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Fans support professional soccer

By MEGHAN THOMASSEN
News Writer

It's almost summer and football season is in full swing — for students loyal to the European and Mexican soccer leagues, that is.

Every week, fans gather informally in the LaFortune Student Center to watch their favorite teams battle it out on the big screen. The Champions Leagues are currently in their playoff stages, and for senior Oscar Gonzalez, these crucial games could call him home to watch his local team, Tigres UANL, play in the finals.

"It's a team I've been following since I was a kid ... It's pretty important to me," Gonzalez said.

Gonzalez said he follows all five major soccer leagues and is considering skipping the Commencement ceremony for the North American Champions League finals if Tigres goes to the finals.

"I'm a fanatic, and if they make it to the finals, I will surely skip [Commencement]," he said.

LaFortune serves as a hub for the international games unavailable to students through

see SOCCER/page 4

Leaders address racial discrimination

"Call to Action" committees work to change campus culture, foster inclusion

By NICOLE MICHELS
News Writer

After testimonies at a March 5 town hall meeting called to address instances of racial discrimination revealed a widespread problem of racial discrimination on campus, community leaders are working to foster an environment that better embodies the ideal outlined in Notre Dame's "Spirit of Inclusion" statement.

The statement asserts the University welcomes "all people, regardless of color, gender, religion, ethnicity, sexual orientation, social or economic class, and nationality, for example, precisely because of Christ's calling to treat others as we desire to be treated."

Senior Brittany Suggs, former chair of the Black Student Association, said everyone at Notre Dame needs to take responsibility for the well-being of the entire community.

"These problems are not just one group's problems ... and as a member of the Notre Dame family, it is your duty to be informed and to take up this cause," Suggs said. "We want a place that can feel like home for everyone ... If we are a family, it is important to also be attentive to the needs of all of the other members of our family."

Suggs said "Call to Action" committees formed to address racial discrimination, and those



ASHLEY DACY/The Observer

African Students Association Vice President Christian Moore, Black Student Association Chair Brittany Suggs and Student Body President Emeritus Pat McCormick participate in the Town Hall Meeting on March 5.

groups synthesized the concerns voiced at the town hall meeting into a plan of action.

"We are working on a response that aligns with many of the plans ... that come from what the student body and greater Notre Dame community presented at the town hall meeting," she said.

Suggs said the committees considered stories of struggle voiced by the students at the town hall meeting to form an overarching

plan of action meant to correct a campus culture in which discrimination can persist.

"We shared the stories that were presented during the town hall meeting ... Then we also shared the more general suggestions from the town hall meeting," Suggs said. "What we did from there was discussed more in-depth how to create responses to these two sets of information and worked with these different

departments."

Two preliminary results of the committees' work have been heartening, Suggs said.

"Immediately after the town hall meeting, there was an increase in reporting [instances of discrimination] and an increase in faculty members being available to assist students with reporting," Suggs said. "Another

see ACTION/page 4

Campus Girl Scouts receive community service award



Photo courtesy of Jamie Pfaff

Campus Girl Scouts club members play a game with girls from Troop 00087 during a meeting. The club recieved a Community Recognition Award from the Northern Indiana-Michiana Service Unit.

By TORI CREIGHTON
News Writer

Campus Girl Scouts of Notre Dame and St. Mary's received the 2011-2012 Community Recognition Award from the Northern Indiana-Michiana Service Unit last week for its service to the local area.

Sophomore Jamie Pfaff, former club president, said Campus Girl Scouts filled a community need by leading Troop 00087, which served girls on the west side of South Bend who could not be placed in other troops due to lack of leadership.

"They probably wouldn't have been able to be in Girl Scouts without us," she said.

Pfaff said club members led the troop of approximately 25 girls from 2 to 3:30 p.m. twice a month in Pasquerilla West Hall.

People often think Campus Girl Scouts is a club for college-aged Girl Scouts, Pfaff said, but members are actually volunteers with-

in a service group that works with the local Girl Scout council.

Past involvement in Girl Scouts is not necessary to join, and men are encouraged to participate as well, Pfaff said. She said

Campus Girl Scouts is a convenient way for Notre Dame and Saint Mary's students to connect with and serve girls in the community.

"If you're doing community service, you're being a Girl Scout," Pfaff said.

According to the Girl Scouts of the USA website, Campus Girl Scouts organizations areis present nation-wide on college campuses. The service clubs are certified by Girl Scouts of the USA but are separate entities that exist to collaborate with Girl Scout councils.

In her nomination letter for the award, Service Unit 206 Manager and Campus Girl Scouts Liaison Dawn Cole said Troop 00087 is unique because it is a multi-age

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OBSERVER

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Questions regarding Observer policies should be directed to Editor-in-Chief Allan Joseph.

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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: IF FATHER JENKINS HAD A SUPERPOWER, WHAT WOULD IT BE?



Madison Boyle

sophomore
Pasquerilla East

"The power to control people's emotions around him."



Emily Danaher

freshman
Breen-Phillips

"Mind reading so he knows what everyone at Notre Dame is thinking."



Lauren Leniart

junior
Pasquerilla West

"Being invisible because I've never seen him around."



Alvin Hu

junior
Sorin

"Teleportation."



Luke McNiff

junior
Stanford

"The ability to seduce people with his eyes."



Drew Williams

junior
Stanford

"I forgot what it is called but Jigglypuff has it."

Have an idea for Question of the Day? Email obsphoto@gmail.com



ANDREW CHENG/The Observer

As the school year comes to an end, freshmen **Conor Montijo**, left, and **Dan Kwansnieski**, right, moved out their couch from **Stanford Hall** on Monday night. Students must have their rooms ready for inspection by the **Office of Residence Life & Housing** by Thursday.

OFFBEAT

Mass. woman balks at paying old \$73 debt to N.J.

AMESBURY, Mass. — A Massachusetts woman who got a bill for \$73 from the state of New Jersey for a decades-old debt says she has no intention of paying.

Alice Mainville, of Amesbury, got a letter recently telling her she owes New Jersey's Department of Labor \$73 because it gave her too much money in an unemployment check 35 years ago.

Mainville tells the Daily News of Newburyport she collected unemployment during a labor dispute at the bakery where she worked when she was 17.

Mainville, who moved to Massachusetts after high

school, says she won't pay because New Jersey officials have not explained how they concluded she owes the money.

New Jersey Department of Labor spokeswoman Kerri Gatling says there is no bad debt "write-off" in unemployment insurance law.

Ala. police dept. in possession of two unused UAVs

GADSDEN, Ala. — An Alabama police chief says he recently discovered that his department has two unmanned aerial vehicles.

Gadsden Police Chief John Crane tells The Gadsden Times he learned two weeks ago the department has had the unmanned aerial vehicles since 2010.

The revelation came to light after the Federal Aviation Administration released a list of agencies certified to fly drones and unmanned aerial vehicles. The Gadsden Police Department was on the list.

Crane, who was named police chief in February, says he doesn't know why they were purchased. The cost was about \$150,000, paid through a federal law enforcement grant.

Crane says the department's UAVs, which have video surveillance capability, haven't been used because there hasn't been a need for them.

Information compiled from the Associated Press.

IN BRIEF

There will be a **blood drive** sponsored by **Friends of the Orphans** and hosted by the **American Red Cross** today from 12 to 6 p.m. in **Stepan Center**.

Kelly McMann, an associate professor of political science at Case Western University, will deliver a lecture titled "**Outside Capitals: Measuring and Explaining Subnational Democracy**" today from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. in **Room C103** of the **Hesburgh Center**.

Stephen E. Zitney, the director of the **AVESTAR Center**, will present a seminar addressing the challenges of attaining operational excellence for clean energy plants today from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. in **155 DeBartolo Hall**.

There will be a **freshmen finals prayer service** tonight at 9 p.m. at the **Grotto**.

The "**Operation Smile Candy Gram Fundraiser**" will happen tomorrow from 3 to 6 p.m. at **LaFortune Student Center**.

Celebrate the spring season with free food, inflatables, games, face painting, balloon animals, juggler and a petting zoo at the **Zahm Spring Carnival** tomorrow from 4 to 7 p.m. on **North Quad**.

Dr. Roderick J.A. Little will deliver a lecture titled "**Much More Than Bean Counting: Why You Should Become a Statistician**" tomorrow from 4 to 5 p.m. at **127 Hayes-Healy**.

To submit information to be included in this section of The Observer, email detailed information about an event to obsnews.nd@gmail.com

LOCAL WEATHER

TODAY



HIGH
LOW

76
59

TONIGHT



HIGH
LOW

68
59

WEDNESDAY



HIGH
LOW

86
65

THURSDAY



HIGH
LOW

83
65

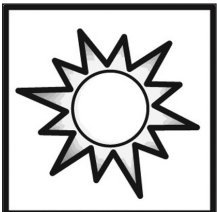
FRIDAY



HIGH
LOW

80
62

SATURDAY



HIGH
LOW

82
61

CAMPUS LIFE COUNCIL

Group advocates for inclusion

By NICOLE TOCZAUER
News Writer

In their final meeting of the semester, members of Campus Life Council (CLC) discussed how to best advocate for the expansion of inclusion on the basis of sexual orientation, race and ethnicity in student government's Year End Report to the Board of Trustees.

Student body president emeritus Pat McCormick said student government regularly reports student concerns to a Board of Trustees committee responsible for the Board of Student Affairs. These reports usually happen two to three times each year.

"In the fall, we presented students' advocacy of sustainability, informing the building of a Notre Dame for the 21st century," McCormick said. "We thought this time it would be especially valuable to talk about how we might expand inclusion in the Notre Dame family, particularly ethnicity and race, as well as sexual orientation, based on events in the past couple of months."

Ed Mack, rector of O'Neill Hall, said although student government has tried to expand inclusion in the past, there might be better ways to work with the University administration.

"I'm wondering if after the presentation we can ask, 'What are we missing?' What's their advice to us?" he said. "The best and brightest of student government have worked on this for several years and there hasn't been much progress."

McCormick said Student Senate passed resolutions requesting the addition of sexual orientation to its nondiscrimination clause and the approval of a gay-straight alliance (GSA) or equivalent student group.

"The University ran a press release last week on their intent to expand inclusion. We don't think it has been unsuccessful," McCormick said. "I hope this year's work speaks to a broad consensus on all sides on sexual orientation and race that we have made progress."

Members of CLC also discussed concerns students have voiced in the past week.

Former Zahm Hall Senator

Kevin Noonan said students thought the administration's press release was ambiguous. (Editor's Nnote: Noonan is the Scene editor for The Observer.)

"There's been a lot of student support, specifically for a GSA and a sexual orientation clause," he said. "I think for the very least, ask [in the Year End Report] for an explanation, a public explanation, of what's holding it back when students have supported this for so long." The work of several campus stakeholders was essential to the progress made this year, McCormick said.

"We are committed to ensuring discrimination in every form is confronted," he said. "Students have advocated in extraordinary ways and in ways that remain in line with the mission of the University. We hope to express our gratitude that engagement from other stakeholders has occurred and hope to progress in weeks to come."

Contact Nicole Toczauer at
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SMC student studies world female leaders

Women's Leadership Study

- Led by the Center for Women's Intercultural Leadership
- Funded by a grant from the U.S. State Department
- Topics covered include American women's history, leadership and intercultural skills

LAUREN KALINOSKI | Observer Graphic

By JILLIAN BARWICK
Saint Mary's Editor

For Saint Mary's junior Lindsay Ellis, summer break will be an opportunity to explore the cultures of young female leaders from around the world.

After receiving an email from the Center for Women's Intercultural Leadership (CWIL) regarding new employment opportunities on campus, Ellis said she was intrigued by the chance to interact with international female leaders.

"I am really excited to share my culture with other women leaders," Ellis said. "With this opportunity, I will be able to find out how different I am from these other young women and how our cultures compare and contrast."

Ellis will participate in a study at Saint Mary's that examines undergraduate women leaders from Burma, Egypt, Libya, Mongolia and TunisiaUnited States State Department's Ellis. Ellis said the U.S. State Department's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs selected Saint Mary's for a grant to conduct the study.

Titled "Educating Tomorrow's Global Women Leaders," the institute will consist of four weeks of intensive studies of American women's history, leadership and intercultural skills. This will be followed by a week of educational travel, culminating in a conference in Washington, D.C., Ellis said.

"I am participating in the four weeks as a student mentor on campus, beginning on June 16 and ending on July 14," she said. "I will be sharing a room with two international participants where we will participate in all of the activities. I will basically be an American host to the participants."

Hosted through CWIL, the institute helps participants to learn about the United States and to get to know their peers, Ellis said.

"The program is designed through CWIL to include student mentors like myself so that the participants will have

us as their American tour guides and mentors during their stay here," Ellis said.

Strong leadership skills and excellent intercultural competence were prerequisites for becoming student mentors, Ellis said.

"I am a resident advisor in McCandless Hall, and women's studies is one of my minors," Ellis said. "This opportunity seemed to fit right in with what I like to do."

Ellis said she thought her experience as a Resident Advisor strengthened her application for the CWIL program.

"We do diversity training and are involved with a lot of conflict resolution," she said. "We also plan many events throughout the year, so all of that sort of molds us into people who fit the job description perfectly. I can't wait to meet the other girls in my section, because I know we all bring something different to the table."

In addition to learning about other female leaders and their cultures, Ellis said she and other mentors will receive room and board as well as a stipend for their participation in the study.

"I found the incentive in applying was that I'd be able to be back on campus for a few weeks and get to travel around while meeting new friends," Ellis said. "The opportunity to travel to places like New York, Boston and Washington, D.C. all in one summer will be amazing."

The participants and their mentors will also make weekend trips from South Bend to Chicago, Ellis said.

"This opportunity to travel and get to know women from other countries is going to be an experience I will never forget," she said. "I am really looking forward to meeting all the participants and learning more than I ever imagined ... I think because I love Saint Mary's so much, I always want to share that love with new people, so this is the perfect opportunity for me."

Contact Jillian Barwick at
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Grad students study ancient texts

By ANN MARIE JAKUBOWSKI
News Writer

Over Spring Break, 10 Notre Dame graduate students enrolled in a classics seminar taught by Professor Martin Bloomer gained hands-on experience with ancient texts and manuscripts at the Ambrosian Library in Milan, Italy.

The class, composed of students from the classics, literature and history departments as well as the Medieval Institute, joined students from Loyola University Chicago and the University of Wisconsin to tour the world-renowned library and examine the texts.

Bloomer said the seminar examines how ancient texts are transmitted.

“When we study classical texts in introductory classes, we study them as if they had been printed once by someone in, say, the 4th century,” Bloomer said. “The fact is, however, that we are actually reading copies of copies of copies of the original texts.”

By focusing on the editorial process, Bloomer said scholars can gain insight into interpreting the manuscripts.

“Any editor of these texts is making decisions about what to include, which is shown in the text’s physical properties, like commentary notes in the margin,” he said. “In my seminar, we were looking at all these processes by which a text is reprocessed and interpreted.”

The students spent most of the week-long trip researching how to interpret the texts using their physical properties, Bloomer said. He said students usually spent half the day in the library, while they spent the other half touring museums and historical sights in Milan.

“We went to an art gallery which housed fantastic works of art, including Da Vinci’s notebooks, as well as the old Christian churches founded by St. Ambrose, the place where Ambrose baptized St. Augustine, and Augustine’s nearby birthplace,” Bloomer said. “The library curators, known as the Doctors of the Ambrosiana, took us on wonderful tours.”

Literature graduate student Bobby McFadden, a member of Bloomer’s seminar, said the trip

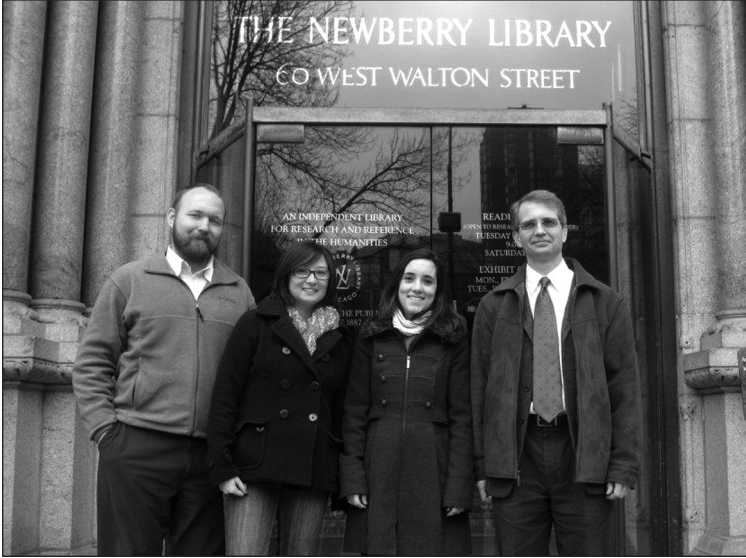


Photo courtesy of the College of Arts and Letters

Classicists Andrew McDonald, Alison Adams, Elisabetta Drudi and professor Martin Bloomer stand outside the Newberry Library in Chicago.

made him appreciate the importance of examining ancient texts in person. He said it also provided an opportunity to explore the resources of a prominent European library.

“The trip wasn’t just about our own study of how these texts are received and the questions we could ask of them, but also on a larger scale, seeing what kinds of texts are preserved in European library and the necessity of going over there and researching them ourselves,” McFadden said.

McFadden said his research concerns the relationship between classical literature and the Catholic Church fathers.

“I’m interested in the reception of classical literature by the Church fathers, particularly Ambrose and Augustine,” he said. “This particular class provided a great opportunity to focus on texts from the Middle Ages and Renaissance periods in a Christian context.”

Bloomer said decades ago, a relationship between Fr. Theodore Hesburgh, University president emeritus, and Ambrosia’s Giovanni Battista Montini, who later became Pope Paul VI, resulted in the University’s acquisition of digital copies of many ancient texts. As a result, Bloomer said his students were familiar with the texts before examining them in person.

“A microfilm photograph preserves certain aspects, but as historians, we want to examine

the actual article and read signs of use into it, the kind of thing you can know only by holding it in your hands,” Bloomer said.

Bloomer said the trip to Milan marked the culmination of the class and allowed the students to apply the work they did during the semester in an exciting setting.

“Milan is a great city, and part of my idea was to demystify the whole process of using ancient and medieval materials,” Bloomer said. “By going to a major collection such as Ambrosia, I wanted to provide students with the know-how and practical experience, and then give them context by meeting many of the fine scholars and curators at the Ambrosiana.”

McFadden agreed the research opportunities available at the Ambrosian Library were unparalleled.

“Exploring the collections of the library, and particularly the tour of Milan that the Ambrosiana hosts gave us, was especially beneficial for me because of my research with saints Augustine and Ambrose,” he said. “Seeing the city that Ambrose helped to build brought me to a new understanding of what he was trying to do there during his time as bishop, so I really appreciated the graciousness and help of our professor and guides.”

Contact Ann Marie Jakubowski at ajakubo1@nd.edu

Scouts

continued from page 1

troop. It allows for siblings to attend the same meeting, but they are split into groups, called Daisies, Brownies and Juniors, based on their grades.

“The idea of this troop is that it’s a one-stop shop for the parents,” Pfaff said. “It makes them more willing to keep their girls in Girl Scouts because they only have to bring them to one meeting.”

Pfaff said typically, eight volunteers led each meeting. The girls worked to earn badges and promote the Girl Scout Law, which focuses on values like honesty, responsibility, courage and respect, she said. They also participated in cultural and academic activities like taking

a trip to the Snite Museum of Art and participating in Thinking Day.

Sophomore Celine Fausto, who co-led the Juniors, said she enjoyed helping her group earn patches in subjects ranging from nature to first aid and emergency response.

“It was fun to see what they do because I was a Daisy and Brownie but never reached the Girl Scout [Junior] level, so I never got to do them,” Fausto said. “It was a good leadership experience, and a lot of the little girls were so cute.”

In February, Campus Girl Scouts and Troop 00087 sold more than 350 boxes of Girl Scout cookies and spent the profit on Build-A-Bear teddy bears, Fausto said.

“I liked it when we sold cookies,” Fausto said. “It was more fun because the girls had more

interaction. They got to see the campus and the students and do something active.”

Pfaff said Saint Mary’s freshman Kaitlin Maierhofer and Notre Dame freshman Emma O’Shea will head the club as co-presidents next year. She said the club plans to continue leading Troop 00087 and expand by hosting larger events for local troops, like a sleepover or leadership day.

“A goal of Girl Scouts is to get girls thinking in a more futuristic way,” Pfaff said. “These girls are coming to Notre Dame and meeting girls that did that. It’s huge for them to start thinking about their futures.”

Campus Girl Scouts works to give the girls in its troop a community in which they can be themselves, Pfaff said.

“A big thing for me was to see these girls who were perfect strangers and had probably never been to Notre Dame before become comfortable with each other and become like a little family,” she said.

Contact Tori Creighton at tcreight@nd.edu

Soccer

continued from page 1

Notre Dame’s regular Comcast cable offerings.

“I know there are a lot of people on campus who like it and I’ll watch it with them in LaFortune, but not all my friends like soccer,” Gonzalez said.

Gonzalez said he loves soccer because he grew up playing back home in Mexico.

“You can easily play on the streets ... People have soccer balls or just have a can, as long as you have something to kick around,” he said.

Gonzalez said he preferred soccer over American football and basketball because soccer is a continuous game.

“It’s not like American football [where] you play for ten seconds and stop for a little while,” he said. “Anybody can play it. You don’t have to be too fast or skilled ... You can play and don’t have to be an athlete.”

Sophomore Michael Gills said he follows his team, Newcastle United, both on the big screen in LaFortune and in his room.

“I watch multiple games a week of soccer,” he said. “It’s

pretty easy to watch here in LaFortune. I [also] watch in my room because I pay [extra] for the cable service.”

Gills said he likes watching the games in LaFortune due to the exciting atmosphere that usually accompanies important games.

“You come to LaFun and you see huge groups of people watching it,” he said. “All the students are very passionate about it, and I like to watch with them because they care a lot.”

Gills said he has been watching soccer since he was born because his dad is from Newcastle. He said the Champions League is comprised of the top teams from around the world.

“It’s the best players from around the world playing in one competition,” Gills said. “It happens every year, and [they] qualify by previous performances in your respective league.”

Gills said one of the most appealing parts of soccer is its large audience.

“Everybody watches it,” he said. It is really the world’s game.”

Contact Meghan Thomassen at mthomass@nd.edu

Action

continued from page 1

reaction has been the [increased] vigor that people have for the issue ... keeping the discussion very much alive.”

Student government leaders have participated in the committees attempting to address discrimination at Notre Dame and have taken initiatives to complement the conclusions drawn in those committees, student body president Brett Rocheleau said.

“Student government has been heavily involved with each of the committees, and Student Senate just passed a resolution the other day that basically said we are looking for a University task force to go through and review the systems of how training is done ... looking back on what’s going on and taking a second look at how we can improve the processes that could be a part of this inclusion,” he said.

Student body president emeritus Pat McCormick said he is working alongside Rocheleau to develop a presentation for the upcoming Board of Trustees meeting that will focus on ways to build an inclusive community.

“Our hope is to offer a forward-looking view as to how we might build a more inclusive community on campus with a wide variety of campus stakeholders that is truly consistent with the mission of the University of Notre Dame,” McCormick said.

Rocheleau said while acknowledging the long-term vision necessarily defines these efforts, student government hopes to begin to implement programs that will change the atmosphere before the next school year.

“We are going to hit the ground running in the fall when everyone is back on campus, whether it is new faculty diversity training or new events during Freshman Orientation,” Rocheleau said. “We are trying to make everyone more informed on diversity issues on campus and trying to expand the resources already offered at Notre Dame ... making sure when we get to campus this issue remains relevant until it gets solved and there is a culture of inclusion.”

Vice President for Student Af-

fairs Fr. Tom Doyle said his office has a similarly long-term vision for implementing programs to change the campus atmosphere, but it also seeks to create short-term progress.

“We want to make sure that there’s a real awareness and sensitivity to things that might be part of our tradition that are unwittingly off-putting to parts of our community,” Doyle said. “We are taking a look [at programs in place] and saying, ‘Are there things that we can do better for our rectors, our assistant rectors, our RAs ... our Freshman Orientation staff?’”

Doyle said his office will emphasize training residence halls’ Freshman Orientation staffs in racial sensitivity.

“We are trying to make sure that each dorm understands how important it is to extend hospitality and welcome not just students of color, but also to international students, students who might be gay, lesbian or questioning and students who might be disabled,” he said.

The University will also focus on ensuring that hiring practices build this sense of community, Doyle said.

“In our own hiring, [we will be] making sure that we have much more diverse pools of applicants, and for all of our applicants trying to ask better questions about their cultural competency, preparedness to work in a diverse setting, and readiness to ... teach and lead,” Doyle said.

Doyle said although this process will not yield quick results, the unique climate currently at Notre Dame enables the community to become one that is truly catholic, not just Catholic.

“There’s no one thing that will fix the culture or will fix operations,” he said. “It’s going to take trust, mutual good will, and some risks on everyone’s part — but I think what we have realized is that the risks are well worth the reward. We want to be Catholic and catholic, meaning that we are a Roman Catholic university and a catholic community ... an environment on campus that is welcoming and hospitable to everyone in a deep and abiding way.”

Contact Nicole Michels at nmichels@nd.edu

Skyscraper replaces World Trade Center

Associated Press

NEW YORK — One World Trade Center, the monolith being built to replace the twin towers destroyed in the Sept. 11 attacks, claimed the title of New York City’s tallest skyscraper on Monday, as workers erected steel columns that made its unfinished skeleton a little over 1,250 feet high, just enough to peek over the roof of the observation deck on the Empire State Building.

City officials and iron workers applauded as the first 12-ton column was hoisted onto the tower’s top deck.

“This project is much more than steel and concrete. It is a symbol of success for the nation,” said David Samson, chairman of the Port Authority, the agency that owns the World Trade Center.

Clear skies afforded an immaculate 360-degree view from the top, although it wasn’t easy getting up there. After riding an elevator to the 90th floor, a small group of officials and journalists had to climb three steep ladders to reach the top platform, which was encircled by blue netting along the perimeter.

The milestone is a preliminary one. Workers are still adding floors to the building once called the Freedom Tower. It isn’t expected to reach its full height for at least another year, at which point it is likely to be declared the tallest building in the U.S., and third tallest in the world.

Those bragging rights, though, will carry an asterisk. Crowning the world’s tallest buildings is a little like picking the heavyweight champion in boxing. There is often disagreement about who deserves the belt.

In this case, the issue involves the 408-foot-tall needle that will sit on the tower’s roof.

Count it, and the World Trade Center is back on top. Otherwise, it will have to settle for No. 2, after the Willis Tower in Chicago.

“Height is complicated,” said Nathaniel Hollister, a spokesman for The Council on Tall Buildings and Urban Habitats,

a Chicago-based organization considered an authority on such records.

Experts and architects have long disagreed about where to stop measuring super-tall buildings outfitted with masts, spires and antennas that extend far above the roof.

Consider the case of the Empire State Building: Measured from the sidewalk to the tip of its needle-like antenna, the granddaddy of all skyscrapers actually stands 1,454 feet high, well above the mark reached by One World Trade Center on Monday.

Purists, though, say antennas shouldn’t count when determining building height.

An antenna, they say, is more like furniture than a piece of architecture. Like a chair sitting on a rooftop, an antenna can be attached or removed. The Empire State Building didn’t even get its distinctive antenna until 1952. The record books, as the argument goes, shouldn’t change every time someone installs a new satellite dish.

Excluding the antenna brings the Empire State Building’s total height to 1,250 feet. That was still high enough to make the skyscraper the world’s tallest from 1931 until 1972.

From that height, the Empire State seems to tower over the second tallest completed building in New York, the Bank of America Tower.

Yet, in many record books, the two skyscrapers are separated by just 50 feet.

That’s because the tall, thin mast on top of the Bank of America building isn’t an antenna but a decorative spire.

Unlike antennas, record-keepers like spires. It’s a tradition that harkens back to a time when the tallest buildings in many European cities were cathedrals. Groups like the Council on Tall Buildings, and Emporis, a building data provider in Germany, both count spires when measuring the total height of a building, even if that spire happens to look exactly like an antenna.

This quirk in the record books has benefited build-

ings like Chicago’s recently opened Trump International Hotel and Tower. It is routinely listed as being between 119 to 139 feet taller than the Empire State Building, thanks to the antenna-like mast that sits on its roof, even though the average person, looking at the two buildings side by side, would probably judge the New York skyscraper to be taller.

The same factors apply to measuring the height of One World Trade Center.

Designs call for the tower’s roof to stand at 1,368 feet — the same height as the north tower of the original World Trade Center. The building’s roof will be topped with a 408-foot, cable-stayed mast, making the total height of the structure a symbolic 1,776 feet.

So is that needle an antenna or a spire?

“Not sure,” wrote Steve Coleman, a spokesman for the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, which owns the building.

The needle will, indeed, function as a broadcast antenna. It is described on the Port Authority’s website as an antenna. On the other hand, the structure will have more meat to it than your average antenna, with external cladding encasing the broadcast mast.

Without that spire, One World Trade Center would still be smaller than the Willis Tower in Chicago, formerly known as the Sears Tower, which tops out at 1,451 feet (not including its own antennas).

Debate over which of those buildings can truly claim to be the tallest in the U.S. has been raging for years on Internet message boards frequented by skyscraper enthusiasts.

As for the Council on Tall Buildings, it is leaning toward giving One World Trade the benefit of the doubt.

“This is something we have discussed with the architect,” Hollister said. “As we understand it, the needle is an architectural spire which happens to enclose an antenna. We would thus count it as part of the architectural height.”

CHINA

Blind Lawyer narrowly escapes house arrest



AP

Shown above is legal activist Chen Guangchen in Shandong Province, China. Chen made a surprise escape from house arrest April 22.

Associated Press

BEIJING — Chen Guangcheng’s blindness was a help and a hindrance as he made his way past the security cordon ringing his farmhouse.

He knew the terrain — he had explored his village in rural China as a blind child and moved as easily in darkness as in daylight. He was alert for the sounds of people, cars and the river he would have to cross.

But he stumbled scores of times, arriving bloody at a meeting point with a fellow dissident — the first of an underground railroad of supporters who eventually escorted him to safety with U.S. diplomats.

A self-taught lawyer who angered authorities by exposing forced abortions, Chen is now presumed to be under U.S. protection, most likely in the fortress-like American Embassy in Beijing. Details of his improbable escape — making his way last week through fields and forest, then being chased by security agents in Beijing — are emerging in accounts from the activists who helped him.

Chen and his family had been harassed and kept under house arrest since the summer of 2005, except for a four-year period when Chen was jailed on charges of disrupting traffic and restrictions were eased on his wife and daughter. The couple’s young son lives with his mother’s sister.

After Chen’s release in September 2010, the family was again placed under house arrest, their movements severely restricted, with even 6-year-old daughter Kesi subjected to searches when she came home from school. Chen and his wife, Yuan Weijing, were beaten several times.

The 41-year-old activist hatched his escape plan months ago with a simple idea — he would just lie still, said Bob Fu, founder of the Texas-based rights group ChinaAid and one of a handful of people to speak to Chen since he fled his village.

For weeks on end, Chen stayed in bed, saying he was too feeble to rise.

In fact, Chen wasn’t well; his stomach was bothering him as it had for years. But he exaggerated his condition to lull the guards into a sense of complacency.

The ruse worked. The guards

didn’t look in on him constantly, assuming he was still bedridden, and when he escaped under cover of darkness, it took three days for them to notice.

“He did a darn good job. ... He prepared for months, at least two months,” Fu said. “He didn’t really move much, just laying in bed and making the impression that he couldn’t move.”

The night was cool with just a sliver of crescent moon in the sky on April 22 when Chen slipped out of his farmhouse in eastern China’s Shandong province. Blinded by fever as a child, Chen grew up exploring the nearby cornfields and dirt paths sightless, so he had his bearings.

It wasn’t the first time he had run away from Dongshigu village and his bitter, nearly decade-long feud with local officials.

In 2005, Chen, his wife and a friend made a dash out of the village, running through a cornfield to evade guards. He and his friend got all the way to Beijing, where they met with diplomats and journalists, but his wife was captured. Days later, Chen was seized by security guards on the streets of the capital and returned to house arrest.

On that brief escape he had been helped by his sighted friend; this time Chen was alone.

He followed a path to a field and from there took a road he knew would lead him to a narrow river. After crossing it, he entered a wooded area that gave way to less familiar territory, ground that continually tripped him up. He fell at least 200 times, he would tell his supporters.

He walked for hours, trying to put as much distance between himself and his heavily guarded home as possible before daring to slip a battery into his mobile phone and call He Peirong, a Nanjing-based English teacher-turned-activist who had promised to help. She was waiting with a car.

When she finally found him, Chen was wet, covered in mud and blood, and had numerous cuts and bruises.

“He was in very unbelievable shape when he was picked up,” said Fu, citing a conversation with He. Chen “was trembling, was physically weak. ... But he was determined to escape from that miserable condition.”

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INSIDE COLUMN

My senior thesis on Star Wars

The undergraduate thesis might just be the ultimate form of self-inflicted punishment. Whether you're in the Honors program, a PLS major or just plain ambitious, interested and a little bit crazy, the undergraduate thesis is all on you, in both times hard and good.

It seems like such a good idea at the beginning — 50 pages is nothing! That's, like, five 10 page papers, which I write all the time, thank you very much. I've got a whole year to do it, and that's one less class I have to take each semester.

And then your bibliography gets bigger, your research more in-depth, your nights more sleepless. You start to wonder, "Was this really all worth it?"

You will face many hardships on your way to writing that senior undergraduate thesis, and you will consider just laying it all down and giving up many times, but on that day you finally turn it in — well, you might never feel better.

I know this from personal experience — this past Friday, I turned in 70 pages of blood, sweat and tears. It was cathartic, it was a relief, it was celebratory — and it was all worth it.

It was worth it, not because I have 70 pages of academic insight to my name, but because I wrote my thesis on just about the coolest thing I could — "Star Wars." Yeah, all that writing was hard. But even at its worst, my thesis was about "Star Wars!"

I spent countless hours reading about the most prolific movies of my childhood, the stories that inspired my young imagination and propelled to be a film major today. It was the closet to reading for fun that I've ever gotten in school.

Thanks to my thesis, I also received funding to visit Skywalker Ranch in Marin County, Calif., to do research and conduct interviews. It may have been a working trip, but I've never had more fun doing work in my life.

Writing 70 pages about "Star Wars" (and the many complexities behind the life of that franchise), it turns out, was pretty easy. I was a fan girl writing something I would have enjoyed reading myself and, unsurprisingly, that made the whole thing an ultimately enjoyable experience.

So, don't let 20 or 50 or 70 pages scare you away from taking on something really challenging but really rewarding. But when you set your mind to it, choose a topic you're interested in. You will spend an entire year on it, no matter what you might think now, so settle in for that year with something you love. Be smart, be original and, most importantly, be you. Find your personal "Star Wars" and the pain and suffering will, as it turns out, be one of the most rewarding experiences of your academic career.

Contact Maija Gustin at mgustin@nd.edu

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



Maija Gustin

Senior Scene Writer

Nine rules to live by in college

One of the absolutely worst quotes of all time is "college is the best years of your life." Every college student on the planet rolls their eyes because it's something the grown-up folk love to pass around like it's phenomenal counsel. It's just a

Marc Anthony Rosa

Bro Meets World

terrible expression. Right off the bat, it indirectly reminds us that life doesn't get any better after college. Immediately afterwards, it instantly puts us students in this emotional indebtedness, like we need to owe reverence towards an experience that we've yet to have.

As a graduating senior here at Notre Dame, rich with the experiences of our campus, it's my duty to take the reigns of our forefathers and join the monotony of alumni banter. However, I refuse to tell you that college is the best years of your life. For your sake, I hope it's not.

We can't settle with this four-year experience as being the most dynamic, exciting periods of our lives, because it means our aggressive risk-taking and belligerent socializing meant nothing for our future. Our adult lives cannot become torpid shadows of our four-year lifestyle, where passions from college fade away by the rhythmic droning of mediocrity. We can't settle for alumni dinners as our only reminder of a life in which we fully lived.

While college shouldn't be the best years of our lives, it is arguably the most important years of our lives. It's an environment that's so unlike anything else in life. Here, we're forced to understand everything about ourselves. We discover how we learn, the ways we think and the philosophies that make us tick. College is a place where, for the first time ever, we are truly accountable to ourselves. There are thousands of moments that each

of us experience here — both beautiful and tragic — where success is measured not by the quality of the journey, but by actually having these experiences. To celebrate the gift of life, we must be willing to experience everything that comes with it.

There are so many things I've learned from my time here at Notre Dame. Instead of taking up more newspaper real estate, I'm going to share the top nine rules that I learned from college. It's my sincere hope that these will help the most important years of your life become legendary.

Rule No. 1: Don't be logical about your major. Follow your passions and pursue something that you love to do. The worst thing you can do with your parent's hard-earned money is to invest it in something that you're not passionate about because it looks employable. Don't ever sacrifice intellectual satisfaction in the name of job uncertainty.

Rule No. 2: Don't let schooling get in the way of your education. If I had listened to my professors, I'd be an A student and completely unhappy. Instead, I've learned far more than my courses have allowed and love life, because I spent time learning rather than mastering intricacies of an antiquating school system. You can't teach how to be passionate in a class curriculum. Don't expect to learn it there.

Rule No. 3: Manage your homework and your course load incredibly well. The amount of things you have on your plate will never subside, ever. Develop the tools now to tackle the things that get in the way of living.

Rule No. 4: Don't waste all of your time partying. Don't get me wrong; I love the rage. But, there's far more to life than getting drunk when it's accessible. Grab a camera, get on a bike and experience, even if it means doing it alone.

Rule No. 5: This comes from a Wall

Street Journal Article ("10 Things Your Commencement Speaker Won't Tell You," April 28): "Your parents don't want what is best for you. They want what is good for you, which isn't always the same thing." Despite what you'd like to believe, your parents might be purposefully limiting you. With so much risk in the world, can you blame them? To settle for a riskless, safe life is to settle for a life not lived.

Rule No. 6: Contrary to what we're taught, the most powerful word in the dictionary is not yes, but rather, no. Focus is an unbelievably valuable commodity. To have the discipline and strength to turn down exciting opportunities is something that will make your life more fulfilling and less scattered.

Rule No. 7: Most of life's problems can be solved with good sleep, waking up early and eating breakfast. The Denver Omelet is the gold standard of this lesson.

Rule # 8: Discover what it is that you live for. Everyone has it. If you haven't found it, you haven't tried hard enough to find it. And when you find it, you'll know. Take time to find it, because nobody else will. Nor will they give you permission to do so.

Rule No. 9: Do crazy things and believe in something. When you're 65 years old, you're not going to care about how well you played the rules. What you're going to care about is how you stood up for an idea, a movement, something that resonates with you and that you're better because of it. One of the greatest things in the world is to truly own your own beliefs.

Marc Anthony Rosa is a senior management entrepreneurship major. He can be reached at mrosa@nd.edu

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

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

A call for vocations

Editor's Note: The Observer is refraining from naming the author of this letter because of a concern for his personal safety away from Notre Dame. The Observer has verified the authenticity of the letter, as well as the legitimacy of the author's concern.

Dear Holy Cross Priests of Notre Dame,

Each week at Mass, the same petition resurfaces. "For an increase in vocations to the priesthood and religious life, especially to the Congregation of the Holy Cross." I have been discerning the priesthood for some time now and would like to say 'thanks' for including me in your weekly prayers. In addition, thanks for the incredible examples you have been for me and all students here at Notre Dame. Whether in the residence halls, on campus ministry retreats, or in the classroom, your day-to-day work shapes this University.

I am also gay. And in all likelihood, some of you are too. You know the deep loneliness, the awkward conversations that make you cringe inside, and the joy that comes with making yourself known to the people closest to you. Even with your vow to remain celibate (and thus, never to engage in sexual acts of any kind), that sexuality is still very much a part of who you are and who you are called to be for this university and its students.

As it stands, with the exclusion of sexual orientation from the non-discrimination clause (or, to avoid double negatives, the inclusion of sexual orientation in the discrimination clause) and our lack of a GSA, you too are second-class citizens. This is a call for your vocations — that you might more fully live up to the people God is calling you to be. In doing so, you'd be helping us to do the same.

In Notre Dame,

Anonymous
senior

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"The very essence of leadership is that you have to have vision. You can't blow an uncertain trumpet."

Fr. Theodore Hesburgh
President Emeritus

Submit a
Letter to
the Editor

Email obsviewpoint@gmail.com

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Forever is composed of nows."

Emily Dickinson
American poet

Never alone

Consider the rock star, politician, superhero, genius, prodigy and celebrity at the apex of their fame. Fans clamor, fight, squeal and foam, hoping for a chance to be close to the object of celebration.

The multitude continuously validates the celebrity —

Blake J. Graham

Erudite Techno-Lust

book signings, trans-continental tours, award ceremonies, collaborations, presidential dinners, photo-op handshakes. One night she sends a Facebook friend request to an old fling, someone who understood her before the fame, pomp and fancy. For weeks she checks her account wait, wait, waiting for a response — electronic affirmation from someone who really matters—nothing ever comes.

It's a strange condition, to be so surrounded, yet so distant from those who matter, and yet it's an ever-popular one. The social Internet promised us a flat world of friendship: a realm of decency, camaraderie and meaning. But what we have is quite different from that. And the profiles that represent our persons online are quite different from who we really are.

If we assume that the modern Internet began with Google, we can put an age on it of 14 years. Based on that, anybody born after 1987 has spent the majority of her intelligent life sur-

rounded by a web-centric culture. This generation doesn't know any different from what they have experienced and continue to experience. During the ages of much needed social experimentation and expansion, technological products have been released almost directly in sync. The social pressures of high school or college were alleviated with MySpace, Facebook or Twitter. Paradigms of mental development have been altered to include the social web.

The thing is, people don't change much. That isn't to say individuals don't change, but the human race exists and reacts in ways very similar to our generational ancestors. Technology develops at an insane velocity. Only five years ago the first truly "smart" phone was released. It's been within this period that technology has forcibly inserted itself as an essential component of life.

At first the benefits were simple: technology would allow people to connect with one another across vast physical distances in a short amount of time. But to establish connections, we were given the tools to create a web presence — a means of identifying ourselves online. Somewhere in the evolution of technology, the importance of those two flipped: our profiles began to say more than we actually did. Better than just saying who we were in real life, we were given the ability to alter our profiles to reflect whatever we wanted them to. We could

also be selective or encompassing in who we interacted with. Profiles, posts, texting and whatnot let us present the image of who we want to be. We can edit out our inadequacies and shortcomings, we can skip the messy bits of face-to-face conversations, we can all become awesome beings totally in control of our lives. Dangerously, we begin to forget how fallible we are.

Technology is fascinating and powerful. So is human interaction, and that's something a generation is increasingly forgetting. A connection is not a conversation. Being friends with someone on Facebook is not equitable to human interaction. Yet we thrive on these superficial connections. People take to Twitter or Facebook in the middle of the night in hopes of a chance to express and be recognized. People log into Facebook before they brush their teeth in the morning, before they have coffee, before they get dressed. There's a fascination in the voyeurism of exploring others lives. After all, if you're inspecting their projected life, wouldn't they be inspecting yours?

Seldom do people have the opportunity to look at their social profiles and actually compare what's on the page with what's on their mind. A photo album of 300 pictures can reflect the atmosphere of a party, but reality proves you spent a night observing a party from behind a camera lens in hope of preserving it.

As great as technology is, I challenge you to give up on it. Turn it off, shut it down, launch it to the moon, blow it to pieces. It's not that the Internet must be ruining your life, nobody is saying that. Rather, those born after 1987 haven't lived without technology, at least not of a long while. Quitting Facebook won't be enough. Quitting the Internet is a start. Henry David Thoreau would be proud.

We expect more out of technology than we do out of each other, and that is a fundamental flaw. By leaving the internet behind, you will be forced to examine your interactions. And I suspect you will find more trust in those you care for, and those who care for you. Self-reflection requires intimacy and empathy, two things which cannot be found on a broadcast system to 1,000 of your best "friends." Maintaining your identity is exhausting; specifically when it's something you have to do twenty-four hours a day. Forget about fans, likes, views, comments, reblogs, @replies and everything. Forget about yourself for a bit, disconnect and live for a bit.

Blake J. Graham is a freshman. He can be reached on Twitter

@BlakeGraham or at bgraham2@nd.edu

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

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

In solidarity

While this letter was composed by eight students who happen to be members of the Core Council for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Questioning Students, we do not speak on behalf of the council itself, the faculty and administrators involved, or the other student leaders on the council. These are our personal opinions.

We, as student leaders, would like to take this opportunity to share with the campus community our opinions regarding the University's recent decision to not add sexual orientation to the official non-discrimination clause and to weigh in on the impending decision concerning the club status of AllianceND.

While we remain committed to serving on the Core Council because of the opportunity it provides to engage in dialogue with the administration regarding our concerns for the GLBTQ community, we want to emphasize that the Core Council alone is not sufficient to effectively change the atmosphere on Our Lady's campus toward GBLTQ individuals, nor is it capable of adequately serving the thousands of students, faculty and staff who are concerned with GLBTQ rights and inclusion.

Those of us returning for the 2012-2013 school year will continue to use our roles on the council to improve the climate on this campus for GLBTQ students. We want, however, to express our full support of the recognition of AllianceND for the coming school year and the inclusion of sexual orientation in the University's non-discrimination clause.

It needs to get better on this campus. We believe that these changes are long overdue and have the potential to

improve the atmosphere on this campus drastically for both GLBTQ and Ally members of the Notre Dame community. We want every student, staff and faculty member frustrated by the current climate to know that we stand with you in this struggle, and that we, as individuals, support you.

In solidarity,

Sean Cotter
freshman
Zahm Hall

Elie Elian
junior
O'Neill Hall

Jason G'Sell
senior
Duncan Hall

Tom Lienhoop
sophomore
Dillon Hall

Mia Lillis
sophomore
Cavanaugh Hall

Lauren Morisseau
freshman
Breen-Phillips Hall

Maggie Waickman
freshman
Pasquerilla East Hall

Brenna Williams
senior
off campus
April 30

'Father Jenkins, this is not about an agenda'

Earlier this semester, I gave an interview to The Observer in which I shared intimate details of an attempted suicide during my freshman year. Frankly, I gave the interview hoping to bring light to the gravity of a situation about which the University has acted cowardly. I'm not referring just to depression and suicide on college campuses — though these are issues about which I remain very concerned — but rather to the condition of GLBTQ students at Notre Dame. And honestly, I also gave the interview in part to make good on my past failure to speak up in your office hours last semester.

I'd applied multiple times for the chance to attend your office hours (which we all know are a limited, highly-selective affair), so you can imagine my happiness this past fall when I was notified of my successful application. I had fifteen minutes to sit with you and one other student in your office, so there was clearly not much time for meaningful dialogue between us. I, a cowardly fifth-year senior, shrunk from the opportunity to speak freely, though, as we ran through the usual exchanges and you eventually asked, "How has your time at Notre Dame been?"

I don't question your genuine interest in student life, but instead of saying, "Good, but ...," I simply said, "Good." We shook hands a short while later and my guilt grew as you wished me good luck on my way out. "What waste of time," I thought. In failing to be honest in describing my time here, I failed to accurately pay witness to the reality some students face. I failed to give a voice to my peers. My response was a lie.

I should have looked you in the eye and said, "It has been difficult, and here is why," because Father John, you need to understand what is at stake here. You and the administration cannot afford to make vacuous public statements of

support and intent that are actually of no real substance. The University cannot continue to prioritize a desired public image over the welfare of its student body. Some of my fellow students are suffering the same feelings of isolation and depression that led me to make a dangerous decision four years ago. These students can barely trust their residence hall staff, much less a clergy person or someone on one of your administrative committees. Some of these women and men remain in the closet, and we may never know their identity. But I know how they feel because I was once one of them, and out of silent desperation I eventually tried to kill myself.

I failed to do the right thing when I met with you, but I am graduating soon and cannot afford to waste any more time with empty words. What I and the student body need from you is the opportunity to make a significant change in the lives of Notre Dame's students, most especially those students who feel they are losing their tether to the world.

So amend the non-discrimination clause. Officially recognize the student club. You and the administration must not contribute to a situation in which a student does not make it out of here alive, and I dread the day when my University springs to action too late, and only after a student takes their own life out of despair.

Father John, this is not about an agenda — it is about people. Stand up to the political and derisive opposition, and rally your fellow University leaders. We can never stop trying to make life better for those present and future Notre Dame students to whom I so powerfully relate. I hope you can find the courage to do the right thing.

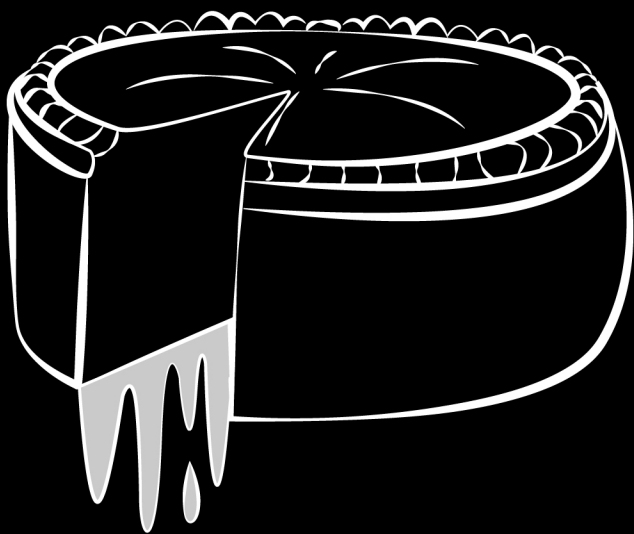
Sam Constanzo is a senior. He can be reached at scostanz@nd.edu

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NOTRE DAME OPERA CHILLS WITH 'SWEENEY TODD'



By TESSA DEMERS

Scene Writer

This past weekend, the Music Department and the Notre Dame Opera joined forces to put on a production of "Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street." Although not an opera, this show is a challenging and thought-provoking piece of musical drama that pushes audiences past traditional comfort zones.

For those who don't know the show, it tells the tale of a barber named Benjamin Barker. After the local judge lusts after his wife and deports him far away for a crime he didn't commit, Barker finally returns to civilization as Sweeney Todd, bent on seeking his revenge. As he waits and conspires ways to kill the judge, he ends up killing multitudes of others, deciding everybody deserves to die because "the lives of the wicked should be made brief; for the rest of us, death will be a relief."

This musical is neither focused on love nor tap dancing. The feelings onstage are dark throughout, angry, and even murderous — a fact creator Stephen Sondheim addresses with bits of humor and even a bit of a twisted love story. It's hard to put it any other way when Sweeney Todd enters into a somewhat romantic relationship with one ditzy London widow named Mrs. Lovett, who makes and sells "the worst meat pies" in the British capital.

Audiences watch in horror as Mrs. Lovett's meat pies become the best and most popular around, thanks to the abundance of extremely fresh meat Sweeney Todd accumulates in his barber shop. The story is full of suspense and plot twists, and no shortage of spilled blood — hopefully of the fake stage variety. As Sweeney focuses on the ongoing plot to kill the judge when he comes in for a shave, he gets caught up in the dementia first of his progress and then of his postponed success in the only mission that really matters to him. Todd grows even angrier as his proto-serial killer personality starts to come apart at the seams. As they say: you always hurt the ones you love.

The Music Department and Opera made a gutsy choice in this show. It is a difficult piece in terms of subtext and general dark themes, many of which interact and interplay in ways that are hard to grasp. It is never certain how a show like this — far removed from what's normally considered "entertainment" — will be received. However, Notre Dame has done justice to the piece, adhering to Sondheim's conditions and adding its own innovative flares.

For instance, in the song "A Little Priest" — which discusses the types of people they can bake into pies because "everybody shaves" — the company performers come onto the stage dressed as recognizable character types and join the rest of the future pie fillings in a background dance. Although this innovative addition to the style of the show added a comedic break from the darkness and tension, it distracted from the heart of the

piece that comes from the playd on words that keep coming line after line.

Filled with such gems as "This might be a little bit stringy, but then, of course, it's fiddle player!" and "We'll serve anyone — and to anyone — at all," this is definitely a time when the strength of the scene lies within the lyrics. Sondheim has been a master of literate, unexpected lyrics show after show since his earliest lyricism penning the words to "West Side Story." In any Sondheim musical, song lyrics are not something you want to lose to attentions focused elsewhere.

Another significant change made by this production was to have Sweeney kill himself at the end — as opposed to having the young boy Toby kill him. This is likely intended to show how desperate Sweeney Todd is and perhaps has been through the whole show. After seeing how his revenge-seeking behavior and grotesque destruction of his own humanity has killed the person he cared about most and for whom he went through this ordeal, he despises himself and meets his end the same way his victims did — slitting his own throat. This was a powerful moment in the show, with the audience left both to watch as Sweeney's madness literally kills him and to contemplate their own vendettas and how they could be affecting both themselves and those around them.

Anthony (Mike Clark) really stood out as a powerhouse. Clark's voice was clear and strong, and fit well with Anthony's character. The actors playing Sweeney Todd (alternately Zach Angus and Sean McGee), however, have the biggest challenge. Not only is the character the most complex and demented in the show, but also, with predecessors like Len Cariou in the original Broadway cast and Johnny Depp in the movie version, they have a lot to live up to. Taking into account that Angus (Sweeney in the performance I attended) is not an actor with 30-plus years of experience, he fit the shoes of his predecessors well, and did justice to the role.

The orchestra for the show did a fantastic job handling Sondheim's chilling and breathtakingly beautiful music; the composer is famous for writing rather difficult pieces for musicians to play. The real power of this show comes from the music: the swift changes in mood, the suspenseful dissonant chords, the rising crescendos and the eerie combinations of notes. In this sense, thanks to the orchestra, the intent of "Sweeney Todd" as off-kilter musical drama was heard loud and clear.

Overall, I hope Notre Dame continues to make gutsy choices such as this: shows that are thought-provoking and deep are great for students to broaden their minds and consider possibilities previously not considered. Open minds and greater cultural literacy should be goals for every Notre Dame student, and this weekend, the Music Department and Opera brought them one step closer.

Contact Tessa Demers at tdemers@nd.edu

Baking with Brenna:



Chocolate
Chip
Brownies

By BRENNA WILLIAMS

Scene Writer

Decisions are hard. Some days you really want a cookie. Other days, you crave a brownie. Today, I'm giving you a chance to have both. With finals looming, you need a quick, easy, Huddle-friendly treat to fuel your study sessions and late night paper-writing. Luckily, our friends at Betty Crocker understand our plight as college students, and have come up with the wonderful recipe for Chocolate Chip Cookie Dough Brownies.

Like I said, this recipe is Huddle-friendly, using things that are easily found and bought with your dwindling Flex Points or, for those of us off campus, able to be found on a five-minute midnight grocery run.

Ingredients:

1 box of store bought brownie mix, plus water, vegetable oil and egg called for on the box

(Tip: Some boxes say they are made for a specific size pan. Make sure yours will cover a 13x9 pan)

1 box or pouch of store-bought chocolate chip cookie mix

½ cup butter, softened

1 egg

(Tip: Egg whites are acceptable)

Directions:

1. Preheat oven to 130 degrees Fahrenheit. Mix brownie mix as directed on the box and spread in a pan lightly coated with cooking spray.

2. Combine cookie mix, butter, and egg. Drop dough, evenly spaced, 2 tbsp. at a time onto the brownie batter and press down lightly.

3. Bake for 42 to 47 minutes or until a toothpick inserted into the middle of the batter comes out clean. Cool for at least 30 minutes before serving.

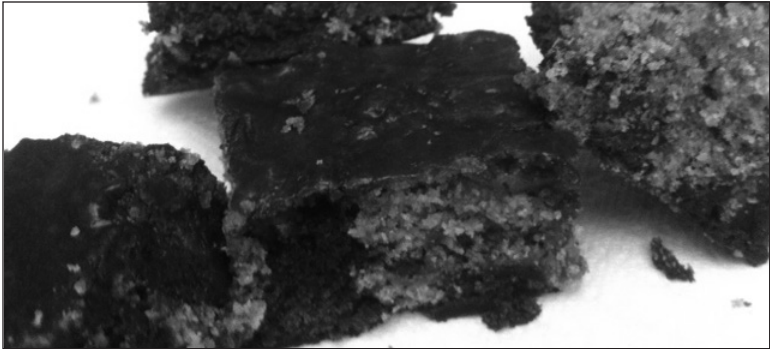
Optional: If you have the extra Flex Points or need the extra sugar, you can top the brownies with your favorite kind of frosting.

(Tip: If you're getting supplies at the grocery store, some brownie mixes come with little pouches of frosting that you can drizzle over this recipe)

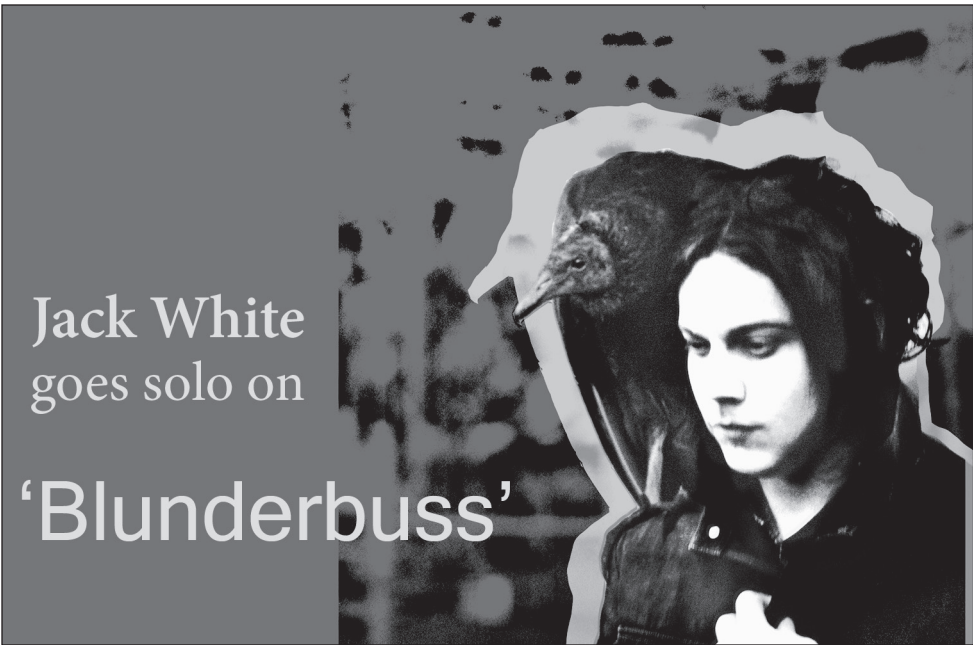
This recipe can make around 40 servings if you cut them right, so there are plenty to share with roommates, section friends and random people walking by you on the quad. Everyone needs a pick-me-up this time of the year, and with a combination of two of the world's best freshly baked treats, these are the perfect remedy to the end-of-the-year blues.

This will be the last installment of "Baking with Brenna" because of this thing called "graduation" that I'm supposedly supposed to attend in a matter of weeks. It's been a blast trying out new recipes and talking to people who have shared their favorite treats with me. Hopefully you've seen a recipe that you've tried or will try making sometime.

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BRENNA WILLIAMS/The Observer



Jack White goes solo on ‘Blunderbuss’

By CHRIS COLLUM
Scene Writer

Yes, this is the Jack White (born John Anthony Gillis) — Jack White of the White Stripes, the Raconteurs, the Dead Weather and about two dozen other collaborations. While technically his debut solo album, White’s music has been a part of the public consciousness for over a decade, at least since that animated video for “Fell in Love with a Girl” starring Lego figures in 2001.

This is also, perhaps more importantly, the first piece of music we’ve heard from White since he and sister/wife/ex-wife (depending on whose story you believe) Meg White, whose surname he now bears, dissolved the White Stripes a little over a year ago.

The thirteen songs that comprise “Blunderbuss” came out of recording sessions with various guest and session musicians in late 2011 in his Nashville studio. According to Rolling Stone, White said in a statement that the record is “an album I couldn’t have released until now. I’ve put off making records under my own name for a long time but these songs feel like they could only be presented under my name. These songs were written from scratch, had nothing to do with anyone or anything else but my own expression, my own colors on my own canvas.”

While Jack has also said that Meg White “completely controlled the White Stripes,” he wrote and composed all of their songs; so naturally, the obvious starting point when talking about “Blunderbuss” is the White Stripes’ music.

As far as the sound of this record goes, it probably sounds the most like “Get Behind Me Satan,” the band’s second-to-last album which featured rock radio hit “My Doorbell.” The keys, the guitar sound on most songs, the tinkling bells in the background — all of these things recall “Get Behind Me Satan.” The new album’s first single, “Love Interruption” is especially reminiscent of that record.

However, some tracks, such as second single “Sixteen Saltines” — also the album’s high point — or “I’m Shakin’,” sound more like the thrashing garage rock of the Stripes’ second album “De Stijl,” or the Raconteurs’ debut.

This kind of back-and-forth between tracks with lush, sometimes acoustic instrumentation and straightforward riff-driven blues or garage rock is typical of White’s style in recent years. His signature guitar sound is unmistakable, but at times he gives the listener a break from it. This only makes it all the more thunderous when he returns to it, such as on the aforementioned “I’m Shakin’” halfway through the record.

“Blunderbuss,” for the most part, sounds great. White’s voice has never sounded better, the arrangements are peerless, and when he does cut loose like on “Sixteen Saltines,” it’s very difficult to sit still when listening.

White’s lyrics on this record focus primarily on love lost, and the utter confu-

sion that follows from it. Opener “Missing Pieces” sums it up perfectly: “Sometimes someone controls everything about you / And when they tell you that they just can’t live without you / They ain’t lyin’, they’ll take pieces of you.”

On first single “Love Interruption,” he sings, “I want love to: / change my friends to enemies, / change my friends to enemies, / and show me how it’s all my fault.”

This kind of morose introspection is everywhere on the album, more often than not in juxtaposition with the album’s bouncy, often sunny arrangements. Usually it works, and on the few occasions when it doesn’t, such as on closer “Take Me with You When You Go” — which feels more like a cut-and-paste collage of three different songs than one coherent one — it’s still a lot of fun.

Elsewhere, on “Freedom at 21,” he explores “freedom in the 21st century,” describing a character who has “Two black gadgets in her hands / All she thinks about / No responsibility no guilt or morals / Cloud her judgment,” before erupting into one of his now-famous squelching, cry-out-to-the-heavens guitar solos.

“Blunderbuss,” if nothing else, serves as a closing statement on the White Stripes era of White’s musical career, as well as a closing statement on the confusing relationship (whether romantic, familial or otherwise) with his ex-White Stripes band mate. To that end, it accomplishes its purpose masterfully.

With “Blunderbuss,” Jack White has created a record that first of all sounds really, really good; secondly, is a ton of fun to listen to and third, has the ability to make the listener stop and think on repeated listen. It is not a high water mark of his career — in other words, he has created better pieces of music in the past, and probably will again in the future.

Any fan of White’s previous work is sure to enjoy this record, even if they don’t count it among their favorites in his expansive catalog.

White will be doing a lot of touring in the coming year, including two shows at Lollapalooza in Chicago this fall. Check out his complete touring schedule at <http://jackwhiteiii.com/tour-dates/>

Contact Chris Collum at ccollum@nd.edu

“Blunderbuss”
Jack White

Label: Capitol Records
Best Tracks: “Sixteen Saltines,”
“Hip (Eponymous) Poor Boy,” “Love Interruption”

NEW TO Your Queue

The Best of Watch Instantly

Summer is almost upon us, so what are you going to do with all that free time? Jobs and internships may take up some of it, but history proves that the best use of your time in those warm summer months is binge-watching entire TV series in one pop. Catch up with a show on its summer hiatus or digest a completed series — the possibilities are endless. Since the funds are not, Netflix has you covered with a vast collection of some of TV’s best.

1. “Arrested Development”

With a new series via Netflix just around the corner, whether new to “Arrested Development” or an old fan, now is the time to ready your chicken dance and make some horrible mistakes with an all-star cast sure to go straight to your funny bone.

2. “Lost”

Still don’t know why there was a polar bear on a tropical island? Answer that and many more questions with the complete series of “Lost,” right at your fingertips — no painful months-long waits included.

3. “Breaking Bad”

Who thought meth dealers in New Mexico could be so darn interesting? Catch up with Walter White and the rest of the gang at Netflix.

4. “Battlestar Galactica”

If you like science fiction, you’ll likely love “Battlestar.” But even if you don’t the difference between a lightsaber and a tribble, “Battlestar” will enthrall you with its intense drama and profound exploration of humanity. With starships and robots.

5. “Buffy the Vampire Slayer”

Before Joss Whedon created a musically-inclined “super villain” and directed a bunch of superhero cohorts, he created the best series of vampire stories around. And they are all waiting at Netflix.

6. “Psych”

The most recent season ended on a cliffhanger, so you’ll want to catch up with Shawn and Gus before the USA hit returns in the fall.

7. “Arhcer”

Biting, irreverent and always immature, this animated show about a spy organization is the perfect way to unwind after another hectic academic year.

8. “Friday Night Lights”

For sports and drama fans alike, this story of a Texas community and the high school football team at its heart is both enchanting and down to earth, sure to ensnare you right from

9. “Sports Night”

Cancelled long before its time, this Aaron Sorkin drama featured the writer’s famous quirky characters and quick banter, this time centered in the world of a sports news show.

SPORTS AUTHORITY

Playoffs bring meaning and excitement to NBA

And finally, the games mean something. With a multitude of post-season-changing injuries, crazy finishes and senseless ejections, the NBA playoffs have begun — and with a bang. The NBA’s regular season, to me and to a lot of people around the nation, is meaningless. You already know who will be in the playoffs (or at least be a big factor in them) before the season even begins. Prior to this year, you looked at the Heat, the Bulls, the Thunder, the Lakers, the Spurs and the Mavericks to be championship contenders. And guess what? They all made the playoffs.

To those teams, the season was a mere formality (other than the risk of injury during a compacted and tight 66-game schedule). They knew what they had. They knew who they had to beat. No win meant much. No loss meant much (unless you work for ESPN and need to fill 12 hours of SportsCenter with a Panic Meter).

The Heat knew they needed to prove they could win a title. The Thunder needed to show that Kevin Durant and Russell Westbrook could be a dynamic duo. The Bulls needed to prove Derrick Rose could carry the team by himself.

None of those goals could be accomplished in the regular season. Now, they must all step up and shine in the NBA’s second and most important season. But now nothing is like it was before.

Chicago’s title dreams all but went out the window when Rose jumped, passed and collapsed in writhing pain, clutching his left knee that now had a torn ACL. Now, the deep and unheralded Chicago supporting cast will have to pick up the slack left by last year’s most valuable player.

The Bulls may very well streak past the struggling Sixers but could struggle in the next round against either the Hawks or the Celtics.

The regular season — and the home-court advantage it

secured — mean nothing for the Bulls.

For the aging Celtics, their blistering second half came as a surprise to everyone, except Boston. But now, age could be catching up with the original Big Three in the playoffs. Ray Allen, the best three-point shooter in the league, is out with an injury while immaturity bothers young point guard Rajon Rondo.

Because of an argument and altercation with a referee during Boston’s Game 1 loss to Atlanta, Rondo has been suspended for a game. By the time he gets back into the lineup, the Celtics may have to win four out of five games to advance. What seemed like a potential championship sleeper is now reeling after just one postseason game.

The regular season — and Boston’s two late wins over Miami — mean nothing for the Celtics.

While injuries have derailed Eastern Conference contenders, furious finishes have given a couple Western Conference teams new life.

Kevin Durant’s game-winner in the opener against Dallas lifted Oklahoma City to a win, avoiding an upset bid from the defending champions. While a loss in Game 1 would not have been catastrophic for the young and athletic Thunder, a win for the Mavericks could have given an experienced and savvy veteran-laden squad more confidence.

In Memphis, meanwhile, the Clippers — led by Chris Paul’s brilliance and unlikely hero Nick Young — rallied from a 27-point deficit to top the Grizzlies in a Game 1 thriller. Last year, it was the Grizzlies who shocked everyone and beat the top-seeded Spurs in the first round. This year, they were the ones stunned by a result.

So I know only a few games have been played so far. But these games are the reason the NBA exists.

You can now start watching the NBA. These games actually matter.

Contact Matthew DeFranks at mdefrank@nd.edu
The views expressed in this Sports Authority column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.



Matthew DeFranks
Associate Sports Editor

MLB

Marlins fall again in Miami



Marlins second baseman Omar Infante attempts to make a play as Diamondbacks outfielder Justin Upton slides safely into second base. The Marlins lost Monday’s contest 9-5 at home.

Associated Press

MIAMI — Ozzie Guillen headed to the airport Monday evening for a six-hour flight — plenty of time to decide how to shake up his slumping team.

The Miami Marlins fell deeper into last place in the NL East with a 9-5 loss Monday afternoon to the Arizona Diamondbacks, and Guillen said something needs to change.

It might be the lineup. Guillen criticized his players’ failure to change their approach at the plate or on the mound.

“If you cannot make an adjustment, I will make it for you,” he said. “I’m going to make a very drastic change. I don’t know which one yet, but I’m going to make an adjustment. I’m pretty good at that. That’s my job.”

The Marlins have lost eight of their past nine games, and the latest defeat was galling because it came against Arizona’s Patrick Corbin, making his major-league debut.

One day after falling behind 8-0, the Marlins trailed 7-0 by the fifth inning. Fans

booed for the second game in a row.

“Can you blame them?” Guillen said. “I was booing, too. It’s a shame, because we’ve got a better ballclub than we’ve showed. The last couple of games, things got out of hand — very lousy baseball, period.”

The Marlins, expected to contend for a division title after an offseason spending spree, are 8-14 as they begin a nine-game trip Tuesday in San Francisco.

“We are too good to continue to play the way we were playing right now,” shortstop Jose Reyes said. “We need to turn it around quickly.”

The 22-year-old Corbin, a left-hander called up from Double-A Mobile, struck out six and allowed three runs in 5 2-3 innings. Cody Ransom and Justin Upton hit two-run homers for Arizona, and Willie Bloomquist had a two-run double.

Miami tapped into a 1-2-3 bases-loaded double play and committed three errors, including one on a misplayed bunt that led to a five-run inning.

Mark Buehrle (1-4) endured his worst outing this season. Facing Arizona for the first time in his 370th career start,

the left-hander lasted only five innings and allowed seven runs — four earned — and eight hits.

“I guess it could get worse,” Buehrle said. “We won eight games this month. We could have won none. We’ve got to keep going at it.”

Struggling closer Heath Bell gave up two runs in a non-save situation in the ninth. His ERA rose to 10.80.

“Everybody knows he has struggled,” Guillen said. “Everybody knows he has a lot of problems. Make an adjustment, and hopefully it can work.”

After the Marlins threatened in the first inning, they didn’t manage another hit off Corbin until the fifth, when John Buck singled and pinch-hitter Donnie Murphy homered.

Miami’s Austin Kearns hit a two-run homer in the seventh.

“At least we fought back,” Reyes said. “We put some runs on the scoreboard. That’s good. But still we lost the game. It’s kind of disappointing for us, because we’re better than this.”

The Marlins fell to 2-6 against left-handers with a batting average of .188.

Thanks to the retractable roof on the Marlins’ new ballpark, a rainout may have been averted for a second day in a row. Announced attendance was 31,008, and the afternoon crowd included 12,000 schoolchildren who generated a high-pitched din throughout the game.

There were jeers from the adults in the crowd during Arizona’s five-run fourth inning.

“I’d be booing us too, the way we’re playing,” Buehrle said.

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.

PERSONAL

UNPLANNED PREGNANCY? Don't go it alone. Notre Dame has many resources in place to assist you. If you or someone you love needs confidential support or assistance, please call Sr. Sue Dunn at 1-7819. For more information, visit ND's website at:

http://pregnancysupport@nd.edu

Game of Thrones

Tyrion: You love your children. It's your one redeeming quality; that and your cheekbones.

Stannis: They'll bend the knee or I'll destroy them.

Jaime: Three victories don't make you a conquerer.
Robb: It's better than three defeats.

Fat boy: You better give me that sword!
Arya: You want it? I'll give it to you. I've already killed one fat boy. I bet you're a liar, but I'm not. I'm good at killing fat boys. I like killing fat boys.

Viserys: No! You cannot touch me. I am the dragon! I want my crown!
Daenerys: He was no dragon. Fire cannot kill a dragon.

Tywin: Your mother's dead, before long I'll be dead, and you, and your brother, and your sister and all of her children.

All of us dead, all of us rotting in the ground. It's the family name that lives on. That's all that lives on.

Not your personal glory, not your honor, but family.

Do you understand?

Tyrion: Have you ever heard the phrase "Rich as a Lannister?" Of course you have. You're a smart man. You know who the Lannister's are. I am a Lannister. Tyrion, son of Tywin. Of course, you have also heard the phrase, a Lannister always pays his debts. If you deliver a message from me to Lady Arryn, I will be in your debt. I will owe you gold. If you deliver the message, and I live, which I very much intend to do.

Daenerys: I am a Khaleesi of the Dothraki. I am the wife of the great Kahl and I carry his son inside me. The next time you raise a hand to me will be the last time you have hands.

Bran: I'm not a cripple.

Tyrion: Then I'm not a dwarf. My father will be rejoiced to hear it.

NBA

Thibodeau says Rose’s injury will not derail Bulls’ playoff run

Associated Press

DEERFIELD, Ill. — One bad landing finished Derrick Rose’s season. The Chicago Bulls insist it hasn’t dashed their NBA title hopes.

With their superstar point guard out for the rest of the season with a left knee injury, the Bulls will try to take a 2-0 lead over the Philadelphia 76ers when their first-round playoff series resumes Tuesday night after realizing their worst nightmare in the opener.

There was Rose writhing in pain with just over a minute left after tearing the anterior cruciate ligament. Now, the Bulls will have to pick themselves up.

“I’ve watched them respond to every challenge all year long,” coach Tom Thibodeau said. “This is the next one.”

And it’s a big one.

The Bulls came into the season looking for more after posting the league’s best record and advancing to Eastern Conference finals a year ago. They earned homecourt advantage throughout the playoffs again even though Rose and Richard Hamilton missed significant time because of injuries, which explains why they believe they can get through this.

Even so, the sight of Rose going down late in Saturday’s 103-91 victory sent a major chill through Chicago and stirred a debate over whether he should have been in the game at that point. Players and general manager Gar Forman publicly defended Thibodeau’s decision, but losing Rose to many wiped out whatever chance the Bulls have at advancing to the NBA finals, much less winning it all.

“It’s more fun being the underdog, right?” said Kyle Korver, who sat out Monday’s practice but is expected to play. “I don’t think a lot of people ex-

pected us to win a championship to begin with. But even now, it’s probably more so that way. We’re definitely confident in ourselves.”

They realize the task just jumped a few levels in difficulty, though.

“Without Derrick Rose, it is a different team,” the 76ers’ Jrue Holiday said. “They don’t really have that scoring and passing that Derrick Rose brings. At the same time, they’ve had an awesome record without him.”

Rose was playing more like an MVP with 23 points, nine rebounds and nine assists after being limited down the regular-season stretch, only to see his season end in a flash. He landed awkwardly on a jump stop, went up for a pass, and that was it. Korver said Rose was at the practice facility on Monday, but he did not talk with reporters.

Rose faces surgery at some point once the swelling goes down and he regains his full range of motion, but his status for the start of next season is up in the air. The Bulls, meanwhile, will try to do what they did all season — shrug it off.

The Bulls were able to start their top five just 15 times this season because of injuries to Rose, Hamilton and Luol Deng (torn ligament in his left wrist), yet they still tied San Antonio for the league’s best record at 50-16.

In the games Rose missed, they were 18-9.

“We’re not going to let the media or anybody paint the picture for us,” center Joakim Noah said. “We’ve played good basketball without Derrick as well. It’s a tough blow. Unfortunately in sports, there’s no feeling sorry for yourself.”

With Rose sidelined, they figure to lean on Deng, Carlos Boozer and Hamilton — who had 19 points on just seven shots in Game 1 — for scoring. C.J. Watson, who made 25



Bulls guard Richard Hamilton drives past Philadelphia forward Andre Iguodala during the third quarter of Chicago’s 103-91 playoff victory over Detroit on April 28.

starts and averaged 9.7 points, is expected to get the nod at point guard with John Lucas III backing him up.

“Derrick Rose so distorts your defense,” Sixers coach Doug Collins said. “Everything you do is tilted toward him. It frees up a lot of opportunities for a lot of other guys.”

The Sixers might not have to trap as much or worry about the point guard creating havoc in the paint the way Rose does, but they still have to be careful. Watson scored 20 on them twice in the regular season.

In the games Rose missed, the Bulls’ approach didn’t change much. They still rebounded and defended, and they might have moved the ball even more when he was out.

“I think you stay with what you are as a team,” Thibodeau said. “It’s the defense, it’s the rebounding, keeping our turnovers low, inside-out. Whether it’s off the dribble or through the post-up, the ball has to (get to) the paint. The final thing is sharing the ball. We have to keep the ball moving, but we have to do

that when Derrick plays. From that standpoint, I don’t think we have to change. It’s impossible to make up for Derrick’s individual greatness, but our collective greatness would cover that up.”

Korver said it was his brother Klay’s idea to post an eloquent appeal to fans to keep backing the Bulls on Facebook after Rose went down.

“I was surprised how many people read it and commented,” Korver said. “When things are tough, that’s when a lot of good can happen.”

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NCAA BASKETBALL

Butler debating move from Horizon League

Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — Small-school Butler could soon be making a big move.

The NCAA tournament darling is reportedly debating whether to leave the Horizon League for the stronger, higher-profile and potentially more profitable Atlantic 10.

Bulldogs athletic director Barry Collier met Monday with his coaches, part of a regular meeting process he has with athletic department employees. Spokesman Jim McGrath said Collier declined to comment on what was discussed at the meeting or where the decision-making process stands.

“We’ve been longtime members in good standing of the Horizon League and we continue to examine the ever-changing landscape of conference affiliation,” McGrath said.

The Indianapolis Star first reported that university President James Danko notified trustees in a letter that the school had been conducting a cost-benefit analysis of changing conference affiliations. Coaches have been fielding questions, too, and trustees have been told not to discuss the possibility of a move that has caught the ear of Horizon League officials.

“Our commissioner, Mr. (Jon) LeCrone, has been in contact with

the president and athletic director and they’ve not said anything to him,” Horizon League senior associate commissioner Bill Benner said Monday. “As far as we know, the status is quo.”

Butler’s board of trustees is scheduled to meet May 9-10 and this month’s staff assembly general meeting is slated for May 16.

Danko did not immediately respond to an interview request from The Associated Press. Neither did Butler board of trustees Chairman Craig Fenneman or A-10 Commissioner Bernadette McGlade.

The Atlantic 10 is looking to replace Temple, which will join the Big East in all sports other than football in 2013-14. The football team will begin playing football in the Big East this fall.

A-10 officials are reportedly interested in adding three schools -- Butler, George Mason and Virginia Commonwealth -- following Temple’s departure.

All three have played in the men’s Final Four since 2006, but the Bulldogs are the only one of those three to reach the championship game. Butler lost to Duke in the 2010 title game when Gordon Hayward’s half-court heave bounced off the rim in Indy. The Bulldogs then lost to Connecticut in the 2011 championship game when they shot just 18.8 percent from the field.

CLUB SPORTS

Costello, Ventrella, Siebert, Hannigan post impressive scores

Men's rowing finishes third in Mid-American Collegiate; sailing fifth in Wisconsin; men's ultimate falls in regionals

Special to The Observer

Gymnastics

Notre Dame-Saint Mary's attended the NAIGC National Gymnastics meet at the Salt Palace Convention Center in Salt Lake City over the weekend. There were a total of 57 other teams competing. In Notre Dame's session, other competitors included North Carolina State, Northern Arizona, Ohio University, Penn State, Illinois, Minnesota, North Carolina, American, Boston University, Emory, Georgia Tech, Hardin Simmons, MIT, SUNY Cortland, Texas State, Texas Tech, Buffalo, Tennessee, Xavier, Vermont and Southern Maine.

Saint Mary's freshmen Christa Costello and Gianna Ventrella teamed with Notre Dame sophomore Emily Siebert to post impressive scores. Siebert scored 8.3 on the vault, 9.0 on the floor and 8.3 on the beam. Costello earned 8.05 on vault and 6.2 on floor, while Ventrella posted a 4.8 on floor and 4.65 on bars. Senior Mike Hannigan scored 11.4 on the vault, 9.1 on the floor and 13.0 on the rings.

There were 66 women competitors in Notre Dame's session and 81 male competitors.

Men's Rowing

This weekend the Irish traveled to Grand Rapids, Mich., for the Mid-American Collegiate Rowing championship. After some early-morning snow, the Irish took to the water in some fast conditions with the heats of the novice eight, novice four and varsity eight events, with all boats advancing easily to their respective grand finals.

After a short break for lunch, the afternoon brought hotly contested finals for the Notre Dame crews. The second novice eight took to the river first, finishing second to Michigan and beating Purdue. Next up was the novice eight, with the Irish taking an early lead and holding on through the first 1,500 meters. But Michigan's relentless attack was just enough, as the Irish fell to a fast boat by half a deck in a heartbreaking race. Next up was the burly pair of Notre Dame, taking fifth after only three days of practice in their boat, and sophomore Grant Tobin taking fourth in the single. After advancing to the grand final, the novice four could not find the necessary speed and fell to sixth against a collection of schools who prioritize fours racing. Then the third varsity eight, comprised of both novice and varsity rowers, took third. They were followed by the second varsity event, where the Irish finished in fourth. Racing concluded with the varsity eight final. The Irish

faced familiar programs from Michigan State, Grand Valley, Michigan, Purdue and Mercyhurst. The Irish fell behind on the start after failing to replicate their early speed from the heat. With a strong middle half of the race, Notre Dame was able to pull ahead of the Spartans, Purdue and Mercyhurst, and was in a dead heat with Grand Valley. However, the Irish could not find a high enough gear, and Grand Valley was able to move back through them. Notre Dame finished third, falling to Michigan by open water and to Grand Valley by what is becoming a too familiar margin of about half a boat. The team now turns its attention to preparation for the ACRA National Championship in Gainesville, Fla., at the end of May, with a tune up in St. Louis on May 13.

Sailing

Notre Dame raced in Wisconsin in the Team Race Championship for the MCSA this weekend. The Irish finished fifth out of six schools, racing against the best teams in the Midwest. Seniors Jeff Miller and Nathaniel Walden sailed well and were victorious in two races for the Irish.

Wisconsin was followed in order by Michigan, Northwestern, Minnesota, Notre Dame and Ohio State. Sophomores Sarah Eide and Anne Schoenwetter, freshmen Pat Gallagher and Mike Flanagan also competed for the Irish.

Ultimate

Notre Dame's men's teams travelled to Naperville, Ill., this weekend to compete in the Great Lakes Regional tournament. Notre Dame-B finished second out of five teams in the developmental division while Notre Dame-A finished a disappointing ninth of 16 to end the season.

Saturday brought cold and windy conditions, which limited everyone's deep looks. The day began for No. 4 seed Notre Dame-A with a relatively easy win over Loyola, 15-4. Next up in the quarterfinals was a game against Indiana. Despite hanging close the entire game, Notre Dame never made a run to take a lead in the second half. The game ended in a 14-12 win for Indiana, which put Notre Dame in the backdoor bracket in the double elimination tournament.

The loss set up an elimination game against Western Michigan. Just like the previous game, Notre Dame never really got going. The team was further hampered by the loss of senior handler and emotional leader Adam Barsella to injury. Notre Dame lost to Western Michigan 15-10, eliminating the Irish from the tournament.

Playing for ninth place Sunday, Notre Dame opened against Michigan-B and worked out some of their frustrations from the previous day with a 15-5 win.

In the ninth-place game, Notre Dame faced Illinois State. Playing with each other for the last time, Notre Dame won 15-10 to send the seniors off with a victory. Freshmen Kyle Hill, Jason Wassel, Erich Kerekes and Danny Kerekes all made strong contributions to the team all season in their first year of college ultimate. From the cutting line juniors Jonathon Koch, Zack Woodruff, Charlie Bowen, and Connor Sea and Conor Hanney played excellent defense and got open at will all season long. Junior handlers Colin Mackett, Dan Bolivar and Eric Bens all moved the disc well and found open cutters upfield to move the offense along.

Notre Dame-B finished second in the developmental tournament with wins over Kalamazoo-B, Chicago-B and Northwestern-B, their only loss coming to Indiana-B. Captains junior Andrew Romero and sophomore Jordan Lange were thrilled with the improvement of the team all season long. Freshmen Peter Hall, Steven Zurawski, Brian Calcutt, Kevin Song and Keith Podgorski all had impressive performances over the weekend.

The women's Notre Dame-A traveled to Naperville, Ill., as well for the Great Lakes

Division I College Women's Regionals tournament. The women entered the tournament ranked fifth.

Saturday started with pool play with a game against Illinois. The game started out with the teams trading points but Notre Dame eventually fell 9-5.

This loss was followed by an easy win against Northwestern-B, 11-0. The next game proved to be harder than expected, but Notre Dame beat Chicago on niverse point for a final score of 9 to 8. Handler junior Kelly Taylor was essential to this win whose up-wind throws found sophomore cutters Molly Carmona and Kelsey Fink.

The women then went on to beat Michigan-B 11-3, using a strong zone defense. The last game of the day against Michigan State proved to be a very tough game. Layout catches from junior Allie Hawkins and sophomore Eliza Herrero helped the women secure the win 11-8 and finish second in their pool.

Sunday began with a game against rival Northwestern in the championship bracket. The teams traded points most of the game, but patient throws from senior captains Ashley Satterlee and Vicky Hadlock helped the women pull ahead in the end for a 13-10 victory.

In the semifinal, Notre Dame went up against Indiana. Despite very good defense from junior Courtney Iverson and senior Kelly

Nickodem, Indiana's zone defense was tough to break and Notre Dame lost 11-8. In the third-place game, Notre Dame faced Illinois again. The second game was closer. Seniors Stefanie Zipf and Elise Garton helped the team with good cuts and throws. The game eventually came down to the universe point. All five seniors were on the line and fought hard for the up-wind point, but Notre Dame ended up losing, 11-10.


The women ended a very good season with a fourth place finish at Regionals and the underclassmen are hoping to improve over the summer and start next season strong.

Women's Rugby


Notre Dame drove to Chicago on Saturday to play Northshore, last year's Division I national champion. Expecting to use this as a learning experience for their year of growth the Irish took the field with excitement. During the first half the Irish led 12-0, demonstrating their immense heart and technical skill.

Scores were made by sophomore Leah Fisher and freshman Shannon Kenny. Northshore came back with speed and agility to score two more on the Irish. In her last game at Notre Dame, senior Christina Konkey crashed through the strong defensive line to score for the Irish. Northshore won 32-19.

STUDY TIME





Building Hours for STUDY Days & Finals Week




DeBartolo Hall

May 3, 4, 5, 6: 7am to 3:00am
Finals Week: May 7-11: Rooms available for study except when scheduled by the Registrar's office. See Building Support Personnel Room 103/104 ~ if you have specific needs.
May 11: DeBartolo Hall closes at 5:00pm.




Coleman-Morse

May 3, 4, 5: 7am-4am
May 6, 7, 8, 9: Open 24 Hours
May 10: 7am-4am
Finals Week: Rooms available except when scheduled by the Registrar's office. See Building Support Personnel Room 101 ~ if you have specific needs.
May 11: 7am-5:30 pm



Good Luck with Finals



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Big East

continued from page 16

the Red Storm (7-6, 3-3) 13-6 on April 1.

Kemp said he believes the Irish have the advantage as they face St. John's for the second time this season.

"Familiarity with what they're doing and the confidence knowing that you've beaten them and you can do it again [is important]," he said. "The obvious [dis-advantage] is going and thinking you're not going to have to play your best game. The way we treat every game is that anyone can beat us, so I don't think that will be a problem for us."

The tournament will be played at Villanova Stadium, where the Irish have already defeated the No. 2-seeded Wildcats (8-6, 4-2) this season. Unlike most lacrosse sites, Villanova's field runs east to west, making the sun an issue during the day.

The Irish have made an appearance in the NCAA tournament every year since 2006.

"There is no better momentum coming into the NCAA tournament than winning a conference tournament."

John Kemp
senior goaltender

Notre Dame appeared in the NCAA finals in 2010, when it fell to Duke 6-5 in overtime.

Rogers said winning the Big East tournament would bring Notre Dame one step closer to a national title.

"The conference tournament is a whole different ballgame. For us, we know we are pretty much guaranteed to make the tournament," he said. "As [Irish coach Kevin Corrigan] said, 'There is no better momentum coming into the NCAA tournament than winning a conference tournament.' In order to win the conference tournament, we have to beat two quality teams."

The Wildcats will face No. 3 seed Syracuse in the other semifinal matchup. The winner of each game will play in the tournament championship Saturday at 12 p.m.

Notre Dame will begin its search for its first Big East tournament title against St. John's on Thursday at 4:30 p.m. in Villanova, Pa. All Big East tournament games will be televised live on ESPNU.

Contact Megan Golden at mgolde01@saintsmarys.edu

Scodro

continued from page 16

competition is third-place St. John's, 14 strokes back.

"Overall, I was very happy with how the guys played today," Kubinski said. "They played through some very tough conditions out there, as they have for the last few weeks. It was really tough to know where some of the balls were heading today."

Scodro's impressive second-round performance slightly overshadowed the solid day of junior Paul McNamara, whose even-par 72 belied the fact that he played a o-under front nine and still remains in competition for the Big East individual title. McNamara's 4-under-4 score through two rounds puts him just three strokes behind Scodro and one behind Louisville's Justin Dorward, good for third place in the field individually. Senior Chris Walker, tied for sixth, rounds out the Irish representation in the top ten.

"Of all people today, I was very impressed with Paul [McNamara]. He played some great golf and is giving us the consistency we need," Kubinski said. "Obviously, Max [Scodro] had a great round, but it's good to see other guys stepping up."

Though the Irish hold a seven-stroke lead over the Red Storm, Kubinski and his team know that no lead is safe. he



ASHLEY DACY/The Observer

Junior Paul McNamara watches his shot during the Battle at the Warren on April 22. McNamara is currently third in the Big East championship.

noted at the same time that, barring catastrophe, it is likely a two-horse race between the Irish and Red Storm.

"Seven shots seems like a decent lead," Kubinski said. "But when you think of it, that just means a couple of shots per golfer since we're counting four. Anything could happen. It would take a lot for a team to come up from below, but we have to be very wary of St. John's."

This experienced and talented group has been in this position before. With the Irish

in first and Scodro leading the field, the scene is eerily similar to the 2011 Big East championship in which both Notre Dame and Scodro took first. With 18 holes to go, Kubinski hopes to achieve a similar result.

"We just have to take care of business tomorrow," Kubinski said.

The Irish tee off today at 8:50 a.m. at the Reunion Resort Watson Course in Orlando, Fla.

Contact Conor Kelly at ckelly17@nd.edu

Aragon

continued from page 16

chase.

Aragon attributes her versatility to her high school track experience in her native Billings, Mont., where she was a four-time all-state runner, as well as her training regimen.

"In high school, I did a cross country and a lot of different events on the track team because it was a small school and you could do whatever you wanted," she said. "But I also change my training a little bit, so in the fall I work on a lot more distance-related stuff and during track season, I'll be doing a lot more speed work."

Aragon's emphasis on speed

in her middle distance role has helped her earn accolades in her sophomore campaign on the track. After starting her season with a third-place finish in the National Catholic Cross Country Invitational, Aragon found success in indoor track, her self-proclaimed favorite season to compete in. Competing in her favorite event, the mile, Aragon ran a personal-record mark of 4:43.88 in a fifth-place finish at the Meyo Invitational and followed it with a fourth-place showing in the event at the Big East Indoor championships.

She has continued her success in the outdoor season, setting personal records in the 3,000-meter steeplechase and 1,500-meter run en route to multiple top-three finishes.

Despite her individual suc-

cesses, Aragon said she is most proud of her role as a member of the Irish 4x800-meter relay team. In her time on the relay, she has helped lead the team to a second-place finish at the Big East Indoor championships and a victory at the prestigious Drake Relays this past weekend.

"I think a lot of [our success] is that we train together, we work hard together everyday, and we're going through tough workouts together," Aragon said. "We take that into the race and say, 'I'm doing this for my teammates as well as myself,' so having that motivation contributes to our success."

Aragon and her relay team face their next challenge this weekend at the Big East outdoor championships. When asked about her preparations to earn a title there, Aragon said she plans to simply

continue her hard work and progression as a runner.

"I'm going to continue working hard and training hard this week," she said. "I've seen myself progress a lot from freshman year to this year, so I'm hoping the same thing will happen from this year to next year too."

With her many running exploits, it might seem unlikely that Aragon has time to devote to many off-the-track activities. Yet the science pre-professional major and poverty studies minor managed to combine her academic passions and give back to the community over spring break when she traveled with her father, an anesthesiologist and former Notre Dame runner, on a medical mission to repair cleft lips and palettes in Puebla, Mexico.

"I first went on one of these

[medical trips] four years ago, and I just loved it," Aragon said. "I loved serving the people and getting to know them. I wanted to go on another trip with [my dad], and it happened that it was on our spring break, so I was able to go."

With a packed schedule of athletics, academics and service, Aragon admitted she completes her tasks with the help of a lesson learned through running.

"I think running just teaches you to work hard and not give up when things get tough," she said. "When you're hurting, you just have to continue that endurance."

Aragon and the Irish will travel to Tampa, Fla., on Friday to compete in the Big East Outdoor championships.

Contact Brian Hartnett at bhartnet@nd.edu

Aoki

continued from page 16

formance together with a hitting performance with a defensive performance," Aoki said. "I think it's just one of those things where there's a whole lot of things that play into it."

With the calendar turning to May and the postseason looming ever closer, the Irish must continue to improve against the Bulldogs (20-24, 8-13 Horizon). Butler is also entering on the wrong side of a losing spell, as the team has lost nine of its last 11, but also boasts likes of junior first baseman Jimmy Risi, who leads the Horizon League with 10 home runs.

With the potential postsea-

son implications of every remaining game, Aoki said the time is now for his team to find its stride and end its run of inconsistent play.

"I think the Butler game is really important for us," Aoki said. "I think it's important that we come out and put forth a really good effort, put forth a really good approach."

"We're in the midst of a four-game losing streak, and you certainly don't want to extend it to five. You're going against a team that's seemingly getting hot at the right

time at the end of the week with Villanova, and I think we're fighting for our [NCAA] tournament lives at this point right now.

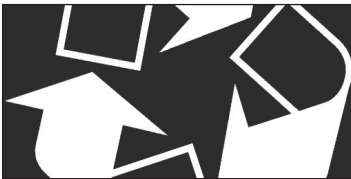
So I think it's important that we do start playing better and feeling better about ourselves."

The Irish will square off with Butler tonight at Frank Eck Stadium. First pitch is scheduled for 5:35 p.m.

Contact Jack Hefferon at jheffero@nd.edu

"I think the Butler game is really important for us ... I think it's important that we come out and put forth a really good effort, put forth a really good approach."

Mik Aoki
Irish coach



Please recycle The Observer.



Summer Job: No Nights! No Weekends!

Ave Maria Press located on Douglas Rd., across from campus is offering a summer employment opportunity ideal for college students.

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- Monday through Friday
- Must be able to lift up to 50lbs

For more information email:
Dee Johnson at djohns16@nd.edu

CROSSWORD

- Across**

1 Insignificant one

6 One in a black suit

11 Tie-breaking voters in the Sen.

14 Not as mad

15 Gave support

16 Talent agent Emanuel

17 Investigative reporter's specialty

20 Smoke column

21 Einstein's birthplace

22 Used a loom

23 Group within a group

25 Fenway Park team, familiarly

26 Half-___ (coffee order)

29 ___ Lanka

30 Lead-in to preservation

32 City where "Peer Gynt" premiered

34 Previously
- 36 Disc-shaped vacuum cleaner from iRobot

40 Bit of pirate booty

43 "Naughty!"

44 Have dinner

45 Depressed

46 Jalopy

48 Poker legend Ungar

50 ___ Poke (candy brand)

51 New person on the job

54 Badly bothering

57 La Salle of "ER"

58 Separator of syllables in many dictionaries

59 It takes a bow in an orchestra

62 Gather wealth by exploitation ... as hinted at by this puzzle's shaded squares?

66 It may be used with a plunger
- 67 Declaration of Independence signer?

68 Online memo

69 Nay's opposite

70 Overused

71 Antianxiety medication

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

E	L	K	F	E	D		M	O	V	I	N	G
V	A	N	I	L	L	A	R	E	C	I	T	A
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	I	V	A	N	H	O	E	V	A	S	E	S
I	N	T	E	L		D	U	R	B	I	N	
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WILL SHORTZ

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66				67						68				
69				70						71				

Puzzle by Todd McClary

38 Many a New Year's Day game

39 Word usually abbreviated on timelines

41 "No need to elaborate"

42 Kick out

47 Midwest city representing average tastes

49 Like some hair salons

51 Sizable

52 Woman's name meaning "peace"

53 Wild West show prop

55 Coral Sea sight

56 "We're Not ___ Take It" ("Tommy" tune)

58 Numbers follower: Abbr.

60 Defense secretary Panetta

61 "The Thin Man" canine

63 Command posts, for short

64 N.Y. Mets' div.

65 Cowhand handle

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.

HOROSCOPE

EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Dianna Argon, 26; Kirsten Dunst, 30; Kunal Nayyar, 31; Johnny Galecki, 37.

Happy Birthday: Look around you, be observant, monitor your pace and make your move. Get your papers in order and remove clutter from your life. Curb habits you have let take over and shake off any ill feelings you've been harboring. You must purify mentally, physically and emotionally to clear the way for success. Your numbers are 2, 9, 16, 20, 28, 33, 46.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Expand your prospects by networking with people who share your interests. Travel or take on a challenge that will provide you with adventure or cultural knowledge. Social gatherings will enhance your love life. You are overdue to make positive lifestyle changes. ★★★★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Your family will be angry if you make changes without asking for approval. Avoid offending anyone in a position to influence your future. Excess, overvaluing your own opinion or underestimating a situation will be your downfall. ★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Make home improvements or take care of your personal needs. Love can be enhanced, but only if you strive for equality and prepare to compromise. A regimen that will help you achieve or maintain good health should be initiated. ★★★★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Don't misinterpret what someone is telling you or asking you to do. Limitations will prevail if you take the long route unnecessarily. Gauge your relationships carefully and revise or let go of connections that put too much pressure on you. ★★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Think before making a decision or statement that may impose on an important relationship. Get involved in activities that will challenge you mentally or physically. You will see a situation much more clearly if you step back and review. ★★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Visit a friend or get involved in an event that is conducive to meeting new people. Putting money into your home or investing in your skills will help you create a better life. A colleague or peer is likely to mislead you. ★★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Do not spend money on luxury items. You cannot buy love and should not lend or borrow money or possessions. Concentrate on making improvements that will help you establish a better position with a healthier lifestyle. Love is on the rise. ★★★★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You can make wise choices that will benefit you personally and professionally. A creative idea can prompt you to change, make a move or form a partnership that will allow you greater freedom to follow your dreams, hopes and wishes. ★★★★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Slow the pace and consider the consequence of any move you make. Problems can be expected while traveling or dealing with people who have information you want. Strategy must be used in order to come out on top. ★★

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Deal with personal issues. Make sure the estates of elders are in order and that home and family matters are secure and assessable. Taking the initiative ahead of time will ease your stress. Don't stir up trouble by asking for help. ★★★★★

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Problems involving friends, relatives or neighbors will spin out of control if you are too blatant about your feelings or too stubborn to compromise. Be reasonable and figure out how to please everyone while taking care of your needs. ★★★

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Put in extra effort to avoid criticism and complaints. Keep busy and focus on goals that will help you get ahead professionally. Personal matters are likely to aggravate you and stand in the way of your success. ★★★

Birthday Baby: You are a giver, a doer and a competitive individual. You are ambitious.

THE LONDON EXPRESS

LEE HAGGENJOS and ALEX GRISWOLD

We have reason to believe you lied on your application.

What do you mean I might not graduate?!

You put down that you were half Pacific-Islander.

Uh, yeah! I totally am!

When we asked which island, you responded "Native America".

Way to keep us down again, paleface!

ExpND

JON REPINE

The Observer apologizes for the absence of

ExpND

JUMBLE

DAVID L. HOYT
JEFF KNUREK

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

KACTR

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HRPOM

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INVIED

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A: ◯◯◯◯◯◯◯◯ THE ◯◯◯◯◯

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: SNUCK BEACH ACROSS DOUBLE
Answer: After their defeat the night before, the coach wanted his team to do this — BOUNCE BACK

It's been nice without the guys here.

WHILE THE MEN WERE AWAY, THE WOMEN ---

THE OBSERVER

Published Monday through Friday, The Observer is a vital source of information on people and events in the Notre Dame and Saint Mary's Community.

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MEN'S LACROSSE

Big stage debut

Top-seeded Irish look forward to inaugural Big East conference tournament and beyond

By MEGAN GOLDEN
Sports Writer

After being crowned Big East regular season champions Saturday, top-seeded Notre Dame hopes to add to its trophy case by winning the first-ever Big East tournament this weekend.

The No. 2-ranked Irish (11-1, 6-0 Big East) outscored conference rival Syracuse 8-6 to win their 10th consecutive game and capture the program's first Big East regular season title. The victory ended Notre Dame's 0-5 spell against the Orange (7-7, 3-3).

"You come here to win championships. You come to Notre Dame to get a great education and play lacrosse, but you come here to play on the main stage and in the big games. You come here to play Syracuse under the lights on senior night," Irish senior attack Sean Rogers said. "We are excited about the opportunity, and I'm glad we were able to finish."

The addition of a conference tournament in the Big East provides three of the top teams with a chance to become an automatic qualifier in the NCAA tournament. The Big East regular-season schedule also becomes much more significant as conference records determine seeds in the Big East tournament.

"The motivation is there to win the regular season and get the easiest first-round game, depending on who you play. The motivation is there, but the goal is always to win all the games, and we just try to win," Irish junior goalkeeper John Kemp said. "I think the tournament brings out more incentive because of the trophy aspect."

The Irish will face No. 4-seeded St. John's in the semifinals of the Big East tournament, which features the top four teams in the conference. Notre Dame defeated

see BIG EAST/page 14



ALEX PARTAK/The Observer

Sophomore attack Westy Hopkins moves downfield during Notre Dame's 8-6 win over Syracuse on Saturday. Hopkins scored a goal in the first quarter.

BASEBALL

Irish battle four-game losing streak

By JACK HEFFERON
Sports Writer

Win five. Lose five. Win three. Lose four.

Those streaks have been the marks of a wildly inconsistent season for the Irish, but they will try again to bounce back and snap out of their latest four-game skid in an intrastate showdown against Butler tonight.

The three most recent Notre Dame (22-20, 9-9 Big East) setbacks came last weekend at the hands of conference-leading St. John's. Despite the sweep, the Irish had their chances throughout the series. Notre Dame lost each game by just two runs and stranded a total of 17 runners in scoring position. Friday's opener may have been the most frustrating near-miss, as the Irish committed five errors in the field, leading to five unearned runs and a 6-4 loss.

Irish coach Mik Aoki said youth could be one factor for the team's struggle to find a way to win.

"I hope [the recent inconsistency] is part of the maturation process," he said. "I think we certainly need to learn how to win games. You look at that first game on Friday and a championship caliber team is going to win that game, and they won it."

Another issue for Notre Dame has been its inability to turn in a complete performance in all facets of the game. Even when the team finds success both in the field and at the plate — as



GRANT TOBIN/The Observer

Irish freshman infielder Kevin DeFilippis throws to first during Notre Dame's 6-4 loss to St. John's on April 27.

it did in the first half of Friday's doubleheader — it can be undone by mistakes in the field.

"I think sometimes it's that we just haven't played

well enough and some other instances it's just a combination where we weren't able to put a pitching per-

see AOKI/page 14

MEN'S GOLF

Scodro leads squad to brink of conference title

By CONOR KELLY
Sports Writer

Senior Max Scodro carded the only score lower than 70 in the tournament's entire field, grabbed the individual lead and helped the Irish extend their first day lead as the Big East tournament heads into its final round.

"Max had a fantastic day today," Irish coach Jim Jubinski said. "He even had a chance to do even better. He came into the par-five 17th thinking birdie

but hit his only bad shot of the day on 17 and ended up with a bogey. It could have been a very special round."

Despite windy conditions Monday, the Irish posted a 2-unde2 mark as a team, powered by Scodro's 4-unde4 round of 68. The round puts the Irish seven strokes ahead of second-place Louisville with 18 holes of golf to plan Tuesday. After the Cardinals, Notre Dame's closest

see SCODRO/page 14

TRACK AND FIELD

Aragon excels as student, three-season athlete

By BRIAN HARTNETT
Sports Writer

As competitors at a top Division I institution, Notre Dame student-athletes face the intimidating challenge of balancing rigorous academics with a steady stream of practices and nationwide competitions. For sophomore middle distance runner Alexa Aragon, this task is an even more complex one, as she must juggle her pre-med studies and her role as a three-season athlete.

"It's pretty tough," Aragon said of her daily schedule. "I just have

to work hard whenever I have free time, not procrastinate and try to be efficient with my time."

Aragon spends much of her time on the track, where her practice schedule reads much like a heat sheet at one of the many meets in which she has competed. A member of the cross country, indoor track and outdoor track teams, Aragon competes for the Irish from September to May and runs a variety of events, ranging from the 800-meter run to the hurdle-filled 3,000-meter steeple-

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