

Saint Mary's names three valedictorians

College announces names of three students chosen to represent the Class of 2016 at Commencement

By **NICOLE CARATAS**
Saint Mary's Editor

Saint Mary's announced the names of three students who will represent the Class of 2016 as valedictorians during the College's 169th Commencement. The three honorees are Paige Aldrich, Annie Cavalier and Alex Vizard. Aldrich is a chemistry and mathematics double major, Cavalier is a chemistry major with a concentration in biochemistry and a minor in biology and Vizard is an accounting major with a concentration in finance and a minor in mathematics.


After graduation, Aldrich

said she plans to study nuclear chemistry at Michigan State University's graduate program. Vizard said she will be working at Ernst & Young in Chicago, while Cavalier will attend medical school at Loyola University in Chicago.


Vizard said she was surprised when she found out she was one of three valedictorians.

"I never thought there would be three," she said. "I thought there would be some sort of tie-breaker. I never really thought about getting it. It wasn't an explicit goal, but I was very excited


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Paige Aldrich
Manistique, Michigan
chemistry and mathematics double major



Annie Cavalier
Youngstown, Ohio
chemistry major with concentration in biochemistry and biology minor



Alex Vizard
Portage, Michigan
accounting major with concentration in finance and mathematics minor

**2016
SAINT
MARY'S
VALEDICTORIANS**

SUSAN ZHU | The Observer

ND launches Jerusalem Gateway

By **RACHEL O'GRADY**
Associate News Editor

Notre Dame International (NDI) launched a Global Gateway program in Jerusalem this spring in order to offer more opportunities in Israel for Notre Dame students, academic director for the program Robert Smith said.

"When Notre Dame International introduced the Gateway concept a few years

ago, the plan was to begin establishing Gateways where the University already had a strong presence," Smith said in an email. "Tantur Ecumenical Institute has been operating in Jerusalem, with strong Notre Dame support, since 1972. It made sense to establish a Gateway here. Not only is Jerusalem a World Heritage City with a role to play in relation to

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Lecture explores effects of modern socioeconomic gap

By **COURTNEY BECKER**
News Writer

Robert Putnam, the Peter and Isabel Malkin professor of public policy at Harvard University, gave a lecture on Thursday based on his book "Our Kids: The American Dream in Crisis," about the differences in opportunities for kids from affluent families and kids from low-income families. Putnam said while America

has grown in several ways in the last 50 years, opportunity gaps have become an increasing problem in this country.

"We've made a lot of progress on many fronts, but in one important way, America has moved in the wrong direction over the past 30 or 40 years," Putnam said. "America is now fairly far down the road towards moving toward a two-tier hereditary class system in America, and that would make

this a very different country."

This problem is not only due to income inequality, Putnam said, but also because people are now more frequently living "class-based lives" and interacting with people from different socioeconomic backgrounds less often.

"America has become a more unequal society in economic terms," he said. "A little

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Liturgical choir travels to Europe for annual tour



Photo courtesy of Camilla Tassi

Members of the Notre Dame Liturgical Choir visited St. Stephen's Cathedral in Vienna, Austria. The group's annual spring break tour included multiple stops in Austria and the Czech Republic.

By **EMILY McCONVILLE**
News Writer

ROME—On March 6, the Notre Dame Liturgical Choir found itself in the loft of the Salzburg Cathedral, the 17th-century Austrian church where Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart was baptized.

Joining the parish choir, the Liturgical Choir sang at the German-language Mass. Junior Lara Dulin said the Cathedral, with its large interior and high choir loft, was her favorite church of the trip to come.

"I found this one to be the prettiest for its simplicity and

many windows with natural light shining in," she said.

The performance at the monastery was the first stop of the choir's spring break tour through Central Europe, a trip which took them from the picturesque town of Salzburg to a nearby abbey to the country's capital, Vienna, to the Czech capital of Prague.

The choir has toured internationally since 1995, and this year 53 of the choir's 70 members made the trip, tour director Ned Vogel said.

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"H O
P E" IS A FOUR LETTER WORD


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

QUESTION OF THE DAY:

What did you do for St. Patrick's Day?

**Sean O'Brien**

sophomore
Stanford Hall

"Went to class, watched basketball, and hung out with friends doing festive things."

**Jackson Fox**

junior
St. Edward's Hall

"Thrived."

**Ryan Hennessy**

sophomore
Duncan Hall

"Enjoyed being a dude socializing with other people, possibly of the opposite gender."

**Amanda Ball**

sophomore
Walsh Hall

"Support[ed] SUB!"

**Sean Kilmer**

sophomore
Siegfried Hall

"Woke up early to Irish music and was happy due to my Irish roots. No comment about class."

**Zach Janicki**

sophomore
Siegfried Hall

"Played football on the quad."



CAITLYN JORDAN | The Observer

Actor Liam Neeson posed on the red carpet at the premiere of "1916: The Irish Rebellion" at DeBartolo Performing Arts Center on March 3. Neeson narrated the film, which examined the causes and consequences of the Easter Rising rebellion in Ireland in 1916.

THE NEXT FIVE DAYS:

Want your event included here?

Email news@ndsmcobserver.com

Friday**Sexual Violence Prayer Service**

Grotto
5:15 p.m.
Service to combat sexual violence.

LGBT Retreat

Sacred Heart Parish Center
all day
PrismND's 24-hour retreat.

Saturday**Hawaii Club's Lu'au**

Stepan Center
5 p.m.- 8 p.m.
Hawaiian food, hula dancing and a lei-making station.

Men's Lacrosse vs. Virginia

Arlotta Stadium
6 p.m.- 8 p.m.
The Irish take on the Cavaliers.

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

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

Palm Sunday Mass

Basilica of the Sacred Heart
12 p.m. - 1:15 p.m.
Music by the Notre Dame Folk Choir.

Monday**Finding Your Place in the Universe**

Spes Unica Hall
12 p.m.- 1 p.m.
Career Crossings Speaker Series.

Chili Cook-off

Harper Hall
4 p.m.- 6 p.m.
Proceeds benefit the Harper Team for ND Relay for Life.

Tuesday**Niemeyer Lectures in Political Philosophy**

Hesburgh Center
4:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.
"Proximity & Migration" feat. Jeremy Waldron.

Softball vs. Eastern Michigan

Melissa Cook Stadium
5 p.m. - 7p.m.
The Irish take on the Eagles.

'Aphasia' producer discusses rehabilitation

By KATHRYN MARSHALL
News Writer

Carl McIntyre made the movie "Aphasia" in 2010, five years after a stroke damaged 80 percent of his brain's left hemisphere, thus severely impairing his processes of communication. McIntyre shared the movie and his presentation, "Hope is a Four Letter Word," in Carroll Auditorium at Saint Mary's on Thursday night.

Susan Latham, chair of the Department of Communicative Sciences and Disorders at the College, said aphasia is a communicative disorder that inhibits language but not intellect, resulting in the loss of the ability to speak and listen.

"Carl starred as himself in a short film, recounting his story to adapt to the incredible changes in his life," she said. "Now, he tours around the world, presenting the movie and motivating people with his story."

Before his stroke, McIntyre worked as a teacher, actor and salesman. In the movie, McIntyre reenacts a year and a half of therapy and learning following the stroke, indicating how losing the ability to communicate changed both his and his family's life. A presentation given by McIntyre followed the movie.

"Having a stroke sucks," McIntyre said. "Aphasia really

sucks. Before I had a stroke, life is good. ... Job is voice — actor, teacher and really good sales. ... But after stroke, everything's different. I can't speak, and I can't read or write. Nothing, absolutely nothing."

A year and a half after the stroke, he hadn't improved, McIntyre said. Being trapped in one's head is a prison where there are disappointments everyday, he said.

"I remember saying, 'Live or die, I don't care. I'm over life,'" he said. "Bad place, really dark, dark place. But Carl is Carl and most times I'm happy."

McIntyre's recovery was a multi-step process. The first step was to mourn and realize he was no longer the same as the 'Old Carl,' he said. He then wrote the word 'acceptance' on a large paper pad — the second step towards recovery.

"I'm still here," he said after writing the word. "I'm still relevant and no fear — fearless. ... There is hope, hope is everything. No love, no life. ... I love to live again, and I love hope."

Another step in the process is hope, McIntyre said, and the final step is progress. No matter if it's big or small, progress every day matters, he said.

He said he is lucky because he is still able to walk, and even though his right side is weaker and his timing is off, he is still able to toss

a baseball with his son.

McIntyre said having purpose is also very important.

"My brain is always on," he said. "And faster every year because I'm working every day. ... I'm trying."

McIntyre said once insurance ran out and he could not pay for certain therapy programs, he did, and continues to, learn to speak again through free study subject programs at various universities. When learning to speak, associating words with pictures is necessary — such as breaking the word "when" into "w-hen," while thinking of the bird, he said.

The best advice he can pass onto future speech therapists and families is patience, he said.

"Lot of patience because today is a good day, tomorrow not too much," McIntyre said. "But patience can never quit. ... I'm lucky because friends help life back ... and understand I never be the same. My brain is fine. I can't speak, but I'm no dummy."

"One person understands me, I'm over the moon," he said. "I know I never be the same, and every day is hard. But every day is good too. Possibilities, endless possibilities. ... Aphasia, still sucks, but I win every day and you can too."

Contact Kathryn Marshall at kmarsh02@saintmarys.edu

Jerusalem

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

most global conversations about faith and politics, but we already had a strong presence here through Tantur."

The new location provides a plethora of new experiences for interested students, Smith said.

"The Jerusalem Global Gateway provides an important location for research and collaboration for many aspects of the University of Notre Dame. I have received concurrent faculty appointments in the department of theology and the new Keough School of Global Affairs. Jerusalem is an ideal place to study the intersection of theology and global affairs, so I anticipate many programs with that sort of emphasis," he said.

According to Smith, the program will encourage other members of the Notre Dame community in Jerusalem to host or attend additional conferences.

"I am eager to engage in conferences and symposia in Jerusalem that further enhance the already stellar reputation of the University of Notre Dame," Smith said. "The Gateway is a place for collaboration; we intend to collaborate locally, regionally and globally on ways to address a wide variety of topics."

"Beyond study abroad opportunities, I look forward to working with professors, program directors and academic departments on campus to increase the number of students and researchers having meaningful experiences in Jerusalem. We have

a long-standing partnership with the Kroc Institute and the Keough School [of Global Affairs] to utilize the services of the Gateway."

According to the NDI brochure, the aims of the Global Gateway include "supporting undergraduate study and multidisciplinary scholarly engagement."

"Jerusalem is a complex, multi-layered environment," Smith said. "If you have a research interest or a more general interest in the intersections of religion, culture and politics, this might be a place you'll want to visit. I look forward to hearing ideas from students, staff and faculty about how some time in Jerusalem would benefit research and learning goals."

This summer, the Gateway will host two sessions for more than 30 students, Smith said. The Gateway will also serve as a site for International Summer Service Learning Programs (ISSLPs) for students pursuing service learning in a variety of contexts.


Smith said he is excited to be part of the NDI Global Gateway community.

"Each Gateway is a place for the people and programs of the University to encounter a significant global context, but we also function in ways that bring elements of our context into our universities. The process of internationalizing the University means that we build relationships around the world to significantly expand our academic horizons," he said.

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Graduation

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

and proud to be able to represent my class."

Cavalier said during her college search, she initially did not have Saint Mary's on her radar because her mother graduated from the College in 1988. She said she wanted to go somewhere that felt more like a place of her own, but then she came to the College to visit.

"When I came to visit, I was walking through the buildings and talking to professors and students," Cavalier said. "It just felt like the right fit."

Aldrich said Saint Mary's has helped make her accountable for her own life.

"I've learned a lot about the world around me and realized that I need to match what I believe with my actions," she said. "I've also struggled with my faith throughout my life, so I took a critical look at my beliefs and have deeply improved my spiritual life."

Cavalier said the close relationships between students and professors make Saint Mary's special.

"It makes the classroom experience so much better," she said. "You don't feel like you're being talked at. That gave me a lot of confidence to speak up in class and share my opinions. ... I think that confidence is what I've gained in general, but also the ability to be independent and leave here with

no doubts of the success that I will see in the future. I don't doubt my ability to do things that I want to do."

Vizard said the College and the Sophia Program, Saint Mary's liberal arts curriculum requirements, helped her gain confidence in all areas of her life.

"It's caused me to try a lot of new things," she said. "I took a lot of classes that I probably would have never tried taking, and I ended up really enjoying them. I think it's caused me to expand my mindset and grow as a person in general."

Cavalier said she is proud to be a Saint Mary's student because of the College's larger community.

"You can graduate from a state school or another larger private school, and you don't ever really go back or associate yourself with the school after that," she said. "I know I will have ties to this school and this area for the rest of my life. I know it is a place I will always come back to, a place that I'm always going to miss."

Aldrich said she is proud to be graduating from a college that produces strong, kind, driven women.

"I could have learned information from textbooks," she said, "but it wouldn't have compared to the rounded education that I've gotten from the caring, intelligent professors at Saint Mary's."

Contact Nicole Caratas at ncaratas01@saintmarys.edu

Effects

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

less well-known but actually, I think, maybe more portentous is that we've become, also, a more segregated society in terms of social class. ... Increasingly, we're either living in rich enclaves with other rich folks, or in poor enclaves with other poor folks, and fewer and fewer of us are living in mixed or moderate-income neighborhoods."

Another contributing factor to this issue is that social connections within these different communities have decreased, as well, Putnam said.

"Social bonds, community ties within a family, within a community, within the working class in America, have seriously deteriorated over the last 30 or 40 years," he said. "The social bonds that used to be an important part of life in working-class America are now much weaker than they used to be."

Putnam said these factors are combining to divide America into two categories, creating problems for kids in a lower class.

"The fact that we're economically more unequal, the fact that we're sociologically more segregated, the fact that

working class people — the social ties that used to be an important part of our lives — are fragmenting and becoming much, much weaker — what are the implications of all that for kids?" he asked. "Even in little towns all across America, we can see these trends driving America toward a two-class society."

Putnam said one particularly harmful mindset that has developed is being concerned only with one's own offspring instead of all children throughout America.

"Over the course of the last 30 or 40 years in America, the meaning of 'our kids' — that is, our sense of our responsibility to other kids in town, apart from our own — has shriveled, so now when people say 'our kids' they mean their own biological kids," he said. "That shriveling of our sense of responsibility for other people's kids is the core problem here. ... That failure to worry about other people's kids is a key moral failing."

Despite this negative trend, though, there is reason to believe America can solve the problem of opportunity gaps, Putnam said.

"I'm optimistic that we can solve this problem, and it is because this is not the first time that America has faced this

kind of a problem," he said. "Americans recognized the problem and began to fix the problem."

Putnam said the solution to this problem in the early 19th century was the invention of the public high school.

"[The public high school] was aimed to narrow the opportunity gap to make it easier for everybody, all kids, to have a fair chance in life," he said. "Free, public, secondary education for all kids in town — that idea was invented in America in 1910. Nowhere else in the world were there free, public secondary schools for all kids. ... It was the best public policy decision America has ever made."

type of change may be sparked by anyone who cares enough to get involved in his or her community and offering hope that America can solve this problem once again, Putnam said.

"Big change in America more often comes from the bottom-up than the top-down," Putnam said. "It mostly comes from smart, engaged, ordinary civic activists and civic leaders looking at their own community and saying, 'We've got some problems here, how do we fix it?'"

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Choir

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Vogel said he worked with a travel agency that specializes in trips for religious choirs, which organized performances at the abbey, Salzburg Cathedral and two churches each in Vienna and Prague.

The performances ranged in type and length: at the Benedictine Melk Abbey in Austria, the choir performed a 20-minute concert for a small community of monks, while at the historic Church of Our Lady before Tyn in Prague, it gave an hour-long public concert, Vogel said.

The choir's normal repertoire — the songs it sings at Sunday morning Basilica masses — ranges from Renaissance to contemporary songs, and choir president Eric Thompson said the tour performances consisted mainly of those pieces. But the change of venues helped bring some of the pieces to life.

"Many of the composers that are important to our choir's repertoire lived in these cities for much of their lives," he said.

In between the performances was time for sightseeing. Thompson said some choir members went to the Vienna State Opera and the city's Easter markets, while Vogel said members visited the Nonnberg Abbey in

Salzburg, which famously housed Maria von Trapp of "The Sound of Music" fame.

"Our director, Dr. Andrew McShane, makes a good effort to balance performances and practices with free time to explore," Thompson, who has been on four choir tours, said. "One of the best things about this trip is that we had more time for sightseeing than on some of our previous tours."

Dulin, who traveled to Europe for the first time with the choir, said she enjoyed the guided tours of each city, but the places where they performed were a form of sightseeing themselves.

"Traveling to Salzburg and Vienna as a choir is kind of like traveling to the cradle of civilization," Dulin said. "We sang at so many beautiful churches, many of which were historic cathedrals in the centers of these old cities. We got to see some beautiful examples of Baroque and Gothic architecture, some of which dated back to as early as the eighth century."

Vogel said choir members got to know each other as well as the cities they visited.

"My favorite part of the trip was getting to know people in the choir that I didn't know very well beforehand," Vogel said. "I made some really great new friends thanks to this tour."

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Ariana Grande is One “Dangerous Woman”

By **ALI LOWERY**
Scene Writer

Whatever your opinions on Ariana Grande, it's guaranteed you've had one the 22-year-old artist's several Billboard-topping singles stuck in your head at some point since she showed us all the “The Way” in 2013. Her debut album, “Yours Truly,” garnered critical and commercial success for its sugar-sweet lyrics and Mariah Carey reminiscent vocals from the young former child star. “My Everything,” Grande's sophomore effort, effectively elevated the singer from her former Nickelodeon persona, and Scene writer Matt Munhall noted that the album moved Grande “toward the epicenter of Top 40 without ditching the tweens just yet.”

We now arrive at March 10, 2016, and

Grande has just dropped her first official single from “Dangerous Woman,” the upcoming third studio album formerly known as “Moonlight.” Grande was motivated to change the name of the project in order to be “empowering to [her] fans.” The decision seemed to stem from the artist's recent endeavors in social justice territory, her essay on sexism following Grande's split with rapper Big Sean made headlines last June and an interview during which she shut down two radio DJs misogynistic and heteronormative comments went viral early this past November. “I feel like my personal growth is reflected in the sound,” Ariana told her fans during a recent live chat surrounding the news of her album release. “To me, a dangerous woman is someone who's not afraid to take a stand, be herself and to be honest.” Add another fierce feminist pop

diva to the list.

As far as the single itself is concerned, the title track from “Dangerous Woman,” its sound has a sultry waltz-like vibe that's comparable to The Weeknd's “Earned It,” a track he wrote for the “50 Shades Of Grey” soundtrack. Even the “Dangerous Woman” album cover, a black and white headshot of Grande clad in a leather bunny ear mask, is evocative of the controversial best-selling book-turned-blockbuster and perhaps symbolic of Ariana's final stages of transformation from her former “good-girl” image to full on daring female entertainer, à la Rihanna.

No, the song is not necessarily groundbreaking, but it's new territory for Grande as she continues to show her range of vocal abilities beyond breathy R&B/pop crossover hits. The singer's stint on “Saturday Night Live” on March

12 was praised not only for her comedic prowess as host but also for her powerful performances of “Dangerous Woman” and “Be Alright,” a dance-y pop number that will also appear on the album, recalls a Jess Glynne summer hit. Another derivative track, but all-in-all enjoyable and yet another example of the fresh performer's attempt to step outside the proverbial generic pop box.

Ariana Grande is most definitely coming into her own and should be on everyone's radar as she moves with full force into her own space within the pop industry that's already filled with strong female icons. “Dangerous Woman” will be released May 20 and the single is currently available to purchase and stream on most major platforms.

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By **BOBBY WOZNIAK**
Scene Writer

We live in a world obsessed with mass-produced goods and rapidly changing technology. Economic advancement and monetary gain are top priorities as people advance forward in the pursuit of fame, fortune and recognition. With social media platforms dominating the formation of our popular culture, there is a clear infatuation with transforming oneself into a product that seems appealing to others and proves one's “success” in life. Whether you admit to participating in this culture or not, its palpable presence has had an enormous influence on artistic creation through the past few years.

After a four-year hiatus, the eccentric and nonconformist Santigold is back with a satirically brilliant album that serves as a social observation on these very ideas of consumerism, capitalism and narcissism. “99¢,” the Philly-based artist's third studio album, delivers an energetic and diverse approach to personal and societal reflection, overlapping various sonic textures and genres while providing a humorous yet intellectual commentary on the current state of our world (the album cover pointedly pictures her shrink-wrapped

in a package containing random knick-knacks and sellable products, for goodness sake). Santi White, the woman behind the Santigold moniker, has re-emerged with a keener sense of awareness and wit that shine through an upbeat sound that strays from her previous darker records, the critically acclaimed 2008 debut “Santogold” and 2012's equally good follow-up “Master of My Make-Believe.”

The opener “Can't Get Enough of Myself” sets the sarcastically egotistical and superficially self-empowering tone of the album, utilizing cheery pop and flute instrumentals to construct an overly positive ambiance. Santigold's seemingly narcissistic lyrics immediately establish her social satire on vanity and consumerism, with the first line of the song boasting, “If I wasn't me, I can be sure I'd wanna be.”

The very next song, “Banshee,” furthers her commentary, the singer describing a “banshee on [her] shoulder” that serves as a societal voice. The entity speaks to her, telling her how to act and how to portray herself in a consumerist culture filled with superficialities and useless products. An evident desire to let go of the voice and free herself of the social pressures resonates throughout the track, backed by fun and

energetic sounds that contrast her relatively serious symbolism and contribute to her sarcastic message. Standout “Chasing Shadows” provides a peek into Santigold's self-reflective process as she rap-sings about the challenge of staying true to herself in a competitive, money-obsessed industry. She is concerned about losing time and her ability to leave behind a music legacy, yet she exhibits a steady confidence in her fight to control her creative endeavors and overarching success.

Although the album, as a whole, is not as sonically intense nor grime-based as her previous records, it possesses just as much diversity between tracks, with contrasting beats and unique sounds. Incorporating elements of pop, new wave, trap, reggae and rock, Santigold maintains her signature sound while providing something that's socially relevant and musically refreshing. “Rendezvous Girl,” for example, sounds like a “99¢” take on the incredibly popular “Disparate Youth” off her sophomore album, beginning with a similar introduction that transforms into a more airy and saccharine beat rather than the latter's deeper and darker verses.

At times, “99¢” does become almost too sarcastic, bouncing between genuine satirical observations on society

and cheesy, overly happy-go-lucky textures that detract from her distinct sound. However, Santigold's creativity and musicality shine clearly throughout the record, reaffirming her thematic claims. With “99¢,” she forces listeners to consider her social commentary on consumerism while also allowing them to simply jam out in true Santigold fashion, showing that, indeed, her “brand of vainglory is much better for your health.”

Contact Bobby Wozniak at
rwozniak@nd.edu

“99 Cents” Santigold

Label: Atlantic

Tracks: “Can't Get Enough of Myself,” “Chasing Shadows,” “Run the Races”

If you like: M.I.A., Sleigh Bells, Azealia Banks



INSIDE COLUMN

A letter to my sisters



Rachel O'Grady
Associate News Editor

"Here's to strong women — may we know them, may we be them, may we raise them." — Unknown

I want my sisters, Caroline and Alexandra, to know that it isn't about being women. For my last column, I wrote about how we are O'Grady's and therefore we "try, don't cry." But it is fundamentally important to clarify what I mean by that — it should never, ever hold you back.

To my sisters, there is nothing you cannot do, and I do not mean that in a classic, cheesy way. I do not mean you should 'shoot for the moon, and if you fall, you will land amongst the stars.' No. You will not 'land amongst the stars' if you fail. You will fail. It will hurt. There is no protecting you from any of that; I can't tell you it won't absolutely kill you when you don't get into that college, or you didn't get that solo in the dance.

I can't tell you it won't hurt. I can't tell you that you won't be devastated. I can tell you that it will pass.

You both know, more than anyone, the amount of rejection I have faced in my life. You two will likely never face that level of rejection, and for that, I am incredibly happy for the both of you. But things will hurt in this life, and I want you both to know no matter what, you can make it through it.

Beyond that, however, I want you to know being a girl does not disqualify you from anything. Go for whatever you want in this life. You deserve everything. You are incredible, and there is nothing you cannot do, and I don't mean that in a cliché way, I mean that sincerely. There is nothing you cannot do, and I do not want you, for any second, to think you are not wholly capable, particularly because of your chromosome pair.

It is continually amazing to me that we, three girls in a family of all girls, have not turned out to be entirely feminist. Surprisingly, the complete opposite has been the case, and for that, I am proud. Do not let your chromosome set define you. Do not be held back by anyone, or anything. Do not let any feminist movement cause you to think you are not able to do anything you want.

Even as I write this, the clichés pain me, because I can feel you rolling your eyes and reading this in your sarcastic voices, but if I could impart one piece of advice to you, it is to not be afraid, of anything. I know both of you have not experienced this struggle yet, particularly because we all have not been raised in the way to think 'the world (or men) are against us.' But as you continue in your lives, I cannot overstate the importance of fearlessness, and the degree to which you actively need to express that throughout your life. You both make me so proud to be your sister on a daily basis. You are both so smart, talented, capable and moreover, incredible beyond words. Continue being like this. Continue living the life you are meant to live. Continue fighting the odds and winning.

Contact Rachel O'Grady at rogrady@nd.edu

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

Electing Trump, Bernie or a cat

Gary Caruso
Capitol Comments

This is about a Notre Dame student movement — angered and disgusted like our prevailing political anti-establishment feelings currently fueling the Donald Trump and Bernie Sanders candidacies — that elected a kitten as Student Body Vice President. During my junior year spring semester, I was among eight other candidates running for the student body presidency against a spontaneous joke ticket that mocked student government. While we establishment candidates ran for president, the joke ticket ran for Campus King by featuring a "Prime Mover" with "Uncandidate the Cat" as his vice president. Unfortunately for me, after Uncandidate produced a fake ID proving that it was a student, the kitten and its self-declared royal running mate who donned a Burger King crown defeated all nine of us in two election rounds.

To illustrate my uniquely liberal Vietnam War raging time on campus, students enjoyed beer kegs throughout campus, including at dormitory parties. Cigarette machines strategically sat on alternating residence halls floors, amid an openly smoking campus. Alcoholic beverages could be staged anywhere on the campus grounds. In fact, my hall, Lyons, won third place for the best homecoming float, and student government presented with a keg of beer.

Our sitting student body president (SBP) — clean-cut, serious-minded and the first student of Hispanic heritage elected to lead student government — betrayed the student body after it had demonstrated with a high Bernie Sanders-like revolutionary turnout of support after the University announced kegs would be banned from campus. Several hundred students packed our Campus Life Council meeting, so many the overflow moved the audience to the Engineering Auditorium but still fell short of seating the colossal crowd. Our SBP assured us "the administration has seen your resolve and support, so I will work with them."

Our student empowerment moment was our first successful populist movement. However, the SBP betrayed our idealistic determination by selling out at the negotiating table. Rather, he secured a personal letter of recommendation from University President Rev. Theodore M. Hesburgh, C.S.C. to the Yale Law School indicating that if Yale accepts anyone from Notre Dame, he should be the first admitted. That injustice sat so sourly with us that a decade later when he ran for a nationwide alumni office, he lost. Through his deep University affiliation, he was listed again on the alumni senate ballot — a rare second chance with so many alumni also available. We extracted our revenge against him as alumni, but not as students.

Sometimes it matters where you fall in the batting order, especially if you are the one beamed after a batter hits a grand slam. The year following our SBP betrayal, I ran for student body president. With such contempt, frustration and bitter

feelings festering at the time, the student electorate was aggressively anti-establishment. Within that atmosphere, a Prime Mover announced his candidacy from the second bathroom stall of his campaign headquarters in the fourth floor lavatory, where he also held visiting hours for 15 minutes each day. His 12-point program included, among others, creating an oligarchy of himself and his close friends while abolishing all current student government institutions, taking over The Observer so that he and the paper could see eye-to-eye on every issue and sending out "feelers" to other St. Mary's schools nationwide while conducting a Friday night fact-finding trip across the highway at the local St. Mary's to ease 25 years of hostility. He attributed his run to never having any close friends in childhood, so he "was looking for some sort of affirmation."

While mocking student government, he appeared from behind a burning bush (trash can) on his residence hall balcony to counter his critics "who have fought us with slander, rumors and a great deal of truth." He staged his own kidnapping and adopted the graduation march song commencement hymn, "Pomp and Circumstance," as his theme song which constantly blared out of windows across the campus. His campaign genius lay in his brilliant satire.

Just like several of this year's U.S. presidential so-called "establishment" candidates, many of us who ran against the King would have worked tirelessly to seriously overcome past disappointments. We were just as angry and frustrated, but our wild mob electorate shut out reason and issues to vote against our previous SBP the only way they could, by voting for a joke. I was the only candidate to win a dorm — my own Lyons — in the first round where the King won all others but did not reach the minimum threshold. In the runoff against the surviving serious establishment candidate (not me), the King won by a record-setting 65.7 percent of the vote and only lost Cavanaugh Hall by four votes.

Ironically, the King had always planned to "saturate the election and then drop out of it." However, students craved his antics; once an estimated 1,300 students stood beneath his balcony to hear him. After his election, the King summarized that for the electorate his antics were "something meaningful to say, and the students responded."

Thus far this year, only anti-establishment Uncandidate the Cat owns a nomination. That may portend sad tidings come the summer for Sanders and November for Trump. Only Prime Mover miracles can alter those destinies.

Gary J. Caruso, Notre Dame '73, serves in the Department of Homeland Security and was a legislative and public affairs director at the U.S. House of Representatives and in President Clinton's administration. His column appears every other Friday. Contact him on Twitter at @GaryJCaruso or via email at GaryJCaruso@alumni.nd.edu

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

Join the discussion.

Let your voice be heard.

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The scorched-earth strategy of the GOP

One of the major campaign issues arising in this 2016 cycle is the appointment of a new Supreme Court justice. What was once a decided issue – the current president making the appointment regardless of how close he is to completing his term – has become something Republicans believe they can contest. Led by Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, Senate Republicans in contested races, for fear of losing support of their conservative bases, are turning to McConnell’s unconstitutional position.

Those contested Senate races include Sen. Pat Toomey, R-Penn.; Sen. Kelly Ayotte, R-N.H.; and Sen. Rob Portman, R-Ohio. These Republicans are following McConnell’s lead.

Sen. Dan Coates, R-Ind. is retiring after this term. By

submitting to Senate race GOP politics, he is setting up whoever his successor will be to take the same stance.

This extreme stance will not be well received come November. Moderate Republicans who are disgusted by the GOP establishment flouting constitutional duty will almost certainly vote for Democrats.

Democratic candidates in these elections have already ripped apart the GOP position. Candidates including former Admiral Joe Sestak of Pennsylvania, Governor Maggie Hasson of New Hampshire, and former Governor Ted Strickland of Ohio have all spoken out against their challengers’ constitutionally dubious position. Even Republican Sen. Susan Collins of Maine is uncomfortable with GOP playing politics over the Supreme Court, objecting to the political maneuvering

on both sides of aisle on the very recent death of Justice Scalia.

If Sen. Coates wishes to leave behind a respectable legacy, he should not submit to Mitch McConnell’s obstructions of the constitutional duty of the president to appoint a new justice. Democrats are on the right side of the issue. This will play out well for Sestak, Hasson, and Strickland when they challenge Republican incumbents in November. For Indiana, Senate candidate Baron Hill will likely join the ranks of Sestak, Hasson and Strickland.

Kieran Phelan
sophomore
Feb. 24

Thank you from the Jumpball family

To all the Bookstore Basketball participants and volunteers, we want to let you have a made a huge difference to the boys and girls in Jamaica and Haiti that took part in Jumpball. Last year, over 600 boys and girls were able to take part in a series of free basketball clinics. Most of the participants are from impoverished communities where there are few organized activities for kids to take part in.

In places where there are no handouts and few activities for children, Jumpball, the organization we founded and have run for over the past 20 years, provides for children to learn life skills through sports: self-esteem, teamwork, dedication, sportsmanship, camaraderie and of course

the opportunity to learn the fundamentals of basketballs.

Something as simple as a day of fun on the basketball court really does make a difference. Whether it is simply a day of fun and bonding with other boys and girls or if it is an experience that changes the course of their life, Jumpball has an impact. And therefore — you all have an impact — thanks to your generous donations. You truly do play so they can play.

The Jumpball “family” is a real thing. It is alive and well in Haiti and Jamaica and it is certainly alive in South Bend. As two ND grads, our bond with the University has strengthened through the

participation between Bookstore and Jumpball over the years. We have never been prouder of our alma mater and we are reminded of that every year thanks to your selflessness.

Thanks everyone for helping to make a difference beyond the basketball court — have a fantastic tournament!

Bill Maloney
class of 1995

Chad Sutcliffe
class of 1995
Feb. 29

Objections to the Laetare Medal decision

We are deeply disappointed and discouraged by Notre Dame’s announcement that Vice President Joe Biden and former Speaker of the House John Boehner will receive the Laetare Medal at this year’s commencement. The Laetare Medal is presented annually to an American Catholic “in recognition of outstanding service to the Church and society. It is considered the oldest and most prestigious award for American Catholics.”

Fr. Jenkins explained the University’s basis for its decision: “One of our great challenges today is people who disagree often will vilify, attack, demean the opposition and then they cannot work with the opposition. One of the great Catholic concepts is the common good. What is the common good? You and I may disagree, or Boehner and Biden may disagree, but we have to recognize that whatever we think, we have to act for the common good.

“One thing I hope we do at the University is we try to bring our students to understand they can disagree but they need to talk to one another, reason with one another and despite differences, they should always respect the other person and not demean.

“Unless we do that, we cannot work together, we cannot serve the common good. We are just in this gridlock of antagonism that is all too common today.”

Most would agree the tone of our politics could be improved, but Fr. Jenkins’ call for civility is a mistaken basis upon which to decide who is worthy of the Laetare Medal. By awarding the Laetare Medal to Biden and Boehner, the University discredits the award, which ought to honor an American Catholic for service to the Church and society rather than make a point about the character of political dialogue.

The University has made a mistake, one that

devalues the Laetare Medal and reflects poorly on the judgment of the University’s leaders. Unfortunately, this unacceptable decision is exacerbated by the fact that Notre Dame has once again scandalized faithful Catholics across the country, as it did when it honored President Barack Obama with an honorary degree at commencement in 2009.

Joe Biden is a Catholic who served as one of Delaware’s two senators for 36 years before becoming vice president in 2009. During his years in the Senate, he was undoubtedly one of the most rabidly partisan senators. He did more than anyone in Washington to turn the confirmation process for Supreme Court nominees into a political blood-bath. He has repeatedly applauded the Supreme Court’s ruling in Roe v. Wade. For some of his years in the Senate, he received a zero rating from pro-life groups. It was not always so. Early in his career Biden opposed abortion. By the mid-1980s, however, he had evolved out of what he called a youthful reliance upon his Catholic faith, a reliance he now repudiates.

Biden supports federal funding for embryonic stem cell research and voted against a ban on human cloning. He embraces same-sex marriage and the HHS mandate, which requires religious institutions such as Notre Dame to facilitate coverage of contraceptives and abortifacients under its health-care plans — Notre Dame itself is suing the federal government for relief from this mandate. Biden’s positions on all these issues are directly contrary to Church teaching. His public service has not been “to the Church,” but largely against the Church.

The United States bishops write, “The Catholic community and Catholic institutions should not honor those who act in defiance of our fundamental moral principles. They should not be given

awards, honors or platforms which would suggest support for their actions.”

We object to Notre Dame’s decision to honor Vice President Biden with the Laetare Medal. Giving the award to Speaker Boehner at the same time does not alleviate the scandal committed by the University’s blatant disregard for the injunction of the Catholic bishops.

As students of this University, some of whom will graduate in May, we are disappointed Notre Dame has failed in this instance to live up to its Catholic mission. We deserve to see the Laetare Medal given to an American Catholic who merits it by having served as an outstanding example for Catholics and having performed real service to the Church in this country.

Tim Bradley senior	Madeleine Cook junior
Alexandra DeSanctis senior	Eileen Madigan sophomore
Christina Gotcher senior	Henry Dickman junior
Sophia Buono sophomore	Michael Moss junior
Hailey Vrdolyak senior	Joshua Gluch junior
John Kill sophomore	James Herrick IV senior Feb. 29

To view the complete list of 89 signatures on this letter, visit ndsmcobserver.com

CROSSWORD | WILL SHORTZ

- Across**

1 Eaters of halal food

8 Like many mall fixtures?

15 Star of 2011's "Puss in Boots"

17 One shooting out on a golf course

18 Oil sources for oil paint

19 Mode

20 Mo. containing Constitution Day

21 Unhealthily light

25 From

29 It may be fat after a fight

32 Digs

33 Onetime Taliban stronghold
- 35 What twisty arrows warn drivers of

37 Bring into being

38 Hit film directed by James Cameron

39 Football linemen: Abbr.

40 Arctic or Antarctic fish-eater

41 It has left and right channels

42 Part of S.F.S.U.

43 How some hearts are broken

48 Car exhaust part

54 Potential pets

57 Worker whose charges may charge
- 58 Answer that avoids answering

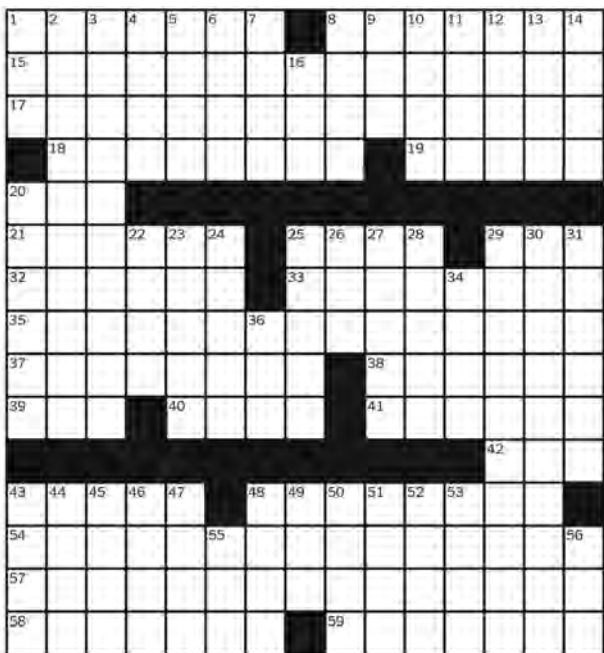
59 Writer's field

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

PLATA PESKY CHAR
RELIC ERIE LIMBER
ONGOODTERMS ELIDE
ESE CARO WADEIN
BLAB MARLO NBRANDO
ISOBAR EOE BOER
CANADIANPROVINCE
STEM PRY VOTERS
COMPAOCENTER
ONEARM RIIS ALS
LEARN QUARTERPIPE
ANNLEE URDU VESPA
DYED INSET EBOOK

Down

- 1 More, to a senior
- 2 Like surprises you'd rather not get
- 3 Youth
- 4 Chop source
- 5 They have keepers
- 6 Bit of D.J. equipment
- 7 Flat bottom
- 8 Hold hands?
- 9 Nav. position
- 10 Nestlé brand
- 11 Partridge family setting
- 12 Hanging out in galleries, say
- 13 Isle of Man man
- 14 "Nine Stories" title girl
- 16 Flat bottom
- 20 Web presence
- 22 "Natural Affection" playwright
- 23 Surgical aid
- 24 Big band
- 25 Done to ____
- 26 Foundering call
- 27 Black-and-white giants
- 28 Geologist's big break?



Puzzle by Todd Gross and Doug Peterson

- 29 Couples' retreat

30 Rachel McAdams's "Sherlock Holmes" role

31 Choose to refuse

34 Big wheel at a party?

36 Beyond, to Browning
- 43 Put the finger on

44 Short plea

45 Some govt. raiders

46 Imitated Niobe

47 Dept. of Labor division

48 Stole option

49 Do one's part?
- 50 N.F.C. part: Abbr.

51 Concerning

52 Order

53 Except

55 Univ. helpers

56 Some 55-Down: Abbr.

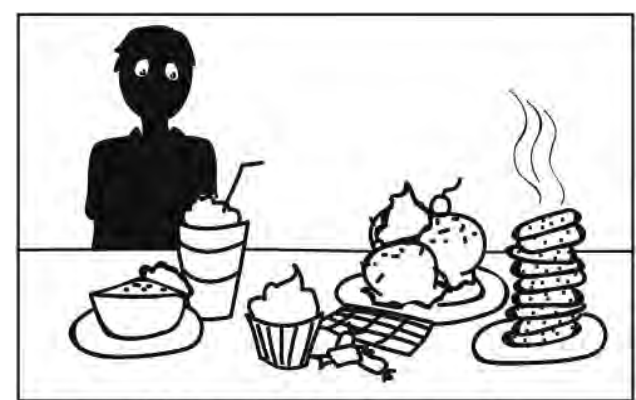
For answers, call 1-900-285-5656, \$1.49 a minute; or, with a credit card, 1-800-814-5554. Annual subscriptions are available for the best of Sunday crosswords from the last 50 years: 1-888-7-ACROSS. AT&T users: Text NYTX to 386 to download puzzles, or visit nytimes.com/mobilexword for more information. Online subscriptions: Today's puzzle and more than 2,000 past puzzles, nytimes.com/crosswords (\$39.95 a year). Share tips: nytimes.com/wordplay. Crosswords for young solvers: nytimes.com/learning/xwords.

JUST ADD WATER | JOHN RODDY & ERIC CARLSON



"Well, the Smiths may have had more fires, but who has more fireWOOD?"

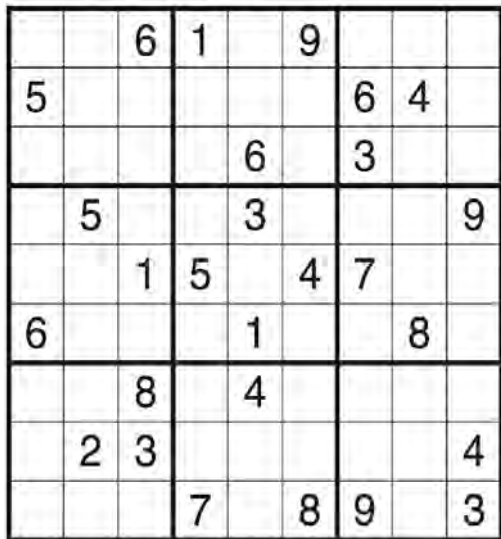
FLING BY SPRING | RILEY McCURRIE



Lent: 32 days sober, but the temptation was becoming unbearable.

SUDOKU | THE MEPHAM GROUP

Level: 1 2 3 4



SOLUTION TO THURSDAY'S PUZZLE 9/28/12

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

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HOROSCOPE | EUGENIA LAST

Happy Birthday: Thank matters through thoroughly. Time is on your side, so don't let anyone push you into something you aren't ready to explore. Rely on your skills and talents to help you reach your goal. This is a year of opportunity, so do your best to let go of fear and embrace new beginnings. Don't let a challenge deter you from getting ahead. Your numbers are 6, 14, 21, 27, 32, 36, 49.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Choose to get along with others and to look for healthy alternatives. Look inward and find meaningful ways to make personal improvements. An interesting turn of events will improve a partnership. ★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Home, family and friends should be your focus. Discussing plans that you want to put into play will bring you closer to the ones you love and give everyone something to look forward to. Don't procrastinate -- make it happen. ★★★★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Don't take on responsibilities that don't belong to you, but don't ignore those that do. A realistic and fair approach to what you face will be the only way to get past what stands in your way. Don't overreact. ★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Keep an open mind and you will be amazed by the information you are given and how you can put it to good use in your everyday life. Romance will lead to a promising adventure with someone you love to spend time with. ★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Show off a little. It's in your best interest to let others know what you are capable of doing. Don't be shy when it comes to taking charge and being responsible. The difference you make will be appreciated and acknowledged. ★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Take the initiative and do what you can to help those less fortunate. Your actions will lead to an encounter with someone who can help you bring your own dreams to fruition. A partnership will fill a void you have been experiencing. ★★★★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Check out every option before making a decision. Take your time and observe what's going on around you. Don't let anyone make you feel as if you are being left behind. Do things on your own terms and at your own pace. ★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Get involved in something you've never done before. New or unusual experiences will get your creative imagination flowing and encourage you to follow through with an idea that could turn in to a moneymaker. Love is highlighted. ★★★★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Expect to face opposition from someone who is trying to control your life. It's likely that you'll have to make unexpected alterations to the way you live. Protect your assets, possessions, your reputation and your health. ★★

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You don't have to join in if someone makes a last-minute change that disrupts your plans. Look for a way to carry on and you won't miss out on something you want to do. You'll obtain valuable insight from an unusual encounter. ★★

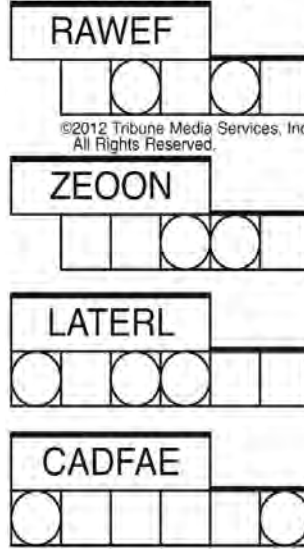
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Revisit an idea and tweak it to fit the current trends. Your ingenuity and desire to do something unique will help you forge ahead. High energy coupled with discipline will be your ticket to success. Personal improvements will be satisfying. ★★

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Put the skills and talents you are passionate about in to play, and you will come out a winner. Your ability to wow others with your unique approach to life will result in a partnership and profitable joint venture. ★★★★★

Birthday Baby: You are compassionate, intuitive and expressive. You are proactive and precise.

JUMBLE | DAVID HOYT AND JEFF KNUREK

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



Answer: [Grids for the unscrambled words]

(Answers tomorrow)
Yesterday's Jumbles: CYCLE WOUND BEATEN BANTER
Answer: The concert in Death Valley had — LOW ATTENDANCE

WORK AREA



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

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SPORTS AUTHORITY

March Madness inspires reflection



Zach Klonsinski
Assistant Managing Editor

With March Madness finally underway, we've reached one of my favorite points on the sports calendar. Instead of trying to make sense of this year's chaotic tournament, however, I thought I'd try something a little different. Below is my personal ranking of the best events on the (roughly) annual sports calendar.

10.) Army-Navy football game
Passion. That's the word I'd use to sum up Army-Navy and kick off the countdown. Sure, it's only a few hours, but American flags, flyovers, fireworks and even hand-painted helmets (please keep those, Navy!) all make this one of the greatest spectacles in the American sports world. While they'll rarely have the caliber of player that is fit to win a Heisman on the field (Keenan Reynolds got snubbed), there's still raw passion on the field over who sings second, even if it's been "Anchors Away" the last 14 years.

9.) The first The Masters commercial of the year
Yes, it's about five seconds long (if that), and, no, there's not exactly a date this always happens—I usually see it around the NFL's conference championships or Super Bowl—but the instant the piano version of Dave Loggins' "Augusta" comes on, there's hope that spring is just around the corner and images of azaleas in bloom lift me briefly into golf heaven.

8.) The Kentucky Derby
Like The Masters' theme song, the Kentucky Derby is a short experience: I only religiously watch "My Old Kentucky Home," the call to post, and the race itself. But its reputation as the fastest two minutes in sports never disappoints. While not on this list, the Belmont Stakes also make the cut it in years where there's a Triple Crown threat.

7.) The Open Championship at St. Andrews
Although the Open at St. Andrews isn't a yearly event either, it still easily makes my top 10. If it were annual instead of unofficially every five years, it would be much higher on this list. Regardless, returning to the home of golf and watching players cross the Swilcan Bridge is, simply, special.

6.) Women's World Cup
To further highlight just how ignorantly American I am of the FIFA World Cups, I actually find myself more invested in the women's version. Being a newcomer to the soccer—er, football—world, the men's tournament might supplant it in the coming years for me, but I've been vastly more invested in the women's version because the United States has found success in recent tournaments.

5.) The Summer Olympics
This is basically Army-Navy, but on a longer, grander and international scale. The pageantry of the opening and closing ceremonies coupled with all of the different competitions and raw emotions every event evokes is second to none in the sports world. The only choice I had to make was which version I enjoyed more. ...

4.) The Winter Olympics
... And for me, that choice wasn't difficult. I'll admit I'm biased toward winter events, living in cold areas for most of my life, but I find myself more invested in the Winter Olympics. Hockey, I'm sure, is a large reason why, but even "mundane" events like cross-country skiing and curling hook me. You really can't go wrong either way, but give me the cold.

3.) First four days of March Madness
Distinguishing between the second and third spots on this list was extremely difficult, but in the end, lingering views on the amateur debate finally won out for me. Still, the first four days (excluding the games in Dayton) of the tournament almost always provide the greatest underdog stories of the sports year on a non-stop basis. It loses its luster once my teams and the Cinderellas are out, but there's no other four-day sporting event I'd want to watch more. Well, almost.

2.) The Masters
This shouldn't be a surprise given No. 9, but The Masters capture every sort of emotion for me. History, nostalgia, tranquility, the beauty of nature and the arrival of spring all combine beautifully. Oh, yeah and there's the golf part, too. And Jim Nantz' "Hello friends. Welcome to a tradition unlike any other." And the green jacket, one of the most iconic trophies in sports, trailing only No. 1 on this list.

1.) First round of the Stanley Cup Playoffs
The only debate I had about the top spot in my countdown was whether to include the whole Stanley Cup Playoffs or just a part. The entirety of the playoffs felt too long for this list, so then it came down to the first round or the Finals. I chose the latter because, in the spirit of the first four days of March Madness that inspired this list to begin with, the first round is full of non-stop hockey featuring four games every night for a week and a half between the best teams and players in the world. For me, there simply isn't a greater stretch in the world of sports.

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

SMC GOLF | GEORGE FOX INVITATIONAL

Belles optimistic after first spring tournament

By TONY ZAPPIA
Sports Writer

Saint Mary's traveled to Peoria, Arizona to participate in the George Fox Invitational held at Westbrook Village Golf Course on Saturday and Sunday.

The Belles combined to shoot a 90-over-par 658 to finish eighth out of the eight participating teams over the two-day tournament. The winning team, George Fox University, finished 65 shots ahead of Saint Mary's with a 28-over-par 596. Saint Mary's head coach Kim Moore was optimistic about the Belles' performance at the George Fox Invitational, though.

"I would say I thought it was a success," Moore said. "I know we didn't finish very high, but this tournament was mainly for us to get a chance to practice and play outside. The competition at this event was very strong and the majority of the teams had opportunities to play outside before arriving,

and we did not. Our overall team score was better than last year at this time, and we had some very respectable scores on a course that played a little longer then we were used to at 5,940 yards.

"... Obviously, there were shots left out there and not everyone played their best, but we are looking forward to the next couple weeks of practice and getting prepared for our next event in St. Louis."

The two day tournament was the first event of the spring season for the Belles who are looking to improve on a fourth place finish in the MIAA conference last season. Freshman Taylor Kehoe, an important part of the team's success in the fall season averaging the third-best 18-hole score on the team, led the way for the Belles posting a first round 10-over-par 81 and a second round eight-over-par 79 putting her in a tie for 21st place individually. Junior captain Ali Mahoney finished second for the Belles

with scores of nine-over-par 80 and 14-over-par 85. Junior captain Courtney Carlson rounded out the Belles lineup with an overall score of 24-over-par 166, while seniors Katie Zielinski and Sammie Averill hit 29-over-par 171s. Sophomores Kelsey Konkright, Isabella Speedon and Courtney Quinlan also participated as individual players. Konkright carded her collegiate best on Sunday, posting a 79 on the final day of the tournament.

The Belles have three more tournaments before entering into competition for the MIAA's automatic bid to nationals.

The Belles' next tournament, the St. Louis Invitational hosted by Washington University, will take place at the beginning of April at Gateway National Golf Links where the Belles will look to bounce back against another solid field.

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SMC LACROSSE | SMC 17, CONCORDIA CHICAGO 2

Saint Mary's breaks four records in win

By ALEX BENDER
Sports Writer

On Wednesday evening, Saint Mary's picked up a win in dominating fashion on the road, as the Belles cruised to a 17-2 victory over Concordia Chicago.

The game started off with a face-off win by Saint Mary's freshman midfielder Kate Kelly, and the Belles took little time getting on the scoreboard as sophomore midfielder Clare Theisen buried a shot in the back of the net with barely over one minute on the clock. For Theisen, the opening score was her tenth goal of the season.

This set the tone for the entire game as the Belles (2-2) continued to dominate on face-offs throughout the entire game. Freshman attack Molly Stout netted her fourth goal of the season just a couple minutes later and her fifth goal ten minutes after that.

The next few minutes saw a barrage of goals by the Belles coming from Theisen, Kelly and junior attack Lauren Telford and sophomore attack Hanna Makowski.

The struggles would continue to pile up for Concordia Chicago (0-7) as it faced difficulties gaining control of the ball, evidenced by the Belles' 12-0 lead at the half.

Saint Mary's tacked on another goal to start the second half to make it 13-0 before the Cougars finally got on the board. Seven different Belles were able to net at least one goal while four players scored at least three goals. Kate Kelly led the way with four goals while Theisen, Telford and Makowski all added three goals. Freshman midfielder Rachael Leonard also tallied a school-record three assists in the win.

Ball possession was a key for the Saint Mary's victory. The Belles finished the game with 30-20 advantage in ground balls over the Cougars; the team also outshot its opponent 36-9 during the game.

Saint Mary's head coach Amy Long said she was pleased with her team's performance.

"We played well last night," Long said. "Many of the ideas and strategies we have been working on in practice were executed very well last night. Our motion on attack is looking much better

and I was excited we had such a high scoring output. Our defense played a solid game and limited the scoring opportunities for Concordia Chicago, which made for a great night in goal for both of our goalies."

The Belles were able to break a couple of records throughout the game, as the 15 goal differential marked the largest margin of victory in the program's history. In addition, Saint Mary's 17 goals were the most scored in a single game, while the two goals against the team mark the fewest number of goals given up.

Following the victory, the Belles are now 2-2 on the year, and they will be looking to improve further as they head to Ohio Northern on Saturday.

"I expect our team to be challenged more than we were in last night's game," Long said. "I also expect our team to rise to the challenge and play a great game against a stronger opponent."

The game against the Polar Bears is set to begin at 1 p.m.

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ND WOMEN'S TENNIS

Notre Dame to welcome Wake Forest in ACC play



CAITLYN JORDAN | The Observer

Irish senior Quinn Gleason looks to hit a backhand during Notre Dame's 6-1 win over Indiana on Feb. 20 at Eck Tennis Pavilion. Gleason is 14-6 in singles play and 9-7 in doubles action this season.

Observer Staff Report

After a trip to the Caribbean where they swept LIU Brooklyn, Notre Dame returns to ACC action Friday against Wake Forest at Eck Tennis Pavilion.

Before the trip to Puerto Rico, the Irish (9-5, 3-2 ACC) hit a rough patch, losing two consecutive matches to Syracuse and Miami after accumulating a four-match winning streak. The Irish now sit at 3-2 in ACC play and will look to improve their conference record against the Demon Deacons (12-4, 2-3 ACC). The last time the Irish and the Demon Deacons went head-to-head, Notre Dame came away with a 7-0 victory April 3 of last year in Winston-Salem, North Carolina.

The Demon Deacons

started their season by winning nine consecutive matches. Since then, however, the team has lost three of its last five, including two in a row against No. 19 Georgia Tech and No. 3 North Carolina.

After they play Notre Dame on Friday, Wake Forest's tough stretch of matches continues at home against No. 10 Virginia on Sunday.

Notre Dame also enters the heart of its ACC schedule after Friday afternoon's matchup, as the Irish travel to take on North Carolina State and North Carolina before facing No. 8 Duke on April 3.

The Irish have momentum, however, after sweeping the Blackbirds (0-8) in Puerto Rico by a score of 7-0. All six Irish singles matches were

decided in two sets, and junior Mary Closs did not lose a single game.

Against Wake Forest, Notre Dame will look for its top two athletes, senior Quinn Gleason and junior Monica Robinson, to deliver strong performances. Gleason is 14-6 in singles play this year, while Robinson is 12-5. The pair is also Notre Dame's No. 1 doubles team with an 8-6 record on the season.

The Irish also sport an emerging sophomore in West Chester, Ohio native Brooke Broda. Broda is 16-1 on the year, including a record of 10-0 in dual play. Broda has played in the No. 5 singles spot for the Irish up to this point in the season.

Notre Dame is set to kick off its match against Wake Forest on Friday at 3:30 p.m. at Courtney Tennis Center.

the LSU course and have played it. We've got three freshmen in the lineup that will be there for the first time, but it's been that way for them all season with every course they've played, and they've been pretty quick to adjust and learn the golf course so I think we will be fine."

The Tiger Classic will provide an important stepping stone for the team as the conference and national tournaments loom on the horizon. It will be the first times the Irish have faced multiple ACC foes at once,

and Holt said it should serve as a good measuring stick heading forward.

"Every time we compete, it's just gaining a little bit more experience — like I said, we have three freshmen in the lineup," Holt said. "I think it will help us to see where we are at with the top teams in the conference there, so it is just a good test for us all around."

The Irish will compete in the LSU Tiger Classic this Sunday through Tuesday.

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Baseball

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

needs some experience out there. So I feel good about where we're at."

North Carolina State, meanwhile, split a two-game series against Indiana State at home this past Tuesday and Wednesday, dropping Wednesday's contest against the Sycamores, 11-7.

Both the Wolfpack and the Irish sit near the bottom of the conference standings now, but despite Notre Dame's three losses to the Cardinals (15-2, 3-0), Aoki said he still took some positives away from the series, as the Irish lost two games by a single run and nearly matched last year's conference champion blow for blow.

"I thought save for the first inning of the second game, we pitched it incredibly well all weekend long, and I thought we defended it — again, save for that one inning ... very well," Aoki said after the losses to Louisville. "I thought our at-bats all-weekend long were incredibly competitive against a really elite pitching staff, which aside from that one inning I thought we matched

them pitch for pitch essentially. And so I've been really encouraged by the way in which we've competed."

Despite that, Aoki is shuffling his rotation slightly this weekend. Junior right-hander Ryan Smoyer will start the first game as he did against Louisville, but sophomore left-hander Sean Guenther will move up from the final game of the series to the second, while sophomore right-hander Brandon Bielak will be bumped in favor of junior left-hander Scott Tully.

Vierling might come in for relief as he did against Toledo, but he is also one of Notre Dame's top offensive weapons, batting .304 in 15 starts this year with two home runs, tied for the team lead with fellow freshman outfielder Connor Stutts, who collected one of his long balls against the Rockets on Wednesday.

Notre Dame faces North Carolina State in its second ACC series of the year this weekend at Doak Field at Dail Park in Raleigh, North Carolina. First pitch is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday and 1 p.m. Sunday.

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W Golf

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

to contend come the final round."

After last week's performance, the Irish have had a week of practice and preparation to get ready for their biggest test yet.

"We just need to play three solid rounds, and the girls know that," Holt said. "We didn't get that done out in Arizona, but I feel good, especially in the fact that we got better each day and a couple of our players know



BECKI JEREN | The Observer

Irish senior Alex Lawson connects on a backhand during Notre Dame's 6-1 win over Michigan on Feb. 13 at Eck Tennis Pavilion.

M Tennis

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

a string of three losses. The Hurricanes will face Boston College before playing the Irish on Sunday. The Irish are 2-0 against the Hurricanes under Sachire. Against two conference opponents, Sachire said the team will look to improve offensively after working on doubles play over the break.

"We have been working hard on our offensive plays and our ability to attack our opponents," Sachire said. "In addition, we have spent some time getting our doubles back up to the level we were playing at prior to spring break."

Notre Dame's season has been inconsistent thus far, containing a three-game winning streak and a four-game losing streak. Accordingly, another aspect of Notre Dame's game Sachire said the team has been working to improve is its mental toughness.

"One of the main goals that we have is to have our players be able to maintain focus on their tactics and game plan during the most pressure-packed situations in a match, and ultimately, not allow their focus to drift away from what it takes to be successful in the key moments of a match," Sachire said.

Senior Alex Lawson looks to factor big in Notre Dame's upcoming ACC matches. Lawson has been climbing up the all-time Irish doubles win list, and is now tied at 3rd place with 88 total wins. Ahead of Lawson on the all-time wins list are former players Jakub Pietrowski with 95 wins and Greg Andrews with 93.

If the weather allows it, Notre Dame will play in the Courtney Tennis Center against Duke at 3:30 p.m. on Friday, and against Miami at noon Sunday.

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Softball

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

base to start the bottom half of the inning for Notre Dame. Two batters later, freshman third baseman Melissa Rochford, the reigning ACC Player of the Week, singled to right-center field to score Wester and give the Irish a 1-0 lead.

Notre Dame kept attacking in the frame, as senior first baseman Micaela Arizmendi knocked in two runs with a single to right field. Three batters later, senior right fielder Megan Sorlie lined a bases-loaded double to the right-field gap and was driven in by the next batter, sophomore left fielder Bailey Bigler, to extend Notre Dame's lead to 7-0.

"One of the things we've done really well, typically, is getting off to a strong start," Irish head coach Deanna Gumpf said. "I actually like being visitor, we've done a really great job of being visitor this year because we score first. ... For us to come back and score all those runs changes the whole dynamic of the game."

Sorlie's double prompted the Falcons to change pitchers, as senior Braiden Dillow replaced the struggling starter, junior Briania Combs.

After building a large lead in the first inning, the Irish sailed smoothly the rest of the way. Nasland retired

the side in both the second and the third innings and finished her day with three strikeouts while picking up her seventh win of the season.

"I loved Rachel [Nasland] today," Gumpf said. "Did they hit the ball a couple of times? Yeah, but she got them to do what she wanted them to do, and Rachel had really great presence on the mound."

The Irish ran into a rough patch in the fourth inning when sophomore Katie Beriont replaced Nasland on the mound. The Falcons got runners on first and second base, but Rochford turned a double play to end the inning.

"I liked the way Katie came in, and she got us some ground balls," Gumpf said. "I don't think she was very sharp in the [fourth] inning, but she still got away with it, and that's a really good sign. The [fifth] inning she did a much better job."

Notre Dame added to its lead in the bottom of the fourth inning. Wester reached on an infield single and stole her 21st base of the season before scoring on an error by Falcon's senior right fielder Marina Cobbs. Two batters later, sophomore shortstop Morgan Reed scorched a double down the right-field line to plate another two Irish runners and put Notre Dame up 10-0.

The game ended one inning later via mercy rule.

Six Irish players tallied at least one RBI in the game, and seven players recorded at least one hit. Gumpf said the key to the team's offense is its ability to stay within itself.

"I think we're not trying to do too much," Gumpf said. "I think we are the most successful offensively when we know what works for us and stay in our ballgame. I think our team's done a great job of figuring out what really works for us."

Notre Dame will continue its homestand and extend its 18-game winning streak next week when the Irish face Eastern Michigan on Tuesday followed by Michigan State on Wednesday. Gumpf said she is excited for the homestand because the team has been on the road for the last couple of weeks.

"It feels really nice to be home," Gumpf said. "There's nothing like playing in Melissa Cook Stadium. There are so many advantages of being here. Number one, we get to sleep in our own beds. Number two, we know this field so very well. Number three, we're comfortable here, and I think it's tougher for teams to come in here and play us here because it's such a great place to play."

Tuesday's first pitch between the Irish and Eagles is set for 5 p.m. at Melissa Cook Stadium.

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CAITLYN JORDAN | The Observer

Irish sophomore shortstop Morgan Reed fields a grounder during Notre Dame's 10-0 win over Bowling Green on Thursday at Melissa Cook Stadium. Reed drove in two runs for the Irish in the victory.

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ND SOFTBALL | ND 10, BOWLING GREEN 0

Complete team effort leads Irish to victory

By MAREK MAZUREK
Sports Editor

After nearly a month of road games, No. 19 Notre Dame grabbed a 10-0 victory in its home opener Thursday night against Bowling Green.

With the win, the Irish (22-3, 3-0 ACC) improved their all-time record against the Falcons (11-11, 0-0 MAC) to 15-6.

Junior Rachel Nasland started on the mound for the Irish and faced some trouble early on. After striking out the Falcons' leadoff hitter, Nasland gave up two consecutive singles before striking out the next hitter and getting a flyout to left field to end the frame.

Riding a 17-game winning streak into the game, the Irish wasted no time in jumping out to a lead. Junior center fielder Karley Wester singled and stole second



CAITLYN JORDAN | The Observer

Irish junior Rachel Nasland delivers a pitch during Notre Dame's 10-0 win over Bowling Green on Thursday at Melissa Cook Stadium.

see SOFTBALL **PAGE 11**

ND WOMEN'S GOLF

ND set for LSU Tiger Classic

By TOBIAS HOONHOUT
Sports Writer

Notre Dame will head down south this weekend for the LSU Tiger Classic, a tournament boasting nationally ranked competition. In Baton Rouge, Louisiana, the Irish will be up against No. 2 Auburn, No. 16 Oklahoma and No. 21 LSU, as well as ACC foes No. 13 Wake Forest, No. 17 North Carolina, No. 20 Duke and North Carolina State.

"I think it will be a good test for us," Irish head coach Susan Holt said. "It's that time of year where we need to see where we stand among the top teams in the country trying to prepare for NCAAs, so it's a really good opportunity for us to play them head-to-head, at the same time and golf course with the same conditions, and see how we match up."

Last weekend, the Irish came in fourth at the Clover Cup in Mesa, Arizona, which they hosted. The Irish stumbled in the first round of

play, but managed to make up ground, ending with a team score of 10-over par 874 — 16 shots back of the winner SMU. Among the top performers for the Irish were senior captain Talia Campbell, who recorded her tenth top-10 finish of the season with an even par 216, and freshman Maddie Rose Hamilton, who closed out a strong final-round with a score of 69 to come in 17th place with a four-over par 220.

"We have five solid players and we just need at least four of them to show up every day, and we've done a pretty good job of that overall this year ... and we just need to capitalize more on scoring opportunities that we present ourselves with," Holt said. "We play close, but don't convert all of the putts that we need to, so we just need to give ourselves more opportunities to score. If we can do that, then I think we are going to have a chance

see W GOLF **PAGE 10**

BASEBALL

Squad readies for Wolfpack

By GREG HADLEY
Senior Sports Writer

Fresh off its first home game of the season, Notre Dame will try to carry the momentum from its mid-week win over Toledo onto the road as it faces No. 13 North Carolina State in a three-game series this weekend.

The Irish (7-8, 0-3 ACC) pounded the Rockets, 10-3, on Wednesday to near the .500 mark early on in the season, but Irish head coach Mik Aoki's squad has already gotten off to a poor start in ACC play this year, getting swept by No. 5 Louisville on the road last weekend.

The Wolfpack (14-5, 1-2), like the Cardinals, are coming off an NCAA tournament berth last season, but their start to conference play in 2016 has been similar to that of the Irish, as they dropped two of three to unranked Boston College last weekend.

Still, Notre Dame enters

this weekend's matchup with momentum after cruising past Toledo. The Irish offense collected 12 hits, its second-highest total of the season, while senior right-hander Michael Hearne struck out a career-high seven batters while retiring 12 of the last 13 batters he faced.

Hearne yielded the mound after five innings, and four Irish relievers revolved through to keep the door firmly closed against the Rockets, a performance Aoki said he was pleased with.

"It was nice to get our bullpen guys some work in the back half of that game," Aoki said. "[Senior right-hander] Dave Hearne got in there for an inning, so hopefully he feels good. ... [Freshman right-hander] Matt Vierling got in. ... He gave up a home run but I think Matt is a kid whose role on the mound needs to expand, and he

see BASEBALL **PAGE 10**

MEN'S TENNIS

Notre Dame seeks key wins against ACC foes

By JACKIE BREBECK
Sports Writer

As Notre Dame enters the heart of its ACC schedule, it will look to secure a pair of wins against Duke and Miami this weekend.

"We are really excited about the opportunities this weekend," Irish head coach Ryan Sachire said. "Both Duke and Miami are great programs with really talented players, and we are looking forward to the challenges that we will face."

The Blue Devils (7-8, 1-2 ACC) had a rough start to their season, winning only two out of their first eight matches. However, they have been on an upswing, winning five out of their last seven games. Duke is 21-28 in the all-time series against the Irish (8-8, 2-2 ACC). Miami (6-6, 1-1 ACC), on the other hand, is coming into its match against Notre Dame after



BECKI JEREN | The Observer

Irish senior Quentin Monaghan fires a forehand during Notre Dame's 7-0 win over Ball State on Feb. 7 at Eck Tennis Pavilion.

see M TENNIS **PAGE 11**