many in today’s popular culture. The term often goes hand in hand with the thought that “boys will be boys and their hormones control their mind and body.” But I ask, how could anyone say that with such confidence? Every human being has hormones, both men and women. I’m not sure about you but my hormones do not send messages to my brain saying, “Go sexually assault someone, no matter what.” Hormones do not cause people to commit acts of sexual violence. But, how did we, as a society, end up having imbecilic phrases that clearly take blame off the male perpetrator?

We live in a world that produces mainstream “rape culture” media. Rape culture can be defined as the normalization of rape or other acts of sexual violence, usually depicted as male dominance over the female body. Think back to your favorite crime show. Often, the go-to storyline is, “a woman was violently raped.” Noticed how I phrased that? Another way media normalizes rape is taking the perpetrator out altogether from a crime. Rather than saying, “the perpetrator raped her,” or “the perpetrator committed a crime,” media often writes about the crime in a manner that seems to be induced by the victim: “The woman was raped,” or “A woman had a crime acted upon her.”

Now, here comes the disturbing part. Think of one of your favorite romantic comedies. Girl and guy fall in love and end up having sex. Next time, take a closer look at the sex scene (whoa, that’s something you don’t hear every day at a Catholic school). I’m serious though. How do the scenes start off? The man usually goes in for a hard kiss. Suddenly, the man slams the woman either up against the wall or onto a bed while ripping her clothes off. The woman never has a chance to say, “Take it easy,” or “No thank you!” Take the rom-com effect away from this scene and replace it with a SUV storyline: “Woman had her body thrown across the room while the man violently ripped her clothes off.” Same exact acts are happening. Rape culture normalization, my friend.

Rather than continuing to be angry with those who have used the phrase I mentioned, I pity them. I pity them for acceptance and use of the phrase. I pity them for the reason that we all will be continuously bombarded with rape normalization. However, I do not pity their ignorance. No. To pity ignorance gives power to the issue. We as Saint Mary’s and Notre Dame students cannot allow this power to reign. Rape will stop once we teach that excuses do not count as permission to perpetrate evil.

Contact Caitlyn Jordan at
cjorda01@saintmarys.edu

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

Lesson from a barista

Scott Tully
Guest Column

This past weekend, I was lucky enough to fly home to see my friends and family for Easter. On Monday, I bid farewell to them and to my dog and drove to my flight back to school, an afternoon departure from Boston’s Logan Airport.

This trip did not seem unique. I went through security as usual, found my gate and began to walk towards the nearest Starbucks before my plane boarded. What I found at this Starbucks was perhaps the most powerful scene in my recent memory.

As I reached the front of the line, a smiling Middle Eastern man met me with a smile, and, in his broken English, asked, “What is your name? What you like?”

“Scott. Venti black tea lemonade,” I replied, nearly automatically. The man removed a cup, took out a Sharpie and began to write my order. What happened next struck me.

He started with my name: S. C. O. T. “This correct?” he asked. “No,” I responded with a laugh. “There are two T’s at the end — S. C. O. T. T.” He immediately thanked me, and promptly added the second T. The exact same process continued through his spelling of the remainder of my order; he had me check each word. Black. Tea. Lemonade. If it was wrong, I corrected him; he always thanked me.

What had started as a near annoyance had become playful, an impromptu spelling bee in an airport Starbucks. When my order was complete at last, as he proudly handed my cup off, I asked this worker why he was so concerned with the spelling. Surely, I thought, this could not really matter — the attention to detail seemed irrelevant to me.

“I do not want this job always,” he responded. “I must learn English here. I have a family.”

I stood in my place, dumbfounded. After wishing him luck, I walked to my right to retrieve my drink. He started to take his next order. He started to spell his next word.

This man was building his new life one word at a time. Brick by brick, his future would be laid on the foundation of the American Dream. I believed this dream dead, and yet its embodiment stood joyfully behind the counter.

Sometimes, our privilege is our greatest

undoing. Too often we hear of immigrants in a negative light. Too often we assume those making less money do not work as hard as those in the upper rungs of society. Too often we are told the American Dream is dead.

What I found, on that day, was the antithesis of this. This man was stopping at no bounds to get ahead, to provide for his family and to live the Dream of the United States of America that many of us take for granted each and every day. He was not lazy, nor was he a “taker.” This man did not shirk in the face of adversity. Instead he dedicated each day to the betterment of himself and his family.

Let us all take a lesson from this. Millions, billions, of people would love to have the opportunities we have at our hands today, as students and Americans. This privilege is not to wield superiority over those holding less; achievement is non-binary.

Success comes in many forms. All people, regardless of race, ethnic background or socioeconomic status, can embody hard work. We each must recognize this reality. While those in the highest caste of society work hard, so too do the workers we all too often take for granted. In simply working his job the best way he knew how, this inconspicuous Starbucks worker taught me an incredible lesson.

We are in this life together. All of us can benefit from understanding what makes other tick, what they are working for and what drives them on a daily basis. Next time you see a person doing their job, disconsolate as it may be, showing up to work time and time again, pushing forward to better their life, pause. Think of their work, smile, ask how they are, find out what their story is — recognize they likely embody the same work ethic you do, even if their opportunity is less.

This compassion, this humanity, this drive is what makes our America great already. From janitors to investment bankers, doctors to fast food workers, recognize that a job does not define a story, a tax bracket does not define a work ethic and money does not define life. Americans can still dream — do so proudly.

Scott Tully is a junior in the Mendoza College of Business. He can be reached at stully@nd.edu

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

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Submit a Letter to the Editor to viewpoint@ndsmcobserver.com

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Decriminalize parietals

Throughout its nearly 200-year history, Notre Dame has stood as a bastion of moral righteousness and consecrated virginity in the face of the degradation of America's moral fabric. A central pillar to this effort has been the policy of parietals, which rightfully limits the degree of indecent contact between males and females on campus. Despite their status as the last hope for the preservation of chastity at our school, parietals have regrettably been eroded throughout our University's history. In the face of overwhelming disobedience and continued, unrestrained interaction between the sexes, we admit with utmost sorrow that the time for surrender has arrived: The University of Notre Dame has no further option but to decriminalize the institution of parietals.

While we have the highest respect for Notre Dame's attempts to restrict male-female interaction to solely "a total living and sharing together of two persons in marriage," the tide of secular indecency propagated by liberal Hollywood has made this noble stance unrealistic in the contemporary world. In the modern, aggressively godless language of liberal, man-hating, bra-less feminists, contact of any sort between the male and female sexes outside of the sacred institution of marriage is not only allowed, but encouraged. And from this notion spouts an endless stream of apparent "expectations" demanded by our student body: Talking to members of the opposite sex? Entering their dorms? And finally, the darkest of moral violations: Spending a night in the same room as a member of the opposite sex? Maybe even ... spooning ... without socks?!

As the old saying goes, when you don't walk your dog with a leash, it will think it can walk you. In a similar manner, women at this school, claiming they are subject to wildly disproportionate parietals enforcement and du Lac sentencing practices, have

started demanding equal implementation of parietals. What's next? Not harassing the LGBTQ community? Treating women like people? What are we, Canada?!

We are frightened, and we are scared. It goes without saying we are disgusted by even speaking of these possibilities, but we live in a "culturally Jewish" (read: secular) dominated nation where we have to consider them.

Unfortunately, in the sexually immoral landscape of modern times, we must take into account the words of leftist interest groups like Trojan Condoms over our own collective moral conscience. In the 2014 Sexual Health Report Card sponsored by Trojan Condoms (America's #1 Condom Trusted for Over 90 Years), Notre Dame was ranked among the bottom 15 universities. Meanwhile, Catholic colleges that have decriminalized male-female interaction on their campuses, such as Georgetown University and Boston College, ranked significantly higher than Notre Dame. Meanwhile, Providence College, which similarly — and commendably — maintains enforcement of its parietals, joins Notre Dame in the bottom 15. Georgetown has prioritized treatment over incarceration, helping burgeoning females and males interact with each other in a secular capacity. Although Georgetown is a tarnished institution full of unspeakable anti-traditional family debauchery, we humbly ask Notre Dame, in the face of overwhelming pressure that threatens our endurance as a university, to follow suit. We must eliminate the culture of self-victimization in our student body. Ever since the Vagina Monologues defiled this school, our women think they can discuss matters of their own sexuality openly. This culture of disobedience calls for decriminalization of parietals and subsequent rehabilitation — not penal retribution. They need our help. As the Sycamore Trust reminds us, there is hope!

A high-up administration official said (off the record — whoops!), "We are aware there are a plethora of issues that may be deemed of importance, such as decreasing the rates of sexual assault, not treating potheads like hell-bent terrorists and bringing berries to the dining halls — therefore, we have decided to not deal with any of this and focus all of our efforts on enforcing parietals in the female dorms on this campus."

While we agree ideologically, we are not the pre-Vagina Monologue institution that we once were. As Peter once spoke to the gentiles, so too must we speak to feminists. We can no longer avoid them and must, unfortunately, engage with them — and this can only be done by first decriminalizing parietals. In doing so, we prevent radicals from continuing their claims of victimization and move forward to the promise of moral redemption.

While we must wave our white flag in the battle of parietals, the war against unsacred gender relations can still be won. It is a sad concession, but we must face the reality of the times — we need to decriminalize parietals to rehabilitate — in the same way we have been forced to accept the cold hard facts of our favorite presidential candidate being the Zodiac Killer. Both are small but necessary setbacks; just as Ted Cruz may still realize his dreams of world domination, so too can Notre Dame restore its Catholic identity — by not giving Joe Biden the Laetare Medal.

Natasha Reifenberg
sophomore
Badin Hall

John Haley
sophomore
St. Edward's Hall
March 31

Undermining the Notre Dame identity

The recent announcement of the recipients of the Laetare Medal has caused us great concern. As the Notre Dame Right to Life Club, our mission is to "promote and uphold the sanctity of all human life from conception until natural death [...] in the spirit of the Catholic Church." We would like to address why the decision of the University to bestow the award on Vice President Joe Biden and former Speaker of the House John Boehner does not align with our efforts as a club, the mission of the University and the Catholic faith.

The question we want to present is: how can it be justifiable to present an award given "in recognition of outstanding service to the Church and society" to individuals who directly oppose the Church's teachings? Vice President Biden has supported pro-choice politics, the death penalty and therapeutic cloning of embryos. While former Speaker of the House John Boehner is pro-life on the issue of abortion, he too has supported the death penalty.

In "Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship: A Call to Political Responsibility," from the Conference of Catholic Bishops of the United States, the Bishops of the United States said: "The Church calls for a different kind of political engagement: one shaped by the moral convictions of well-formed consciences and focused on the dignity of every human being ... We should be guided more by our moral convictions than by our attachment to a political party or interest group. When necessary, our participation should help transform the party to which we belong; we should not let the party transform us in such a way that we neglect or deny fundamental moral truths or approve intrinsically evil acts. We are called to bring together our principles and our

political choices, our values and our votes, to help build a civilization of truth and love."

As someone who considers himself a practicing Catholic, Vice President Biden has stated regarding the issue of abortion, "I accept my church's position that life begins at conception. That's the church's judgment. I accept it in my personal life ... I just refuse to impose that on others." In so doing, Biden has appeared to be guided more by his attachment to a political party than by his moral convictions. He has placed a desire for political correctness and avoidance of conflict above a commitment to fundamental Catholic truths.

Just this past year in the presence of the United States Congress and both politicians in question, Pope Francis called for a "global abolition of the death penalty ... [for] every life is sacred, every human person is endowed with inalienable dignity and society can only benefit from the rehabilitation of those convicted of crimes." Contrary to this concept of human dignity, former Speaker Boehner voted against The Second Chance Act of 2007 (H.R.1593), which was meant to expand reentry programming for offenders and their families and to enhance drug treatment and mentoring grant programs for federal inmates. Earlier in his career, Boehner voted in favor of the Effective Death Penalty Act of 1995 and also voted against an amendment to the Effective Death Penalty and Public Safety Act of 1996, which sought to protect the right of state death row prisoners to habeas corpus, an important protection against wrongful imprisonment. This disregard for the human and constitutional rights of each human life, including prisoners, is inconsistent with both Catholic teaching and what it truly means to be pro-life.

The University's reasoning for honoring Biden and Boehner with the award is the following: "In recognizing both men, Notre Dame is not endorsing the policy positions of either, but celebrating two lives dedicated to keeping our democratic institutions working for the common good through dialogue focused on the issues and responsible compromise." We acknowledge and understand the University's intentions of working against political polarization; however, encouraging healthier political discourse cannot lead to compromising our belief in the sanctity of all human life from conception until natural death.

We believe that, by awarding the Laetare Medal to these leaders, the University has in fact compromised its Catholic identity. Disregarding the sanctity of life violates a very fundamental principle of Catholic moral and social teaching. The medal bears the Latin inscription, "Magna est veritas et prevalebit," which translates to "Truth is mighty, and it shall prevail." How can we bestow "the most prestigious award for Catholics in America" to leaders who fail to protect the weakest and most vulnerable, a basic element of justice and a fundamental truth of the Catholic faith?

As the Notre Dame Right to Life Club we are in disagreement with and saddened by the choice of the University to award Joe Biden and John Boehner with the Laetare Medal. We ask that the University live up to its Catholic identity and the purpose of this prestigious award and please reconsider its decision.

Notre Dame Right to Life Club
March 25

AN INTERVIEW WITH PARKER MILLSAP,

AN EMERGING VOICE IN AMERICA

By **KELLY McGARRY**
Scene Writer

I was already looking forward to the Old Crow Medicine Show's concert at the Morris Performing Arts Center in South Bend on Friday (look out for our coverage of the event in Monday's paper), but recently, I discovered a new reason to be excited for the show: an opening performance by Parker Millsap, an emerging folk musician from Oklahoma.

A focus on mature themes and raspy vocals have gained the 23-year-old singer-songwriter a reputation for being "beyond his years." Yet, in a telephone interview with the Observer from his home in Nashville, Tennessee, Millsap spoke with a youthful, honest-sounding demeanor, as he prepared for South by Southwest.

This is an exciting time for the young musician, as he anticipated the release of his apocalyptic sophomore album "The Very Last Day." He compared the album to his previous work candidly.

"It's different. I don't know if 'heavier' is the right word, it sounds so pretentious," he laughed. "There's more electric guitar, there's more percussion. It's a little more layered than the last record." His distinctions became clear with the album's release on March 25.

A humble, laid-back style underlies the album's production.

"It was just me and my friends hanging out in Louisiana for two weeks," Millsap said. "We lived in the studio, we ate good food. It was like vacation. We played music all day." Still, the weighty

subjects on the album come across with intensity.

Millsap remembers church as his first outlet for playing music with other people, and later helped him blend influences.

"I was exposed to a lot of blues early on, and then really quickly drew the line between gospel music, like the hymnals that we sang in church, and blues music; there's something similar about those," he recalled. The hymnals left their mark on his style of music, but he looks at religious themes with clear eyes. "I was raised in a Pentecostal home. I wouldn't call it strictly religious. We didn't have cable TV but that was more of a financial decision than a moral one," he said, once again with a laugh.

His background fostered a love of folk and Americana, but it also contrasts with his current lifestyle.

"There are things I miss about Oklahoma; Oklahoma moves at a slower pace," he said. "Nashville — while not Los Angeles or New York City — it is a city. I'm from a town of about 75 hundred [people]. Things move faster [in Nashville] — that takes getting used to. But I also love how green it is here. Plants have an easier time growing here than they do in Oklahoma." His career has had an easier time growing there, too.

When asked about his recent sources of inspiration, Millsap spoke admirably of Bob Dylan.

"He put out these two records in the 90s that are these old folk songs," he

said. "The story is he recorded them in his garage. He had two records left on his contract and he wanted to get out of the contract, so he just did 'em in his garage over a few days. But they're great." Millsap's inspiration from this style is evident in his covers of folk songs, such as "You Gotta Move," on the new record.

The upcoming show at the Morris Performing Arts Center will be another in a string of shows in which Millsap has opened for Old Crow Medicine Show. He previously accompanied the group on their European tour.

"It was our first experience really with a tour manager. We sound kind of high class," he joked. "Just everything about it. You drive on the wrong side of the road. So much of touring life is about where are the good restaurants and that kind of thing and having a tour manager who can manage that. Also, just being in Europe where it's a little more diverse as far as food goes. A lot of it's more healthy, or locally grown at least. The crowds were hilarious." He shied away from describing the wildest crowds with a "You don't wanna know."

In addition to their tours with Old Crow Medicine Show, Millsap and his band have toured the United States playing at many diverse shows.

"I like playing at all different kinds of venues," he said. "That's kind of the fun of touring. We played at anything from a weight room to an RV park, but then we've also played to 15 thousand people in Jackson Hole Wyoming on the Fourth of July. We've done a bunch of weird gigs, I like 'em all."

After visiting many different places, Millsap cites his favorite as New Orleans, along with the surprising choice of Missoula, Montana.

"People show up to gigs and they're pumped about it," he said. "It's also kind of a cowboy town, like a Western movie. We pulled up to a gig the last time we played there — it's like three o'clock in the afternoon on a Tuesday, and these six cowboys come barreling out of this bar [and] the cops wheel around the corner with their lights on. Feels like a Western movie." The story sounds like it could have come out of one of Millsap's own songs.

Having supported notable artists of widely varying styles, such as Houndmouth and Patty Griffin, Millsap identified Alabama Shakes as the one band he would love to tour with in the future.

"I love their new record," he gushed, citing "Gimme All Your Love" and "Gemini" as favorite tracks. In the festival scene, Millsap said that he hopes to perform at Telluride Festival in Colorado, noting his focus toward bluegrass.

At the upcoming show, Millsap will be joined by upright bassist Michael Rose, who he has played with since they were in junior high, and fiddle player Daniel Foulks. Playing a mix of old and new tracks, the trio hopes to win over the Old Crow Medicine Show crowd, and, as Millsap joked, "steal their business."

Contact Kelly McGarry at kmcgarry@nd.edu

"IT WAS OUR FIRST EXPERIENCE REALLY WITH A TOUR MANAGER. WE SOUND KIND OF HIGH CLASS"

-PARKER MILLSAP

SONGS FOR SPRING: BIRDY'S "BEAUTIFUL LIES"

By **NORA MCGREEVY**
Scene Writer

Jasmine van den Bogaerde, a 19-year-old singer-songwriter from Hampshire, England, who goes by the stage name "Birdy," released her third studio album this past Friday, achieving in her still-young music career what other musicians can only dream of.

To put this major achievement in context: as an almost-19-year-old myself, my victory of the week was to successfully remove coffee stains from a shirt without calling my mom for advice. To each her own.

Birdy's relative youth, however, is only one of the many reasons that this work is so impressive. Titled "Beautiful Lies," this album marks a significant milestone in Birdy's artistic development — it is the first of her albums that does not include any cover. The poignant melodies, the exhilarating beat-of-your-own-drum pop anthems and even the mystical cover art all ooze "Birdy." Unmistakably her own, "Beautiful Lies" forcefully demonstrates Birdy's skills and her confidence as a musician.

The new album includes a range of styles, including a few upbeat, synth-filled anthems ("Keeping Your Head Up" and "Wild Horses," both released as singles prior to the full album) alongside much more somber selections,

varying from the uncertain "Deep End" to the outright heartbreaking "Lost It All." Birdy claims that the album was influenced by her trip to Japan; while it's not overt, one can detect subtle movements in "Growing Pains" and "Take My Heart," especially, that evoke an Eastern influence.

Birdy's voice, however, easily outshines every instrument. With its rich cadence and serene concentration, Birdy's vocals are a consistent paradox: poignant yet a bit lofty in "Keeping Your Head Up," strong and clear even in moments of tender vulnerability in "Beautiful Lies." The depth of her sound and impressive range make every melody exciting, even if, like in the slight regression of "Lifted," the song itself feels a bit worn out.

Thematically, "Beautiful Lies" deals with timeworn concepts such as loss of love, heartbreak and starting over, but in a surprisingly nuanced and mature fashion. "Keeping Your Head Up" carries on like an old friend, versed in the ways of dealing with overwhelming sadness. Birdy comforts with lines like "Everyone keeps a darker place / To lose control, you're not alone / And when you come looking for embrace / I know your soul; I'll be your home." Meanwhile, "Deep End" evokes the nebulous, terrific uncertainty preceding a breakup: "I don't know if you mean everything to

me / and I wonder, can I give you what you need?"

This is primarily an album of healing, evidenced by the fact that Birdy reserves space for herself to grieve, as well. "Beautiful Lies," the personal title track, immortalizes that drastic moment of denial before the end of a relationship: "Tell me beautiful lies / cover my eyes with your hands / Just pretend we're better." In these lines, Birdy cries plaintively, her voice close to breaking. Yet all of this grief and doubt is filtered through a mostly optimistic lens, especially showcased in "Wild Horses," a powerful ode to self-sufficiency. She sings — almost shouts — with joy piercing through the sadness, as bass thumps and cymbals clash: "I will survive and be the one who's stronger / I will not beg you to stay!"

"Beautiful Lies" focuses on individual recovery. It's fitting, then, that Birdy's finest artistic moments are those quiet ones in which her magical voice works alone. Stripped of background noise save for an accompanying piano or violin, her vocals shine. Perhaps the best example of this comes in "Unbroken," a tender lullaby where Birdy croons in a near-whisper: "Many moons will lighten the way / And sure this night will follow a day / and everything you once loved remains / unbroken, unbroken."

I can't speak for the weather in the

United Kingdom this time of year, but I can say with certainty that in South Bend, Indiana, Birdy's album strikes the perfect tone for the season. It is a transitional album, just as late March and early April in Indiana mark the beginning of the unpredictable changeover from winter to spring. Birdy, on the precipice of recovery but not quite there yet, finds herself torn between looking back and looking forward. In the album, she accurately captures this confounding messiness of the healing process. Ultimately, in "Keeping Your Head Up," she offers words of comfort that echo the coming of spring: "Hold tight — you're slowly coming back to life."

Contact Nora McGreevy at
nmcgreev@nd.edu

"Beautiful Lies"

Birdy

Label: Atlantic

Tracks: "Unbroken," "Beautiful Lies"

If you like: Bon Iver, Adele, Florence + The Machine



GOOD ENERGY
POSITIVE ENERGY

WRITE FOR SCENE.
EMAIL US AT
scene@ndsmcobserver.com

CROSSWORD | WILL SHORTZ

- ACROSS**
1 "Hold on, why am I being dragged into this?"
16 Last single blasts?
17 Unlikely to develop clothing lines?
18 Filched
19 2007 Oscar winner Swinton
20 Wildlife
23 Twin or triplet
26 San Francisco's _____ Tower
27 Bear in "The Jungle Book"
28 Resign
30 Salem-to-Portland dir.
31 Classic brand with a bunny mascot
32 Choices for poachers
34 Crop-killing caterpillars
- 36 Rock icon for whom a Manhattan block is named
39 Key target of resolution
43 Massachusetts' Cape _____
44 Filched
45 It's lighter than mustard
46 It has its limits, briefly
48 Burn prevention meas.
49 Like some debts
50 "I'm gone!"
52 It's bound to leave the field
53 Does some flattering
60 Poke on Facebook, say
61 Relaxes
- DOWN**
1 Ring grp.
2 Part of a crack response?
3 One in a pack

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

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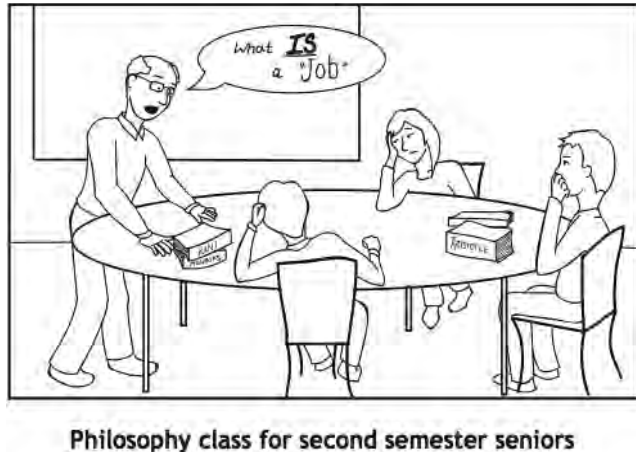
- Puzzle by TIM CROCE
- 38 Eschews the draft?
40 Relative of a fjord
41 Its 49-Down is about 200 meters
42 Chose, perhaps
45 Riots
47 "Left" or "right" group, in math
- 49 Shooting statistic
51 Lacking
52 Old 58-Down capital
54 It's "really lookin' fine" in a 1964 hit
55 58-Down article
- 56 Jack of "The Green Berets," 1968
57 Touchdown stat
58 Eur. land
59 Places with vital monitors, in brief

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JUST ADD WATER | JOHN RODDY & ERIC CARLSON



FLING BY SPRING | RILEY McCURRIE



SUDOKU | THE MEPHAM GROUP

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SOLUTION TO THURSDAY'S PUZZLE 10/5/12

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

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HOROSCOPE | EUGENIA LAST

Happy Birthday: A watchful eye will be necessary when dealing with your reputation, status and getting ahead. You'll face competition that will not play fair. Your precision and dedication will help you overcome anyone who tries to mess with you. Honor and glory will be your ticket to victory. Change is inevitable and preparation will be essential. Choose your battles wisely. Your numbers are 5, 13, 22, 24, 31, 37, 46.

Birthday Baby: You are practical, impatient and secretive. You are opportunistic and bold.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Be careful not to push someone who is likely to push back. Be willing to work alongside your competition and you will gain respect. Let your discipline and energetic enthusiasm shine and you'll be hard to beat. ★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Be brave and express your thoughts and plans. Don't be afraid to try something new or to get involved in an unusual event or activity. The outcome will be enlightening and give you food for thought. Romance is on the rise. ★★★★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Helping someone out is fine, but if you loan out cash, it could ruin your friendship and leave you holding a bad debt. A secretive approach to something you want to develop will enable you to reach your goal without interference.★★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You'll be tempted to help someone who has a sob story. Back up and rethink your position. You will gain far more if you put your effort in to your own ideas rather than someone else's. Romance will enhance your personal life. ★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Check out the online job market and something will grab your attention and spark an idea that will enable you to advance. Finding ways to entertain your peers or employer will put you in the running for a cushy position. ★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Don't give in to personal conflict. Take care of business before you opt to have fun. Reassure those who put demands on you that you will take part when the time is right. Offering alternative incentives will lead to help, not hindrance. ★★★★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Don't let emotional matters cloud your vision. Make a point to learn something that will help you move in a positive direction and improve your chances of getting ahead. A business partnership will lead to an interesting alternative. ★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): An old friend will play a role in a creative endeavor you want to pursue. Offering to help one another will pay off and make your quest for success much easier. Romance will enhance your day. ★★★★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Don't leave anything unfinished or you will face complaints. Someone will be eager to make you look bad. Add to your comfort at home and make sure to take the time to enjoy your hobbies and friends.★★★

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Don't give in to someone's demands or pushiness. Stand your ground and make it clear what you believe is best for you. Put your thoughts on paper and draw up an agreement if necessary. Better to be safe than sorry. ★★

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Recognize and market your skills. What you have to offer can bring in extra cash and change the way people view you. Home improvements should be geared toward making a space conducive to getting a project up and running. ★★

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Know what you want, but go about getting it in a diplomatic manner. Being too forceful will invite arguments and opposition. Try to attract opportunity by offering incentives to the people you need help from. ★★

JUMBLE | DAVID HOYT AND JEFF KNUREK

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

FWULA
SKNUT
CADEEF
SEMRUE

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

I can barely type. You need to stay in bed the next two days.

GETTING THE FLU ON A FRIDAY MAKES FOR THIS.

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

Answer here: A " " (Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: FAITH SCARF SCARCE WAFFLE
Answer: Careless drivers can end up — "CAR-LESS"

WORK AREA

CLASSIFIEDS

The Observer accepts classifieds every business day from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Notre Dame office, 024 South Dining Hall. Deadline for next-day classifieds is 3 p.m. All classifieds must be prepaid. The charge is 5 cents per character per day, including all spaces. The Observer reserves the right to edit all classifieds for content without issuing refunds.

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SPORTS AUTHORITY

UConn's success can't be criticized



Alex Carson

Assistant Managing Editor

Both the Syracuse men's and women's basketball programs are headed for the Final Four.

And I'm not sure which run is more surprising.

Simply comparing seeds would indicate the men's team is the answer. Given a No. 10 seed at the start of the tournament, the Orange became just the fourth double-digit seed to reach the Final Four since seeding began.

Unlike the men, the Syracuse women were one of the better teams in their regional field. Seeded fourth, the Orange hosted the first and second rounds of the tournament, before heading to Sioux Falls, South Dakota, where they punched their first-ever ticket to the Final Four.

And that's where the unlikely-ness comes in. Most sports fans know that women's college basketball has been dominated by the teams at the top — 2015 was the second time in four seasons every No. 1 seed made the Final Four — and the teams on the biggest stage are, by and large, known quantities.

But 2016 has been an outlier. In addition to the Orange, No. 2-seeded Oregon State and Washington, a No. 7 seed, are making their first ever trips to the Final Four.

On one hand, you have Connecticut, the No. 1 overall seed and three-time defending champion, and on the other, you have the most parity the women's game has maybe ever seen.

It's an odd juxtaposition, especially when framed in the context of the national debate, where columnists and fans are rushing to produce the "hottest" takes on Connecticut's domination, which came to the forefront after a 98-38 Sweet 16 win last weekend.

Dan Shaughnessy's assertion that UConn's success is "killing" the women's game has taken a significant amount of heat — and for good measure.

Because at the end of the day, where so many programs have caught up to the lead in the women's game — see Oregon State, who didn't make the tournament for nearly 20 years before entering the field in 2014 — UConn's stayed a step, or two, ahead of everyone else.

What's so bad about that?

Sure, that 60-point win isn't the greatest thing for the women's game, but where was the outrage when Kentucky blasted West Virginia by 39 in last year's men's Sweet 16? Or what about when Tiger Woods won the 2000 U.S. Open by 15 strokes?

The best historical context we

have for Connecticut's dominance surely has to be John Wooden's UCLA teams, that won 10 of 12 titles and seven straight during the 1960s and 1970s. They were some of the greatest teams in sports history, sure, but we obviously don't sit here in 2016 talking about how those Bruins "ruined" college basketball for good.

The men's game 40 or 50 years ago was, in many ways, where the women's game is today. Let's recognize that.

Where the men's game grew predominantly during the first few decades of the 1900s, the women's one didn't get a proper start until the 1970s, when the Association for Intercollegiate Athletics for Women (AIAW)-sponsored tournaments started to pick up steam. Take both of those dates out 40 years, and the dominance of UCLA matches up fairly well with what we're seeing right now from Connecticut.

But despite what UCLA did, of course, the rest of the country eventually caught up. I mean, consider this: From 1956 through 1976, one-third of champions finished the season undefeated — the first was San Francisco in 1956, with the last being the 1976 Indiana team.

No squad has done it in the 40 years since.

In the last 21 years of the women's game? Exactly eight teams have completed an undefeated, championship-winning season.

Granted, Connecticut is the heavy favorite to do it once more, but there's ample evidence for the thought that its dominance won't continue for longer — especially given Breanna Stewart, the best player to ever grace the women's collegiate game, will exhaust her eligibility this weekend. Taking Stewart and Moriah Jefferson out of the equation next year will make those Huskies more vulnerable, and with more parity on the recruiting scene than ever, could spell the end of the dominance.

But what if it happens Sunday or Tuesday? If Oregon State, Syracuse or Washington pulls off the upset in Indianapolis, it'll be one of the biggest sports stories in years. The "Miracle on Ice" would've been nothing if the Soviet Union hadn't been so good.

So let's take a step back from the "killing the game" talk and implore everyone else to, you know, get better.

And history says they will.

Contact Alex Carson at acarson1@nd.edu

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

TRACK & FIELD

Barber, Birzer dominate at Yellow Jacket Intivational

By MAREK MAZUREK

Sports Editor

After the women's team placed fifth in the NCAA indoor championships to end Notre Dame's indoor season, both Irish squads opened their outdoor seasons last weekend at the Yellow Jacket Invitational and the Raleigh Relays. With both competitions being held on March 25 and 26, Notre Dame's sprinters participated in the Invitational, while the long-distance runners traveled to the Relays.

Notre Dame's top performer of the weekend was graduate student Kaila Barber, who took first place in both the 100-meter and 400-meter hurdles at the Yellow Jacket Invitational. Barber's time for the 100-meter hurdles was 13.04 seconds, while she completed the 400-meter hurdles in 57.53. Barber was named the ACC Performer of the Week on Tuesday for her performance.

Sophomore Jordan Shead also competed in the 400-meter hurdles, finishing behind Barber in sixth place with a time of 1:00.04.

Shead and Barber took third place in the women's 4x400-meter relay alongside sophomores Payton Miller and Parker English.

Freshman Kyla Lewis replaced Shead for the 4x100-meter relay, where the Irish finished fifth with a time of 46.01.

In the field events at the Yellow Jacket Invitational, freshman Matthew Birzer took fourth place in the high jump with a height of 2.05 meters. Birzer finished second at the ACC indoor championships and said his most recent performance is not indicative of his full potential.

"I would have liked to have done better," Birzer said. "It was a little bit frustrating. I jumped [7' 1"] at the conference meet and came out and jumped 6' 8.25", I think it was. Things just weren't quite clicking right. It's hard to be too disappointed — since it's the first meet of the outdoor season, I haven't jumped in a month, but ideally, I would have done better."

Going forward, Birzer said he plans to get his jumps in a more even range.

"I'm looking to get more consistent," Birzer said. "My jump at [the ACC] conference [championships] was three and a half inches better than I've ever jumped before. So if I can consistently get 6' 11", 7' — that would be great."

At the Raleigh Relays, freshman

Rachel DaDamio led the way with a sixth place finish in the 1,500-meter run with a time of 4:24.85. Junior Lexi Pelletier and sophomore Ashlyn Rambo also crossed the finish line in 40th and 47th place, respectively, in the event.

The Yellow Jacket Invitational and the Raleigh Relays marked the first events of Notre Dame's outdoor season, which will continue this weekend at the Stanford Invitational in Palo Alto, California. As the outdoor season picks up, Birzer said the team will look to increase its intensity.

"Outdoors, it's a different season," Birzer said. "We've taken close to a month off for a lot of us. So it's a lot of time off, things go away in that time, so we're getting back into it, and outdoors is a beast in and of itself. A lot of the groups right now are training a lot harder just because we are looking towards that end goal, which is a month down the line... conference, regionals and then nationals."

The Irish will compete in the Stanford Invitational starting Friday.

Contact Marek Mazurek at mmazurek@nd.edu

ND WOMEN'S GOLF

Irish look to regain momentum in Greensboro

By TOBIAS HOONHOUT

Sports Writer

The Irish travel south this weekend to Greensboro, North Carolina for the Bryan National Collegiate Tournament with a chip on their shoulder, after a 11th-place showing at the LSU Tiger Classic last week saw the team end its streak of 17 consecutive top-ten finishes.

At the Classic, Notre Dame finished with a total score of 70-over par 934 over three rounds. The team was led by senior captain Talia Campbell, who tied for 14th out of 96 competitors with a 12-over-par 228, giving the Dallas native her 19th career team-leading finish. With this finish, Campbell is now tied with former player Becca Huffer for second most team-leading finishes in team history. Junior Jordan Ferreira tied for 31st with a 16-over-par 232. Coincidentally, both players were the only two in the young Irish lineup who had played at the Tiger Classic before.

"LSU is a really tough golf course, and the conditions were very difficult," Irish head coach Susan Holt said. "Across the board, scores were high and a lot of good teams played bad, and we

just happened to be one of them. I think it exposed some of the weaknesses the girls have in their games, and this past week we've just been focusing on improving those areas."

After a week and a half of preparation, Holt thinks the team has moved on and is ready for the opportunity in Greensboro.

"I think they've put it in their rear view mirror. It happens — I mean, all teams have an off-day or an off-tournament," she said. "I haven't read much into it, and based on how we played [Thursday] in the practice round, I think we've moved past it. We worked on what we needed to in order to make improvements, and I think they're ready to rebound and have a good performance this weekend."

The team heads into this weekend unranked and will match up against familiar ACC opponents No. 20 Virginia, No. 21 Florida State, North Carolina State and Wake Forest. Holt said the Irish are confident in their ability to perform well in the face of such familiar opposition.

"We've beaten a lot of these teams this year already, and I think this is a great opportunity for us at this point in time to have

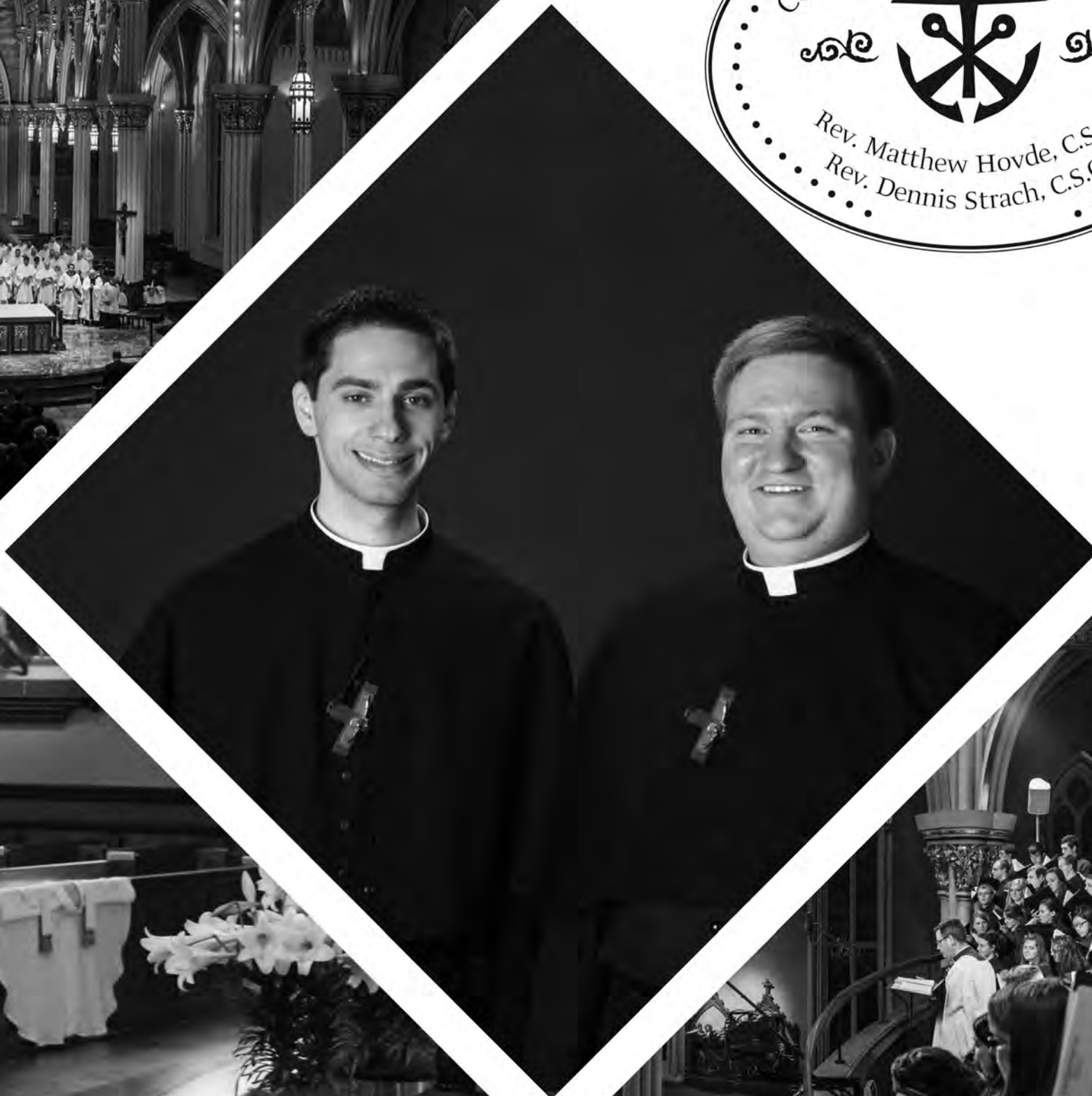
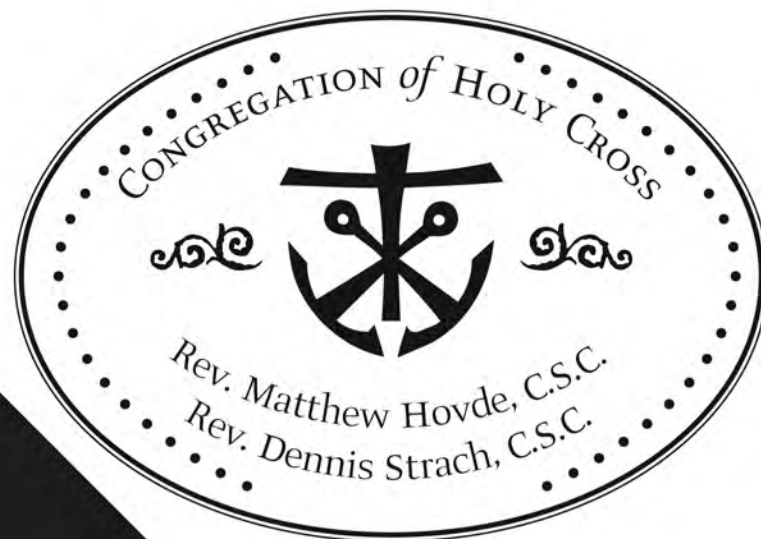
another look at those teams and see where we're at nationally," Holt said. "It will be a good measuring stick to see where we're at."

With ACC Championships around the corner, this is the perfect time for the Irish to get in last-minute preparation. The team lineup is headlined by Campbell, who currently has a career-low 73.09 stroke average for the year. Following her is Ferreira and rounding out the squad is the freshmen trio of Emma Albrecht, Maddie Rose Hamilton, and Isabella DiLisio. Holt said her team is confident going into the weekend's tournament.

"If we come out of it on the other side having played well, it can't do anything but boost our confidence," Holt said. "The reason why I come to this tournament every year now that we are in the ACC is because it is the same type of terrain and grass that we are going to see at the ACCs in two weeks, so I think it'll be a great preparation for that."

The tournament will take place this weekend from in Greensboro with the first round slated to begin at 8:30 a.m. Friday.

Contact Tobias Hoonhout at thoonhou@nd.edu



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W Lacrosse

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

ability to create possessions for her team.

"We are going to battle, once again, against one of the top draw specialists in the country in Sammy Jo Tracy," Halfpenny said. "She's doing a great job on the draw, self-drawing to herself, creating a lot of possessions for North Carolina in that regard. So we're going to have to have our team strategy back at it again, utilize all of our weapons on the draw as well as on the circle, and then play our game. We're going to have to stay focused on our game for a full 60 minutes against a great North Carolina team."

Halfpenny added her team had been focusing on the draw and has been improving throughout the season.

"I think that our draw game is just getting better and better," Halfpenny said. "It's an area that I know we've focused on heavily, using not just our athleticism but really honing in on our skills, as well as us working with our teammates, really communicating, staying focused on the ball and ourselves. I think that's been a huge takeaway lately."

The Irish come into the game after a 17-9 win Monday over Marquette, led by a strong second half where the Irish outscored the Golden Eagles (3-7, 0-0



GRACE TOURVILLE | The Observer

Irish senior attack Kiera McMullan makes a pass during Notre Dame's 16-4 victory over Virginia on March 19 at Arlotta Stadium.

Big East) 7-2. Halfpenny said her team's offensive performance in recent games has been a particular highlight.

"The opportunities we're giving ourselves on the ball have been great," Halfpenny said. "We just have a really, really great, high-octane offense that's doing a nice job of being proactive and aggressive at the goal. Those are some things that I'm really proud of, getting great looks. At Marquette, we got back to 50 percent shooting

— that's where we want to be to reach our end goal, so I'm excited to build on that, and just coming back to defense, the plays we're making on defense to give ourselves more possessions has been really exciting to see, so I'm really proud of that, as well."

The game will begin at noon Saturday at Fetzer Field in Chapel Hill, North Carolina.

Contact Daniel O'Boyle at doboyle1@nd.edu

ND SOFTBALL

Notre Dame to resume ACC play, take on Florida State

By RYAN KLAUS
Sports Writer

No. 20 Notre Dame returns to action this weekend when it welcomes No. 8 Florida State for a three-game weekend conference series.

The Irish (25-5, 4-2 ACC) are coming off a 5-0 midweek victory over IPFW. Junior pitcher Rachel Nasland won her ninth game of the season after pitching three scoreless innings and senior third baseman Michaela Arizmendi led the way for the Irish offensively with a home run and two RBIs. The game was called in top of the seventh inning due to a thunderstorm, and with the victory, the Irish extended their home non-conference winning streak to 16.

Nasland's nine wins ranks second on the team behind only senior Allie Rhodes, who has 11. Nasland does, however, lead the team with a 1.42 ERA and has accumulated 60 strikeouts on the season. Rhodes leads the team with 93 punch outs.

The games against the Seminoles (26-3, 6-0 ACC) will be Notre Dame's first conference tilts since last weekend's three-game series against Syracuse. Against the Orange (16-15, 3-6), the Irish won one of three games. The loss to the Orange snapped Notre Dame's 19-game winning streak.

"Of course, I feel like every conference game is important," Irish head coach Deanna Gumpf said. "Right now my big thing is playing good, strong, solid, consistent softball."

Florida State's previous action against Central Florida was postponed due to weather and the Seminoles' last games were against North Carolina last weekend. Florida State swept the weekend series against the Tar Heels and has not lost a game since February.

"[It's important we] have great at-bats and make sure we're hitting pitches we want to hit and not getting caught up in their pitchers game," Gumpf said. "They're a very good team, they make things happen, and we really have to

focus on what we're doing and not so much what they're doing. If we focus on what we're doing we're going to be just fine."

Against Florida State, Notre Dame will look for continued production from the Wester sisters. Junior centerfielder Karley Wester and freshman second baseman Ali Wester currently lead the team in batting average, at .461 and .436 respectively. The pair also lead the Irish in hits at 53 and 44, and Karley Wester recently became the youngest Irish player to reach 200 hits. Karley Wester also leads the team with 27 stolen bases on 30 attempts this year; Ali Wester is a prefect 14-of-14 on stolen base attempts.

The weekend series is set to begin Saturday at 1 p.m. at Melissa Cook Stadium. The first game will be followed by a second matchup at 3 p.m. The series will culminate with a game at noon Sunday.

Contact Ryan Klaus at rklaus1@nd.edu

M Lacrosse

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

are pivotal for post-season seeding. After their win against the Orange last year, the Irish went on to win three straight, including wins against then No. 7 Duke and No. 2 North Carolina. The late-season win streak helped the Irish earn the No. 1 seed in the ACC tournament.

"This game is very important to our season, especially because it's an ACC match-up," sophomore attack Mikey Wynne said. "We go out and expect our best effort to win every game, so if we get anything less, we'll be disappointed. This game's result does not define our season by any means, but it would be a nice step in the direction that we want to go."

If the top-10 matchup headline wasn't enough, both the Irish and Orange will be led by two of today's most prominent college players. Senior attack Matt Kavanagh is third in the nation in points with 193 among active players and Orange senior attack Dylan Donahue is in second with 199 points. In last season's matchup, Donahue scored seven goals to force the

contest into overtime.

"[When I think of Dylan Donahue], I think of a great player who is smart and plays within his game," Wynne said. "He is so consistent and makes the plays that need to be made in order for Syracuse to succeed. I respect his game and like the way he plays."

Donahue leads Syracuse this season with 33 points, including 20 assists and 13 goals. The Camillus, New York native led the Orange to a strong 5-0 start before dropping the last two contests to No. 9 Johns Hopkins, and No. 11 Duke in overtime. Syracuse has not lost three straight games since 2007.

"This is a Syracuse team with some new faces and some familiar ones from last year," junior goalie Shane Doss said. "Playing at their stadium will be a tough challenge, and they are coming off of two tough losses, so they'll be hungry for a win."

Notre Dame is coming off of two wins that were decided by just one goal against unranked opponents, but despite these close contests, the Irish are confident that their play is only getting better as the regular season comes to a close. The Irish has the nation's top-ranked defense,



CAITLYN JORDAN | The Observer

Sophomore midfielder Pierre Byrne tries to escape a Virginia defender during Notre Dame's 8-7 overtime victory on March 19 at Arlotta Stadium. Byrne has appeared in six games this season, recording one assist.

allowing just 6.57 goals per game. That ranking will be challenged Saturday against the fourth-ranked Orange offense, which is averaging 13.86 goals per game.

"We've had two close games, but we feel that in a season

full of upsets, being able to get a win [against Syracuse] is the most important thing," Doss said. "We're looking at the mistakes that we made and things we need to do to put together a complete game, but, overall, we feel that we're

getting better every week."

Notre Dame will face off against Syracuse on Saturday at 5 p.m. in Syracuse, New York.

Contact Manny De Jesus at mdejesus@nd.edu

Baseball

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

On the defensive side of the ball, the Irish made a pair of highlight-reel plays in the top of the third inning. Senior short-stop Lane Richards made a difficult scoop on a ball that clipped the side of the mound before firing to first just ahead of the runner. Sophomore left fielder Jake Shepski got in on the action with a sliding catch to end the inning, stranding the tying run at third base for the Ducks.

Notre Dame broke into Oregon's bullpen in the bottom of the fourth after the Irish opened the inning with a single and a walk. Biggio drove a ball off Ducks freshman reliever Kyle Robeniol to right field for a pair of RBIs, both of which were attributed to Carranza's final line, to extend Notre Dame's lead to 4-1.

Oregon cut into the lead in the top of the fifth, however, as junior outfielder Jake Bennett crushed a ball off the right-field fence for a double and his second RBI of the contest, making the score 4-2 and forcing senior starter Michael Hearne from the game.

His replacement, senior right-hander Connor Hale, surrendered a single to senior designated hitter Steven Packard, allowing a run to make it 4-3, but a 4-6-3 double play ended the threat, preserving Notre Dame's lead. Though he only threw 11 pitches in the game, Hale's short outing was enough to earn the win for Notre Dame.

In the bottom of the sixth, the Irish built themselves a golden scoring opportunity by working the bases loaded. Freshman right fielder Matt Vierling drew a walk



MICHAEL YU | The Observer

Junior second baseman Cavan Biggio rounds second base during Notre Dame's 9-5 victory over UIC on March 22 at Frank Eck Stadium.

to make the score 5-3, but they were unable to take further advantage, stranding three runners on base.

Notre Dame added a late insurance run with a gift from the Ducks in the eighth inning. Richards got on base thanks to a dropped ball in center field before back-to-back wild pitches advanced him from second base to home, all with two outs, to make it 6-3 and complete the scoring for the game.

Podkul, who finished the game with a walk, two hits and two runs scored, after the game discussed what the team needs to do to continue its hot streak.

"[We need to] keep having fun, keep playing with a high level of intensity and just go out there and do our thing," Podkul said. "We have the talent. We just have to trust ourselves."

The Irish have a quick turnaround before their next game, as they welcome Wake Forest (17-10, 4-5 ACC) to campus for a three-game set over the weekend.

"Those guys can swing the bat," Aoki said. "Their numbers, quite frankly, are a little lower than what I thought, for a team that is as talented offensively as they are. ... We've got to show up, and all facets of the game kind of have to show up at a pretty high level. If we do that, I feel really good about our chances playing whoever it is that we're playing. But Wake will be good. They'll certainly be a stiff test for us."

First pitch Friday is at 6:05 p.m. at Frank Eck Stadium. Action will get underway Saturday at 4:05 p.m. and Sunday at 1:05 p.m.

Contact Hunter McDaniel at hmcDaniel@nd.edu

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KELLY VAUGHN | The Observer

Former Irish receiver Chris Brown leaps to make a catch during Notre Dame's pro day on Thursday at Loftus Sports Complex.

Football

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

bench press.

Following the 40-yard dash and the cone drill, Stanley, Martin and offensive lineman Matt Hegarty worked through a series of position drills. Stanley is projected by some to be a top-five draft pick, and Martin is expected to be selected in the second or third round. Afterwards, Martin talked about his approach to the draft process.

"It's a dream come true for all of us, it's a pretty special thing," he said. "... It's special, doing it at the place we love. This is a very special university, it means a lot to all of us who've been here.

"Just kind of out there doing drills, playing football. It's nice because once that happens you kind of lock in, and that's what you usually do. It's just like a game. You don't really hear the crowd, you ignore everything and focus on what's at hand."

In the 40-yard dash, receiver

Chris Brown improved his draft stock by turning in a time of 4.44, which would have ranked as the fifth-best time for receivers at the NFL Combine. Fuller did not participate in the 40-yard dash after recording a time of 4.32 at the Combine last month. Fuller is considered by some to be one of the three best receivers in this year's draft class, and Brown said the high praise is well deserved.

"He deserves every bit of that," Brown said. "He's my brother, and I'm praying he goes in the first round because of how hard he works and all that. We work so hard behind the scenes, me and him. ... I'm just glad to be out here with him and show that I can play ball, too."

Notably absent from the field drills was Jaylon Smith, as the Fort Wayne native is still returning to form after tearing his left knee's ACL and LCL during Notre Dame's 44-28 loss to Ohio State in the Fiesta Bowl. Smith did, however, bench press 24 reps of 225 pounds in the weight room.

"He was trying to be there for his teammates," former teammate and linebacker Jarrett Grace said of Smith. "He's an incredible guy, an incredible athlete. ... For [Smith's injury] to happen, it's like, man, you feel awful. Thinking about his future as well, hopefully [the injury] doesn't affect it at all because this has been his dream. He's been working towards this for so long."

Making his return to South Bend after transferring to Florida State for the 2015-2016 season was quarterback Everett Golson. Golson clocked in a time of 4.82 in the 40-yard dash and ran through a series of passing drills with former teammates Brown, Fuller, receiver Amir Carlisle and running back C.J. Prosise.

"I feel I did good," Golson said. "I feel I made a little noise, lot of people probably weren't expecting it. But I think I made some noise today."

Golson said he does not regret his decision to transfer and discussed his reasons for coming back to Notre Dame's Pro Day.

"As a man, I think you live with the decisions that you make," he said. "And the decision at the time was to leave. I don't regret that in the slightest, it's about moving forward at this point."

"I felt this is my alma mater. I wanted to be back with those guys. As it turns out, I didn't have any wide receivers at [Florida State] ... I want to take my hat off to ... the whole Notre Dame community ... they've welcomed me back, so it's been good."

Cornerback KeiVarae Russell, a member of the "Frozen Five" was also present at Pro Day. Russell started 11 games for Notre Dame this past season and recorded 60 tackles and two interceptions.

Russell's day did not go as planned, however. The Everett, Washington native turned in the top 40-yard dash time of the day with a 4.43 on his first attempt, but he pulled his left-hamstring during his second attempt. Despite the minor injury, Russell still participated in the broad jump and notched a jump of 11 feet and 2 inches, which would have ranked second amongst all cornerbacks at the NFL Combine.

"It's definitely frustrating," Russell said. "I think at the end of the day, if you look at it, you could say [that] I strained [my left hamstring] last Friday. So you can evaluate ... [I'm] coming off of a broken leg and [I] got a strained hamstring and [I'm] top-five in damn near every category — that tells you what kind of athlete you're going to get."

Safeties Elijah Shumate and Matthias Farley and defensive lineman Romeo Okwara also took the field Thursday. Farley finished the 40-yard dash with a time of 4.45, while Shumate and Okwara did not participate, having earned times of 4.58 and 4.90, respectively, at the Combine.

Contact Marek Mazurek at mmazurek@nd.edu

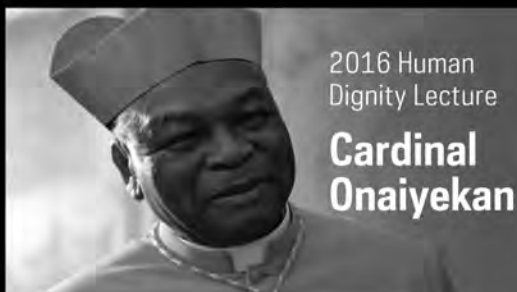
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FOOTBALL

Notre Dame hosts 17 former players at Pro Day

By **MAREK MAZUREK**
Sports Editor

17 former Irish players participated in Notre Dame's Pro Day in front of scouts from 31 NFL teams Thursday at Loftus Sports Center.

Of the 17 participants, a handful — including offensive linemen Ronnie Stanley and Nick Martin, linebacker Jaylon Smith and receiver Will Fuller — are projected to be first-round or second-round draft picks.

"[It's] great," defensive lineman Sheldon Day said. "Especially seeing those guys — you haven't seen them in three months. I've seen them at the NFL Combine a little bit, but nothing like being back home and going to hang out again. It's definitely like old times."

Day did not run the 40-yard dash, but completed 26 reps of 225 pounds in the



EMMET FARNAN | The Observer

Former Irish cornerback KeiVarae Russell accelerates during the 40-yard dash Thursday at Loftus Sports Complex.

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ND WOMEN'S LACROSSE

Squad readies to face Tar Heels

By **DANIEL O'BOYLE**
Sports Writer

Just over a week after a narrow loss to No. 4 Syracuse, No. 6 Notre Dame prepares for another top-five matchup with a conference opponent, as they travel to Chapel Hill to meet No. 3 North Carolina.

The Tar Heels (9-2, 3-0) are currently undefeated in ACC play, tied with Duke atop the conference standings. The only two defeats they have suffered this season were close, back-to-back encounters with Florida, currently ranked No. 2 in the nation, and undefeated Maryland, ranked No. 1. Both games were settled by just a single goal.

Despite the success the Tar Heels have had this season, Irish head coach Christine Halfpenny said her team will remain focused on their own game.

"North Carolina is a top team," Halfpenny said. "I think that finishing on our plays and making big plays will be important. That's what's going to have to

happen against Carolina. We're going to play the way we play — we're going to focus on ourselves, we're going to play our style. They have a similar high-octane offense that we do. They've got their lefties, they've got their off-ball shooters, they've got their dodgers. We have the same thing, so it's going to feel a lot like practice, to be honest, when we're battling each other. We're just going to be going up against a different color uniform."

The Irish offense will face last year's Lacrosse Magazine's National Goalie of the Year in junior Caylee Walters, while for the draw, the Irish will be competing against senior attacker Sammy Jo Tracy, who is third in the ACC with 84 draw controls. With the Irish having already faced the two conference leaders, Louisville's Kaylin Morissette and Syracuse's Kayla Treanor, in their two defeats this year, Halfpenny said it is important her team limits Tracy's

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MEN'S LACROSSE

ND travels to Syracuse for conference clash

By **MANNY DE JESUS**
Sports Writer

No. 2 Notre Dame will begin the toughest stretch of its schedule as it travels to the Carrier Dome to face No. 7 Syracuse on Saturday.

The two highest-ranked ACC teams will go head-to-head for the fourth time as conference rivals since both teams joined the ACC in 2014. The Irish (6-1, 1-0 ACC) lead the series since then by a 2-1 mark and will look to add another game to the win column in the rivalry, while attempting to win their first ever game in the Carrier Dome. The two programs have faced off a total of 11 times and the Orange (5-2, ACC 1-1) lead the all-time series, 8-3. Last season, it took two overtimes, but the Irish survived the matchup, winning 13-12.

The Irish understand that the implications Saturday's matchup carry

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BASEBALL | ND 6, OREGON 3

Irish beat Ducks, win fifth straight

By **HUNTER McDANIEL**
Sports Writer

The rain couldn't stop the red-hot Irish on Thursday night and neither could Oregon. In a game delayed by weather, Notre Dame (13-10, 4-5 ACC) held off the Ducks (11-10, 2-4 Pac-12), 6-3, for its fifth consecutive victory.

Irish head coach Mik Aoki credited consistency for the current streak.

"I think we're bringing all of the facets of the game together," Aoki said, "Where I think earlier in the year — there certainly were some games where they showed up together — but I think that we were inconsistent in the way that maybe our hitting didn't show up one day and our pitching wouldn't show up a different day, or different things like that. ... Our at-bats have been really good, and our pitching has settled down. I really think that this was the team that I saw coming out of the gate. Unfortunately

it didn't work out that way, but a big credit to our guys. I think they've just kept battling through it and doing a really good job."

Down a run after the first inning, senior catcher Ricky Sanchez got the offense started for Notre Dame in the second inning with a drive to the right field wall for a triple off Oregon freshman starter Isaiah Carranza. Freshman third baseman Nick Podkul hit a scorcher between the diving glove of Ducks sophomore first baseman Kyle Kasser and the bag that went all the way to the fence for a double to easily score Sanchez from third.

Freshman designated hitter Cole Daily kept the rally going with a single to left field. Two batters later, junior second baseman Cavan Biggio dropped an RBI single into center to score Daily and give Notre Dame its first lead of the game, 2-1.

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CAITLYN JORDAN | The Observer

Senior attack Matt Kavanagh shields a defender during Notre Dame's 8-7 overtime victory over Virginia on March 19 at Arlotta Stadium.