

'To give a human face to the conflict'

Student coalition sponsors a panel discussion concerning humanitarian efforts in Syria

By **CHRISTIAN MYERS**
News Writer

The ongoing conflict in Syria spurred the creation of the Student Syrian Solidarity Coalition earlier this year, and the group's latest event was a panel discussion titled "Syria: Why it Matters to Us" held in the Hesburgh Center Auditorium on Thursday.

Senior Manuel Rocha provided background information on the conflict for attendees of the discussion. Thus far, he said the conflict has resulted in over 100,000 deaths, over four million internally-displaced Syrians

and over two million Syrian refugees fleeing to Turkey, Jordan, Lebanon, Egypt and elsewhere.

The event featured discussion from Kenan Rahmani and Fr. Dan Groody, concerning the humanitarian efforts in Syria and in nearby countries with Syrian refugees. Rahmani, a Syrian-American law student currently on a leave of absence, has served on the board of the Syrian American Council and as a humanitarian aid worker in Syria. Rahmani said the true problem in Syria is that the

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TORI ROECK | The Observer

Fr. Dan Groody addresses the campus community regarding the ongoing conflict in Syria. Groody participated in the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' delegation to investigate the Syrian refugee crisis.

SMC prepares for 41st Madrigal dinner

By **KATHRYN MARSHALL**
News Writer

Carols, costumes and medieval court dancers will usher in the Christmas season this weekend during Saint Mary's 41st annual Madrigal Dinner in Regina Hall, presented by the College's music department.

The Renaissance-era feast reenactment will include medieval music, food and dance, Nancy Menk, chair of the department of music, said.

The event is a unique concert

experience where College students and faculty act, sing and dance while dressed in 16th-century attire, she said.

Twenty-two members of the Saint Mary's College Women's Choir volunteered their time for this year's dinner, where they will perform traditional carols such as "The Holly and the Ivy" and "The Boar's Head Carol," Menk said.

"The students really love to do it, and many will do it all four years," she said.

The evening gives students a

chance to take part in a more theatrical performance, instead of a traditional concert where they stand still, Menk said. Junior Emmi Hazen has been a Madrigal singer for three years, and said the dinner is a fun tradition.

"The North Lounge of Regina [Hall] gets transformed into a candle-lit Renaissance banquet hall for the event and this draws in a lot of people," Hazen said. "A lot of people in the South Bend, Saint Mary's and Notre Dame communities

have made it a holiday tradition to come to Madrigal dinners every year as a way to get the Christmas season started."

The Madrigal Dinner creates a community among the performers, Menk said. Because of the large amount of traditional carols, upperclassmen are able to help underclassmen learn the music for the event, she said.

"Being able to perform alongside with so many other

see DINNER **PAGE 4**

Prof. awarded \$3 million

By **EVELYN HUANG**
News Writer

With a \$3 million grant at her disposal, assistant professor of psychology Kristin Valentino will be able to test a maltreatment intervention program for local families.

Valentino received a grant from the Eunice K. Shriver National Institute of Child Health and

Kristin Valentino
assistant professor
psychology



Human Development to further her program that helps preschool age children in families with maltreatment problems, Valentino said. She said the program partners with the Department of Child Services in St. Joseph County.

The brief intervention program works with preschool age children

see GRANT **PAGE 3**

Landscapers decorate for the holidays

By **TORI ROECK**
Associate News Editor

Christmas starts in October for Notre Dame Landscaping Services, the group in charge of the majority of outdoor decorations on campus.

Pat McCauslin, manager of Landscaping Services, said it takes a three-person crew three weeks to install the lights on the large trees near the Main Building, the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center, the fire station, the Grotto and Carroll Hall before wintry weather settles in

South Bend.

"You never know when it's going to snow," he said. "... Once it starts snowing, our focus turns to snow removal and you have to stop putting lights up. So that's why we start early."

Landscaping crew members Ron Rosander, Tammy Bergl and Brian Anders have already put up thousands of lights around campus, McCauslin said.

"The fire station tree, if you see that at night, it's really

see DECORATIONS **PAGE 4**



MICHAEL YU | The Observer

Landscaping Services began preparing campus for the holiday season in October. Decorations include a large tree near the Main Building.

SHOW SOME SKIN

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QUESTION OF THE DAY:

If you had to listen to one Christmas song for the entire season, what would it be?

Have a question you want answered?

Email obsphoto@gmail.com



Ethan Muehlstein

sophomore
Morrissey Hall

"Last Christmas."



Juan Rangel

junior
Seigfried Hall

"Believe from the Polar Express movie."



Katrina Gonzales

sophomore
Pasquerilla East Hall

"Let it Snow by Michael Buble."



Micheal Flioticsos

sophomore
Duncan Hall

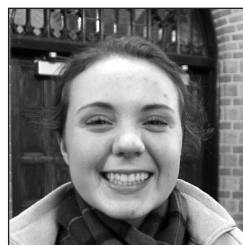
"All I Want For Christmas is You."



Michael Tillema

sophomore
Keough Hall

"Sleigh Ride by the Spice Girls."



Olivia Godby

sophomore
Pasquerilla East Hall

"Christmas Time by Smashing Pumpkins."



MARY O'NEIL | The Observer

Dillon Hall gets into the Christmas spirit by decorating one of the second floor hallways to honor their tradition that says, "We are the strongest, the smartest and the humblest dorm on campus." The hall also hosts the annual Dillion Hall Light Show.

THE NEXT FIVE DAYS:

Want your event included here?

Email obsnews.nd@gmail.com

Friday

Hula Hooping

St. Liam Hall
1:30 p.m.-2:30 p.m.
Part of Stress-Buster Fridays.

Conscious Christmas

Badin Hall
12 p.m.-5 p.m.
Sale of Fair Trade goods that benefits orphans in Nepal.

Saturday

Women's Basketball

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

Holiday Gift Auction

Robinson Family Learning Center
4 p.m.-6 p.m.
Purchase christmas gifts that benefit the community.

Sunday

Zen Meditation

Coleman-Morse Center
6:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m.
Open to all faiths.

Advent Lessons and Carols

Basilica of the Sacred Heart
7:15 p.m.-8:15 p.m.
Featuring all Basilica choirs.

Monday

Men's Basketball

Purcell Pavilion
7 p.m.- 9 p.m.
Part of Gotham Class Regional Rounds.

Community Choir Rehearsal

Coleman-Morse Center
6 p.m.- 7:30 p.m.
For Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve.

Tuesday

Snite Salon Series

Snite Museum of Art
5 p.m.-5:45 p.m.
Exchange ideas about art.

Mary and the Season of Advent

Geddes Hall
5 p.m.- 6 p.m.
The Center for Liturgy features an annual Advent lecture.

‘Show Some Skin’ opens auditions for 2014 show

By PAUL KIM
News Writer

“Show Some Skin”, a show comprised of monologue performances that discuss issues such as race, gender and sexuality, will begin auditions today for the Feb. 2014 performances, show director Clarissa Schwab, said.

The audition process is simple, and everyone is invited to participate, Schwab said.

“All we look for in actors is open-mindedness,” she said. “If you are closed-minded at all especially with these kinds of stories, it’s just not going to work out. You have to be open-minded to accept their story, let that reflect, and let that simmer and marinate then present it for everyone to see.”

Show Some Skin, now in its third year, was founded in Spring 2012 by Edith Cho, JeeSeun Choi and Hien Luu to spark a conversation about race relations at Notre Dame, according to the show’s

website, ndshowssomeskin.com.

Schwab said this year’s show will be “the biggest yet.” In previous years, the performances were held in the Carey Auditorium, but this year the show will be held on the main stage of the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center, she said.

“The show started out pretty small, then it got a little bigger,” Schwab said. “Now we just want to really have a presence on this campus. To be on the main stage, it takes the show to a new level.”

While the show is still more than two months away, Schwab said the “Show Some Skin” team started gearing up for the show this summer.

“We have been working hard since the summer,” Schwab said. “We have all the stories we want to say. If there are no actors to say them, there is not going to be a show.”

Schwab said the 2014 show is subtitled “Be Bold,” and said the name derives from the 2013 performance.

“In last year’s show, there was a monologue presented by a girl who invited the audience to share their story and be bold,” Schwab

“SHOW SOME SKIN”
auditions

FRIDAY
DEC. 6
1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

SATURDAY
DEC. 7
1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

SUNDAY
DEC. 8
6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

in Carey Auditorium

EMILY HOFFMANN | The Observer

said. “She shared all these things about herself and said ‘Now it’s your turn, so you go ahead, you share what you want the world to know or what you’re afraid to say.’”

According to Schwab, the performance by actors is based on anonymous stories submitted by students, faculty and even South Bend residents.

“Although we want people

to be bold and stand up, a lot of times it’s hard for people to actually tell their story,” she said. “We didn’t want anyone to back out from having to tell the story just because they have to give a name.”

Schwab said what makes Show Some Skin exciting is the wide range of topics on which it sheds light.

“It’s a roller coaster. Everything

you can expect, it’s there,” she said. “‘Show Some Skin’ has it all.”

According to the Facebook page, the show’s acting auditions will be held on Friday and Saturday from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. and on Sunday from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. in Carey Auditorium in Hesburgh Library.

Contact Paul Kim at
pkim6@nd.edu

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Grant

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

and their mothers through six weekly home-based sessions. The sessions focus on enhancing mother-child communication

and emotional support, Valentino said. Valentino said she the pilot program work’s success lies in the simple skills taught to help improve the lives of the participating families, She said these skills include emphasizing a child’s

feelings and resolving negative emotions.

“We focus on three primary skills for mothers: asking more open ended questions, building on and being descriptive of what the child says and communicating about feelings,” Valentino said.

The program uses live video-taping and positive reinforcement to optimize parental motivation, Valentino said.

“Family coaches are trained to highlight and reinforce positive elements, and don’t give negative feedback,” she said. “These moms have a lot of people coming into their lives and telling them what they are doing wrong. You are better able to engage a parent by helping to reinforce what they are doing right, and building on that.”

Valentino said this grant provides financial support to extend this program more fully, and will allow her to see the long-term effects of the program.

“We are now able to extend this study longitudinally to 240 local families over the next five years,” Valentino said. “We are hoping to see these maltreated children develop to have a cognitive, social-emotional and physiological development that is not different from their peers. We also want to see an improvement in the moms, with decreased victimization.”

This research has the potential to advance scientific knowledge and help families outside of the local community, Valentino said.

“We have the potential to inform more effective clinical and social policy efforts designed to improve the welfare of maltreated children,” she said. “These programs can also be easily disseminated. It can be taught on a

wider scale and introduced into wider communities.”

Valentino said she is passionate about using science to improve the lives of maltreated children and their families.

“Child abuse and neglect receives little public attention even though it is a big problem in our nation,” Valentino said. “This research can contribute to more practical programs that can help the developmental trajectory of maltreated children.”

Valentino conducts her research at the University’s Center of Children and Families, and

“This research can contribute to more practical programs that can help the developmental trajectory of maltreated children.”

Kristin Valentino
psychology professor

she said Notre Dame’s mission as a university has supported her research.


“I really appreciate Notre Dame’s broader mission, and because my research fits with the mission of the University, I feel like my research is really supported at Notre Dame in a special way,” Valentino said.

“I have also received excellent mentoring from colleagues and my co-investigators, Professor Cummings, Professor Borkowski and Professor Maxwell.”

Contact Evelyn Huang at
ehuang1@nd.edu

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THEY DIDN’T START A BANK



IN ROOM 329

The beer was cool. The idea? It was just as cool.

The men sipping beer in that tavern on Notre Dame Avenue had no interest in making money. They simply wanted to save money. And, they wanted to help all of their friends on the staff and faculty at Notre Dame do the same.

In fact, professors Lou Buckley and John Sheehan had an idea so exciting that the President of the University gave them Room 329 in the Administration Building to get it going.


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Tourney raises money for Adopt-a-Family program

By **REBECCA O'NEIL**
News Writer

The Office for Social and Civic Engagement (OSCE) hosted a wiffle ball tournament that aimed to raise funds for Saint Mary's Adopt-a-Family program, through which members of the College's community donate Christmas gifts to Michiana families in need.

Donned in holiday apparel, Saint Mary's students gathered in Angela Athletic Center on Dec. 4 to donate to the program and play for the College's first annual Ugly Holiday Sweater Wiffle Ball Tournament.

Jessica Bulosan, assistant director of OSCE, said she hopes the Adopt-a-Family fundraiser will ease the financial pressure for lower-income families that may find the holiday season particularly challenging.

"Adopt-a-family is basically a way for the Saint Mary's community to give back to families in the Michiana community that might not have as much as we do," Bulosan said. "They might need a little extra help, especially

around Christmastime."

The program gives families an opportunity to enjoy the holidays without worrying about where money for gifts will come from, Bulosan said.

"There are a lot of families who work all year and they work really hard but Christmas comes around and kids want gifts and that little bit extra makes a difference," Bulosan said. "[The OSCE office] coordinates the event, we request families from area agencies such as the salvation army, Grandparents as Parents and area schools, and then we pass these families along to individuals, groups, team, and departments at Saint Mary's who want to give a little bit extra at Christmastime."

This year, these groups included the freshman and junior class boards, as well as members of the college's faculty and staff, Bulson said. Nicole O'Toole, junior class president, said her "adopted family" has a three-year-old girl, a two-year-old girl and a four-month-old boy.

"It's a lot of fun to help a family in need," O'Toole said. "Our class donated about



CAROLINE GENCO | The Observer

Marky Harrison, student director of OSCE, participates in Saint Mary's first annual Ugly Holiday Sweater Wiffle Ball Tournament. The tournament raised funds for the College's Adopt-a-Family program.

three or four outfits per child, one or two toys per child, a winter coat for both parents and a WalMart giftcard for the family to have a nice Christmas dinner, because we found that is a little more fun than just giving them non-perishable items."

Bulosan said funds from the tournament will allow OSCE to complement some of the donors' gifts for the families.

"All proceeds go towards purchasing gifts for

families that we have adopted," Bulosan said. "There's always a group every so often who kind of bit off more than they could chew. They need a little bit of extra help with their gifts so that's when we help supplementing an extra couple of gifts per child."

Erika Buhring, OSCE director, said the fundraiser was the newest addition to the list of altruistic events the office sponsors each year, which includes its annual Holy Cross Harvest and Pen Pal Program.

Marky Harrison, student director of OSCE, and Molly Levi, a student worker at the OSCE, originally came up with the tournament idea, Buhring said. Seven teams participated in the event with an average of six people on each team.

"I think everyone had a lot of fun," said Buhring. "It was a great study break for students and faculty."

Contact Rebecca O'Neil at roneil01@saintmarys.edu

Decorations

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

gorgeous," he said. "I can't tell you how many thousands of lights are on that tree. I know the tree at the Grotto that we decorate behind the crèche — that has close to 3,000 lights on it.

"We really like to pack lights on, really pack them on a tree, so they have a nice effect."

In recent years, McCauslin said Landscaping Services has adopted more environment-friendly Christmas decorations.

"Our focus now is going more with the sustainable LED lights," he said. "We're about 90 percent [LED] now with all the lighting we do."

For the buildings on campus, the Campus Work Control Center carpenter shop handles most of the decorations, Tanner Andrysiak, superintendent of the shop, said. The shop adorns the indoor Christmas trees and makes the wreaths and garlands, he said.

The group has received orders for decorations from 13 residence halls and is in charge of decorations in Bond Hall, Hagar Hall, O'Shaughnessy Hall, Jordan Hall of Science and the Stepan Chemistry Center.

"Normally if they're on a roof, the kids aren't allowed to [put decorations there], and I believe they're not allowed to use ladders anymore either," Andrysiak said. "... In

O'Shaughnessy, it was a 17 ft. tree, and we had to decorate from the top down to where they could reach from the ground. They weren't allowed to get on ladders to finish."

Andrysiak said two carpenters install all of these decorations, mostly during the first week of December, including the 10-ft tall O'Neill Hall "O" and the complicated Dillon Hall light show. The crew will also set up the nativity scene at the Grotto, he said.

"I think last year I had four carpenters on [the nativity scene]. It takes four guys about half a day to put it together, four to six hours," he said.

Andrysiak said the nativity scene is his favorite of the

campus decorations his crew installs, and that it take four members approximately five hours to assemble.

Andrysiak said the carpenter shop does most of the same decorations each year, and McCauslin said landscaping

services also carries out the same tasks from year to year.

"The folks that do it have been here for 20 plus years," he said.

Contact Tori Roeck at vroeck@nd.edu

Dinner

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

talented women has not only provided me a learning experience, but a fun and lighthearted one as well," freshman Sarah McKeivitt said.

Menk said participants began preparing for the concert

after fall break. Theatre students began decorating Regina Hall on Monday, and Menk said her favorite prop — a traditional boar's head — came in Wednesday.

The shows will be held in the North Lounge of Regina Hall tonight and tomorrow at 7 p.m. A matinee performance

will also be held on Sunday at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$42 for adults and \$17 for children. For more information on Madrigals and ticket purchases, call the box office at (574) 284-4626 or visit moreaucenter.com

Contact Kathryn Marshall at kmarsh02@saintmarys.edu

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Syria

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

conflict has taken away the dignity of many Syrians.

"You have half the population living like natural disaster victims," Rahmani said. "It's not just about a civil war, it's not just about a humanitarian crisis, it's about people who want to live in dignity."

Rahmani said this truth was driven home for him by his conversation with a woman while distributing food baskets in the liberated half of Aleppo. He said he and others distributed some 1,700 food baskets, but still had to turn people away.

Rahmani said the woman was begging for a food basket after the supply had run out when a jet dropped a barrel of Trinitrotoluene, an explosive chemical, nearby which killed 10 people. The woman said she wished the barrel had hit her so she could escape the humiliating life into which she and so many Syrians had been forced.

The crisis persists due to the international community not putting enough pressure on Syrian President Bashar al-Assad and allowing Iran, Russia and the Hezbollah to help Assad fight the rebels of the Free Syrian Army, Rahmani said.

"It isn't that the U.S. and U.N. aren't meddling enough, it's that Iran and Russia are meddling too much in favor of the Assad regime," he said.

An example of the difference in outside support for each side is the fact that, despite calls from Secretary of State John Kerry and others, the "starve until submission" campaign of the Syrian government has continued, Rahmani said.

"Everyone has been talking about this starvation until submission campaign, yet we aren't able to deliver aid to the besieged areas," he said.

Rahmani said he sees two possibilities for the end of the conflict and expects a diplomatic resolution.

"It can only end one of two ways," he said. "It can end in a brutal military victory for either side or it can end in a negotiated settlement, which is how many of these things end. I think it will end in a negotiated settlement, but I think we're two or three years away from that."

Despite the tragedy of the current situation, Rahmani said he remains optimistic about Syria's future. "We should all have hope that Syria will be a lot better than it was before this revolution," he said.

Groody, an associate professor of theology, participated in the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' delegation to Egypt, Lebanon, Jordan and Turkey to investigate the situation of Syrian refugees.

During his time working with refugees, Groody visited Mt. Nebo, the mountain from the biblical account



TORI ROECK | The Observer

Kenan Rahmani, a Syrian-American law student currently on a leave of absence, spoke on the importance of maintaining the dignity of Syrians affected by the conflict in their country.

in which Moses briefly sees the Promised Land, and reflected on how that vision is still important today as people in the region seek peace and prosperity. He said the mountain sits amidst a "land of refugees" now just as it did in biblical times.

Groody said once he began directly interacting with Syrian refugees, it became an emotional experience.

"I had no words for what they were going through, by the end I was weeping," Groody said. "You could see a deep human vulnerability. We can see the human face coming through in the

children, in the people fleeing to other countries."

Groody said he was moved by the generosity of Jordan and other countries neighboring Syria, but the refugees there continue to struggle and many still in Syria are internally displaced.

"[The refugees] say the hardest part is the search for a place to call home," Groody said.

The concerted efforts of non-governmental organizations (NGOs), various governments, churches, mosques and other groups are admirable, but "barely making a dent" in the needs of those suffering as a result of the crisis in Syria, Groody said.

Sophomore Kelly McGee, secretary of the Arabic Club, was one of the student organizers for the event. McGee said the goal of the event was to show the Notre Dame community the human side of the conflict from both a humanitarian and a theological perspective.

"We wanted to give a human face to the conflict," McGee said. "When you read the news stories you are inundated with atrocities and people can become numbers."

McGee said students worked for two months to organize the discussion and sophomore Claire Kouatli, a student ambassador with Catholic Relief Services brought in the two main speakers. McGee said she considered the panel a success for the group's solidarity efforts.

"The turnout was great,"

McGee said. "The message we wanted to convey came out in both speakers' remarks. I would definitely consider it a success."

The group plans to continue their efforts in the spring with a poster campaign, a model refugee camp event and writing letters to high school and college age Syrians among other initiatives, McGee said.

The event was sponsored by the Center for Civil & Human

"I had no words for what they were going through, by the end I was weeping. ... You could see a deep human vulnerability. We can see the human face coming through in the children, in the people fleeing to other countries."

Fr. Dan Groody
theology professor

Rights, the Center for Social Concerns, Arabic Club, Red Cross ND, Peace Fellowship ND, Student Government and Human Rights ND.

McGee said anyone interested in helping the student Syrian solidarity coalition can join them on Facebook to learn more at www.facebook.com/groups/489258737855621/.

Contact Christian Myers at cmyers8@nd.edu

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INSIDE COLUMN

Turning eighty

Maria Massa
Graphics

I've never celebrated my 80th birthday, so I can't be sure how it would feel to have a close group of friends and family around me, celebrating the fact that I managed to dodge enough bullets to make it through 80 years on this planet, though I can imagine it would be pretty amazing.

Over Thanksgiving break, my grandpa turned 80, and his six kids (my dad included) threw him a surprise birthday party. He and his sweetheart, my grandma, drove from St. Louis to Nashville to celebrate the holiday at our house a few days prior, not knowing that Saturday, after we said our goodbyes, we would pack up and follow them back to St. Louis for the celebration.

While they were still at our house, my younger brother and I made it our mission to see how many stories we could get my grandpa to tell. Eighty years and six wild kids mean that the man has a story for everything — I swear I've never heard the same one twice. The highlight was hearing about the time he caught my troublemaker uncle shooting a pellet gun at old ladies from a tree in the Shop-n-Save parking lot. Or maybe it was the time he and my grandma got a half-hour down the road on the way back from a family vacation and realized they were missing a kid and none of the others bothered to tell them.

Hearing all these stories and knowing that we were about to celebrate this man's birthday whose cake, properly lit, would probably burn my aunt's house down, made us all talk about how crazy it will be to turn 80, if we're lucky enough to make it that far. We talked about the number of people we'll know and crazy stories we'll have, the number of adventures we'll go on and holidays we'll celebrate, the number of times we will have said "feels like just yesterday ..." and muse over how quickly time flies by.

I've always feared getting older and how fast the "best days of my life" are passing me by, but this weekend skewed my perspective just a bit. I'm not promising I won't still cry at all the "lasts" that will happen this year as a senior, like I did standing in the student section at the end of the BYU game last weekend, because I will. But when I'm done crying, I'll think about how all these experiences are now a part of me, and are part of the arsenal of stories I can tell at my 80th birthday party, like my grandpa did this Saturday. And that'll be pretty cool.

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

My apology for sports

Robert Alvarez
Man on a Nag

This past Saturday I was driving back from my aunt and uncle's house in Columbus, Ohio, with my backpack in the backseat with me, with the intention of doing "work." This is crunch time for me. I had to read a couple hundred pages in one book, write a 10-page essay for another, plan another 10-page essay for a different class and, of course, make some kind of progress on my senior thesis that I had been systematically avoiding. I have been gifted by God with the ability to read in the car without nausea — something that unfortunately plagues my family — so I figured that the five-hour car ride from Columbus to South Bend would give me a good opportunity to get some work done.

Wrong. It was a Saturday in the fall. There was football. Nevermind that there wasn't a TV with which to actually watch the game: We had a radio. We were going to listen to these games — more than listen though. We arranged a pit stop at a friend's house in Toledo to watch the Notre Dame game. Stepping into my friend's living room, I witnessed a beautiful harmony between technology and the human desire to watch sports: He had three active screens. Three. One was the big TV with the ND-Stanford game, the other was a projector with the Alabam-Auburn game (how 'bout that ending, huh?) and the other was a 13-inch laptop screen with Baylor-TCU. Needless to say, I didn't get any work done.

The word "apology" used in the title of this article is not an apology in the modern sense, where someone did something wrong and they're asking for forgiveness. Rather, it is being used in the classical sense, as an apologia, a justification of

something.

Essentially, I'm trying to rationalize my excessive consumption of sports. Usually, a spectacle like the one I witnessed in my friend's living room would give me pause, setting off my dislike for modern consumer culture and my wariness of the role technology plays in our lives — but it doesn't. Sports, for me, are special.

Football, believe it or not, is not even my favorite sport. Being from Los Angeles, I grew up with the lore of Laker basketball and Dodger baseball. My favorite moments are Kirk Gibson's home run in Game 1 of the 1988 World Series and Derek Fisher's 0.4 second game-winning shot against the Spurs in the 2004 Western Conference Finals.

These moments are not only revered by me, a fan of the two teams, but universally re-watched and re-watched by fans of all teams, including the teams who lost. That is why I took time out while I was abroad in Santiago last Spring to watch the Heat-Pacers and Heat-Spurs NBA playoff series. These games were stunning examples of human excellence drawn out in a competition. I recall one play series in the Pacers-Heat games where Paul George and LeBron James went back and forth with a big dunk and a deep three-ball, only to high-five each other afterwards, as if to say, "Keep playing well, this is good." For those of you who don't know, George and James were on opposite teams.

I guess what I'm trying to say is that sports, for me, is an art form. In the theory of multiple intelligences, one of the intelligences is called "kinesthetic intelligence," which is fancy talk for saying that someone is athletic. There are athletic geniuses in the world, much in the same way there are musical geniuses, mathematical geniuses and literary geniuses. When we see a master

athlete perform his sport, it is akin to seeing a master composer lead a symphony.

Sports also have an intense pedagogy. Albert Camus, a great French-Algerian philosopher of the 20th century was also a great soccer player. He played goalkeeper for a semi-pro team in Algeria before tuberculosis inhibited him from playing further. When asked later about his experience playing soccer, he replied, "After many years during which I saw many things, what I know most surely about morality and the duty of man I owe to sport and learned it in the [Racing Universitaire d'Alger, the team Camus played for]." The discipline, the drive and the fraternity of sports serve as life lessons for those who play them right. I could tell you that from CYO basketball [Catholic Youth Organization, a group that organizes activities for young Catholics in the United States and the Phillipines].

I'm not denying that there is no dark side to sports. Much in the same way the music industry can pervert an art form and bend it to different ends, the sports industry can do the same. I don't like how much our governments subsidize sports while neglecting other arts. I don't like how the current sports structure in much of the world preys upon people in poverty, often times in a racially charged way. I don't like the obscene amounts of money involved in sports. Still, when I have a chance to see a master at their craft, I feel compelled to stop, watch and wonder.

Robert Alvarez is a senior political science major living in Zahm House. He welcomes all dialogue on the viewpoints he expresses. He can be reached at ralvare4@nd.edu

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

EDITORIAL CARTOON



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Remembering Alan Sondej (part 2)

Terrence Rogers

Guest Columnist

Editor's note: This article appeared originally on the website of Notre Dame Magazine on March 18. The Observer is running this piece in a two part series, the first of which ran yesterday, Thursday, Dec. 5.

The author of this piece will give a presentation titled "Poverty, Hunger and the Legacy of Alan Sondej," sponsored by the Center for Social Concerns, on Sunday, Dec. 8, from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. in the Andrews Auditorium in the Geddes Hall basement.

The next time I saw him was in late March. He was walking in the snow on Eddy Street. I stopped my car and offered him a ride. He had a duffel bag slung over his substantial shoulders and he said he was going to the train station, and he waited for me to say I could take him that far, which I did.

As we drove through town in my brand-new Corvette, a perk from my days at West Point where cadets were paid a salary as members of the United States Army, I found myself wondering what he was thinking. Perhaps he was bewildered at the extravagance, or was thinking of the mouths he could feed with the money it took to buy that car. I know I was thinking of those things, and feeling somewhat embarrassed, though the thought of doing anything about it was fleeting. I wanted it to go away.

Most likely, though, Alan was

passing no judgment at all. He said he was headed back overseas. His work at Notre Dame was over for now. He thanked me for the ride and I wished him good luck, and that was the last time I saw Alan Sondej. Afterwards I thought he probably had been looking forward to the walk. He'd probably wanted some exercise, and yet he was too polite to turn down my offer lest he hurt my feelings.

Casey and Alan fell out of touch sometime in the 80s. And Alan couldn't have attended their 20th high school reunion in 1969 because he had already died, in March 1988. My reaction when James told me the news got me thinking about death, because I needed an explanation for the incredible sadness — a feeling almost like horror — that I felt that night on the phone. It was not only the fact that he'd died, but the way he had died, that affected me.

We don't generally dwell on death, but when it hits home, the finality of it can certainly affect a person's perspective. We get notice of that finality at funerals — that someday we, too, will be there. We cry for ourselves, our collective selves, really. Indeed, at Alan Sondej's funeral, as we later learned, his visibly shaken sister had spoken of her brother and said, "We cry today as a family, but they are tears of joy, not of pain, for being blessed with someone as special as Al." That's a beautiful sentiment, but it's a hard one to attain, especially in the face of such grief.

Alan's death was not something I

wanted to believe right away. I wondered: Had he been married? Had he found a woman of a mind like his own? Had he started a family? Had he been happy? What had his life meant in the end?

Then James told me the rest: that Alan had died as a volunteer fireman, from complications from burns he'd suffered while trying to save a life in a fire. It all seemed so sadly consistent. There he was again, out helping others, not being paid to do it but volunteering, now risking his life. Once back in the developed world, where the size of one's bank account is the most prominent statement of success or failure, Alan Sondej had quietly gone about the business of helping others, and he had found anonymity — and his demise. The man who had risked his life for another had paid the ultimate price, and in a horrible way in which he likely had suffered greatly.

Casey contacted Alan's father, and more of the details came out. Alan had been taking graduate courses at the University of Maryland and had been working for the Hyattsville Volunteer Fire Department for the past 11 years. He was planning to go back overseas to teach sustainable agriculture techniques in Third World Villages. On Jan. 27, 1988, on what was scheduled to be his last night with the department, his unit was called to a house fire. Hearing that a woman was trapped inside the house, he and other firefighters went back inside to find her. A flash-over caused the room Alan was searching to become totally engulfed in flames.

It turned out the woman had escaped to a neighbor's house just before the firefighters had arrived. Alan was badly burned in the process, and although in the ensuing weeks he appeared to be recovering, his burns had been putting a massive strain on his heart and other organs. Nearly two months later, on March 16, he died.

I'm still going about my business these days, trying to hold my own in the context of western success, now being responsible for providing for a two-year-old son, and still searching for answers. We publicize heroes and anti-heroes so well in our society that we seem to enjoy making people famous and infamous. We put actors, athletes and murderers all on the covers of all the same magazines. We reward people we admire for leading large corporations and winning elections or national championships and rarely question our values in any real depth.

Wasn't it typical that Alan Sondej died in obscurity, that even at his high school reunion, over a year after his death, no one knew what had happened to him? It was his kind of living that could teach us something. Maybe by taking the time to remember him, we might yet learn something from his death.

Terrence Rogers is a member of the Class of 1979 B.A., 1979 B.S. and 2011 LL.M. He can be reached at tscrogers@aol.com

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

Hard mode

Mia Lillis

We are ND

When I first stepped foot on this campus three and a half years ago, I had every intention to transfer out within the year. In my head, I had a clear vision of what I wanted out of my college experience: lots of partying, resources facilitating an exploration of religious and/or spiritual beliefs and a campus in which I could wear whatever I want without receiving double takes (among other things).

Notre Dame was not at all the campus that would offer any of these things, and this was extremely clear within my first 24 hours here. Notre Dame's du Lac set up strict standards of behavioral expectations on campus, which seemed to leave no room for the wild ragers I had pictured myself attending for four years. The Catholic identity of Notre Dame was pervasive throughout the campus, and any sign of a non-Catholic community was completely invisible at that point. And of course, in Freshman Orientation, we had a strict, uniform display of compulsive dorm pride. The Frosh-O t-shirts disappeared after a few days, but the uniform of campus did not.

Perhaps it was the homogeneity in

background of Notre Dame students, but I found that the 4,000 men and 4,000 women of this campus ubiquitously possessed an eerily similar sense of fashion, and anyone who deviated from this norm was immediately noticeable, such as the "girl with blue hair" or the "guy with dreadlocks."

In short, Notre Dame was not what I pictured my college years looking like. The adjustment from my expectations to reality was a difficult one, exacerbated by the shell-shock of being displaced from an extremely progressive city to an arguably conservative bubble campus. And yet, not everything about Notre Dame was terrible. I was fortunate to have been randomly placed with freshman roommates who shared comparable disillusionment with Notre Dame. My resident assistant during my freshman year was incredibly supportive of all her freshman, from the most "Domed-out" to the most willing to transfer tomorrow.

These first relationships on this campus were pivotal for me, and gradually I realized that while perhaps I shared little in common with the majority of campus, such differences did not preclude the ability to form deep, long-lasting relationships with the students here. By the time my freshman year spring break came around, I

found myself excited to return to campus — to my clubs, to my friends and to Cavanaugh.

As a senior, I have been asked multiple times what I would do if I could rewind time. If I could go back and do it again, would I still have attended Notre Dame, would I still have stayed here instead of transferring? It is certainly a difficult question to answer, especially when I hear about the experiences my friends have on other campuses — their schedules consisting of a class exploring the history of socialism in the world of science, followed by a quick bout of surfing, followed by a wine and cheese discussion of the Upanishads. When faced with stories of what I perceived to be my college dream, it is easier to lean towards a "no."

But the truth is, Notre Dame affected me in a way that I believe no other campus could have. A good friend who is an avid video gamer liked to compare attending to Notre Dame to playing a video game on "hard mode," and it is precisely that for many people in many ways. However, playing anything on easy mode does nothing in terms of character development, in terms of finding a sense of self, in terms of building strength and fortitude. The Lord calls us to take up the cross that he has given us, not

because it is easy, but because it is worth it. Notre Dame has been worth it for me. Notre Dame has given me the ability to communicate, relate to and love individuals whose beliefs differ starkly from my own. Notre Dame has challenged me to go the extra mile, to work to find the social opportunities I wished to experience, and if they did not already exist, to create them. Above all, Notre Dame has filled me with a deep commitment to social justice, to fighting the "good fight," to actively working to eradicate injustice within our society to the best of my ability.

I know that this story is not particularly unique. I know that a great deal of students have experienced this complicated relationship with our campus. It is okay to dislike Notre Dame. It is okay to feel like you don't belong here. It is okay to have a college dream that differs from this reality. But sometimes, life has a way of providing you not at all what you want, but exactly what you need.

Mia Lillis is a senior living in Cavanaugh Hall. She can be reached at mllillis@nd.edu

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

TOP 20 ALBUMS OF 2013

Like I pointed out in the previous installment of the Top 20 albums of 2013 countdown, there are bound to be disagreements when putting together a ranked list of this nature. This time through, John Darr definitely thought less of Arcade Fire's "Reflektor" than I did. Earlier this month he wrote about the most overrated albums of the year, and featured the record in that article.

In fact, not only did I anticipate rifts in the making of the list, but also in its reception. I encourage debate on everything from where albums are ranked, inclusions and exclusions and even which tracks we chose to represent the albums. The year-end countdown helps create a healthy dialog regarding art. It also provides a platform to connect with others and maybe have conversations you might not normally have with other people you might not regularly have conversations with. This is one of the reasons I got excited to help undertake this project. Now, on to the music.

10. "Loud City Song" — Julia Holter

By JOHN DARR

If you've had the opportunity to walk through a grand city at night, you might have noticed that different blocks move in different ways. One street might be full of rushing cars and groups of laughing friends stepping quickly down the sidewalk. A block over, each sentence from a couple at a nearby café slips into the air and hovers amidst silence. The park hosts whispered secrets and the quiet steps of unseen creatures. The rhythm of the night is constantly changing to the walker and completely immersive to one who stands still.

This is the nature of Holter's modern masterpiece "Loud City Song," an album that twists and turns down roads that are alternately loud and soft, wondrous and contained, dark and light. Holter's unique blend of acoustic and electronic elements in a spacious, often minimalist atmosphere creates a sound unlike any of her songwriter contemporaries. "Loud City

Song" is a collection of pieces that often defy choruses and verses, ideas that transcend song structure and become something more purely musical. It's truly an experimental work, and yet its warm sound makes it an incredibly inviting accessible listen. If you find yourself longing for some new roads or adventurous alleys one night, just close your eyes, open your imagination and let Holter sing you into her world.

Choice Cuts: The entire album. Honestly.

9. "Reflektor" — Arcade Fire

By MATT McMAHON

Frontman Win Butler and the rest of indie rock juggernaut collective Arcade Fire simply know how to put together an album. Actually, when they release music, it becomes an event — highly anticipated and speculated — not just an album. So with the release of "Reflektor," which was probably their most talked about release as a result of the band's growing popularity in the mainstream and the amount of news surrounding the album, there were bound to be a lot of expectations.

With the sheer grandeur of the album, Arcade Fire meets these expectations and succeeds. Produced by electronic dance guru James Murphy, of LCD Soundsystem, every track on "Reflektor" finds an undeniable groove and rolls with it. Hook heavy, the songs exhibit world music influence and flutter between a myriad of genre styles. The two-sided album clocks in at 75 minutes, but it's the fastest, most engaging 75 minutes a double album can be. And when the focus turns to the lyrical content, the best moments makes the listener — what else besides — reflect.

Choice Cuts: "Reflektor," "Here Comes the Night Time," "Afterlife"

8. "Run the Jewels" — Run the Jewels

By MATT McMAHON

If Jay-Z and Kanye West had more of a purpose on "Watch the Throne" and were pissed

they weren't as famous as they are, the collaboration would be called Run The Jewels. Two of 2012's finest rappers, Killer Mike and El-P, who both put out excellent albums last year featuring each other's work, rap from the streets instead of a Benz. One hard-hitting song after the other, "Run The Jewels" never relents through it's blistering, high-paced 33 minutes.

The origins of the album came from the duo wanting to have songs to perform together on their shared tour. Yet, the results are nothing quickly put together. Featuring dizzying levels of interior and exterior rhyme schemes, the two write and rap trading blows while interweaving verses, challenging each other with furious flows and mostly friendly one-upmanship. From the outside, if either one calls you out its terrifying, but listening as a bystander you have almost as much fun as you can tell the two had creating the album.

Choice Cuts: "Get It," "DDFH," "Sea Legs"

7. "Immunity" — Jon Hopkins

By JOHN DARR

The past couple years has seen a near-meteoric rise in groove-driven electronic music. Burial, Tycho, John Talabot, xyyxx, Flume, Bonobo and more have melded dance beats with genres like ambient, chillwave and instrumental hip-hop to achieve new and exciting sounds that have garnered critical respect and in some cases commercial attention. However, many such efforts are inconsistent, boasting as many failed experiments as successes.

"Immunity" is a welcome exception. A beast of a record, Jon Hopkins' latest album is an incredibly ambitious work that marries earthy samples of ambient noise and clatter to gorgeous musical tapestries. The songs are incredibly patient, allowing each melody and drumbeat space to breathe and evolve before joining with additional sonic elements. And while many "patient," slow-moving records fail to hold listeners' attention, the sheer beauty of Hopkins' arrangements and the incredible

textures of his samples allow him to stretch songs far beyond many of his contemporaries. It's a soundtrack so deep and colorful that it needs no visual accompaniment.

Choice Cuts: "Collider," "Immunity," "Breathe This Air"

6. "Random Access Memories" — Daft Punk

By JOHN DARR

Random Access Memories was the album that shouldn't have worked. Before R.A.M., Daft Punk hadn't released a studio album in eight years. Both their last studio album and the one musical project during that eight-year period (the soundtrack for Disney's "Tron: Legacy") were critical failures. Since Daft Punk's prime, the electronic music scene has made huge leaps forward. Much of the most experimental and forward-thinking music falling under the electronic label. The world had every reason to expect R.A.M. to be dated, irrelevant and mediocre.

And then came lead single "Get Lucky" with ridiculously groovy guitar riffs, insanely catchy chorus and unforgettable party-ready lyrics. Get Lucky seamlessly combined Daft Punk's penchant for repetitive catchiness and clean-cut production with real instruments and guitar legend Nile Rogers to achieve something rarely seen in the pop music scene — a restrained dance anthem.

The rest of the album followed in the success of its lead single. R.A.M. is an artistic vision crafted out of perfect pop songs ("Instant Crush," "Lose Yourself to Dance"), sprawling musical journeys ("Giorgio by Moroder," "Touch") and transitional tracks and experiments that add cohesion and variety. It's an amazing crossover record from an already-prominent group. Random Access Memory is a miracle of an album. Don't deny yourself the magic.

Choice Cuts: "Touch," "Get Lucky," "Doin' It Right"

DANCING TO THEIR OWN BEAT

By MADDIE DALY

Scene Writer

If you've ever been to a dance recital or a ballet performance, you are probably used to sitting in a crowded, dark theater, craning your neck to catch a glimpse of the graceful, costumed dancers on a lit-up stage. Although this can be a fun and exciting experience, it is also full of distractions that take away from the purpose of the show: to convey a story through movement. On Saturday, Notre Dame's own TransPose [dance collective] will be performing their Winter Showcase which demonstrates pure, raw talent without all the superfluous accessories.

Completely student-run, TransPose is a modern dance group that prides itself on nontraditional performances that are completely free of charge. According to TransPose president Lexie Below, "the company is composed of members with a wide range of dance experience — from

EMILY HOFFMAN | The Observer

those who have been dancing since they were in diapers to those who have just recently discovered an interest in dance."

The group strives for equality and allows for members ranging from freshmen to seniors to choreograph instead of having a completely upperclassmen-run leading force, making for a friendly atmosphere and a great learning experience for all involved.

Every semester, TransPose puts on a show, performing choreography they have been inventing and learning for roughly three months. The majority of the show is modern or contemporary dance, but due to the diversity of the members' dance background, aspects of ballet, jazz and hip-hop are usually incorporated. Each show also has a theme, ranging in the past from technology to color to nature. Since there are multiple choreographers, having a theme helps them keep the show coherent and uniform. This year's theme is "CityBeat" and will be performed in the Oak Room of South Dining

Hall. TransPose member Katie Fusco described what the audience can expect with the group's unique performance location.

"In the Oak Room, we partitioned off the size of the stage essentially, so people can sit and stand around. We used to use an entire space, for example when we performed in Stinson-Remick, we were moving around the entire building. We even put some people on the elevators to dance, but we've found it's nice to stay in one place," Fusco said. "It's cool to have a different backdrop for dance. It's a very intimate performance. You don't have those bright lights or the darkness. It's just you and the audience. It's kind of scary, but it's fun. It's just a different perspective of dance."

One of Fusco's favorite parts about being involved in the performing arts at Notre Dame is how interactive all the groups are. She said that this show will feature Project Fresh, or Pfresh, an upbeat hip-hop dance group, who happened to feature TransPose

in their spring show last semester.

"Last spring Pfresh's April show was a competition, and our piece, choreographed by Julia Hart to 'Red Hands' by Walk off the Earth, won judge's choice, so we're kind of riding off that high now," Fusco said.

This year's show is Saturday at 2 p.m. in the Oak Room of South Dining Hall. The audience can expect an hour-long story told through narration and dance and an up-front look at the raw emotion of modern dance.

Anyone interested in joining TransPose [dance collective] should email pose@nd.edu for more information, and auditions for the spring show will be held in January. However, the best way to get a feel for the group would be to go to their free show tomorrow afternoon to experience dance like you never have before.

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ONE DIRECTION: TO THE TOP

By CAELIN MILTKO
Scene Writer

With the release of “Best Song Ever” in July, I couldn’t say that I predicted any change in what I perceived as One Direction’s signature very boy band, very pop sound. While I guessed the part of me that loves the Backstreet Boys would enjoy “Midnight Memories” intensely, I didn’t expect anything different from their previous two albums.

The new album is much more guitar-based than either “Take Me Home” or “Up All Night” with the added bonus that the boys themselves actually wrote the songs (a skill I’ve always admired). That being said, the album does not represent a significant shift in what has made the band so popular — the songs are still odes to young love meant to make teenage girls swoon with tenaciously catchy lyrics that stay in your head for days.

One Direction’s new album comes right off the heels of their “Take Me Home” tour.

It is the group’s third album since their debut as a group on Britain’s “The X-Factor” and their subsequent signing with Simon Cowell’s Syco Records. Almost two weeks after its official release date, “Midnight Memories” has topped the U.S. charts, becoming the first group to reach No. 1 with three consecutive albums since The Monkees in 1967.

The second single off the album, “Story of My Life” is the only one written by all five members of the band. As an introduction to the album, it definitely represented the shift One Direction tries to make in “Midnight Memories” better than “Best Song Ever.”

The sixth track on the album, “Don’t Forget Where You Belong,” was written by band member Niall Horan and Tom Fletcher, Danny Jones and Dougie Poynter of McFly. The song focuses on harmonies between the five boys of One Direction as they give homage to the changes in their lives while expressing their love for home.

The album also allowed some of the boys

to show off their range as the lead vocals where in previous albums Harry Styles had dominated the vocals. Specifically standing out here are the songs “Strong” and “Right Now.”

“Strong” was co-written by band members Liam Payne and Louis Tomlinson and features Zayn Malik. Malik has the opportunity to show off his vocal range, opening up the ballad with a deep sound that fans didn’t necessarily expect from the boy typically relied upon to reach the high notes.

Payne, Styles and Tomlinson with Ryan Tedder of OneRepublic wrote “Right Now.” It features Tomlinson on lead vocals, providing further variety for a band that had typically relied on Styles’ voice for songs like this.

For those into something with a little more rock style, “Little Black Dress” will suit them perfectly. The 10th track on the album picks up the pace on the album and offers a different type of dance tune than typically offered by the band.

Guitar-based, the song has been heralded as a throwback to the rock bands of the 70s and 80s.

“Through the Dark” is a love ballad that will pull at any girl’s heartstrings. It’s one of the songs that reminds many girls why they are just a little bit in love with the boy band, as they promise “to carry you over fire and water for your love.”

As a dancing tune, “Does He Know?” takes the album. It’s the type of song that induces foot tapping and wilr dancing and lip-synching when the roommate’s gone.

Overall, “Midnight Memories” offers minor shifts in One Direction’s sound making them more appealing as a boy band even if they never quite find a theme outside of young love and heartbreak. For fans, the new album offers a slightly edgier set on their old themes and for others, “Midnight Memories” offers something good as well.

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JERSEY BOYS (and girls) IN TOWN

By ELAINE YU
Scene Writer

Excitement is brewing in downtown South Bend and it’s coming from the Morris Performing Arts Center. Jersey Boys has stepped out from its Broadway home into South Bend and they are bringing their A-game. The charming, laugh-out-loud performance will surely make you want to bust out in song and dance the whole night through.

Jersey Boys is the story of Frankie Valli and his group, the Four Seasons: Frankie Valli (Nick Cosgrove), Bob Gaudio (Jason Kappus), Tommy DeVito (Nicholas Dromard) and Nick Massi (Brandon Andrus). This musical shows how a group of blue-collar boys from New Jersey transforms into rock and roll Hall of Famers.

While The Four Seasons got their start in the 1960’s, the music is by no means outdated. Who can forget hits like “Can’t Take My Eyes Off Of You,” in “10 Things I Hate About You” and “Big Girl Don’t Cry” in “Dirty Dancing”?

The entire performance, especially the sways and falsetto, were memorable. But there was one thing that made me literally close my eysy. Periodically throughout the show, comic-book style artwork would pop up on a screen at the rear of the stage and it would semi-blind the audiencd. In addition to being incredibly bright, I was slightly confused as to the value the artwork added.

But all in all, the singing, the costumes,

the dancing and the props were everything you would expect from a Tony, Grammy and Laurence Olivier Award-winning musical. Just a hint, be prepared to have these songs stuck in your head for a good while.

I got the chance to go backstage and meet with two of the show’s stars, Marlana Dunn and Thomas Fiscella. Dunn plays Mary Delgado and 12 other parts, and Fiscella plays Gyp DiCarlo and three other parts.

The Observer: How do you guys feel to be a part of Jersey Boys?

Dunn: It’s awesome. This is a show that everyone can relate to. The music is very relatable and the story is very relatable especially to those of us in the entertainment industry. By the end of the show, everyone is up on their feet and dancing. So it doesn’t matter what kind of day any of us have had, any of the audience have had: We are all smiling, laughing and crying by the end. It’s really awesome to be a part of something like this.

Fiscella: When people come to see the show, their energy is so high because the expectation is there. They’ve heard about it from their friends or they’ve seen it themselves or they were listening to the soundtrack online. That level of excitement and anticipation is great for a performer so it’s a real thrill when we show up in a town like South Bend and we know the anticipation level is high. It’s great for us because we love the story that we tell and we love sharing it with people. Before I was a performer in the show, I saw it as an audience member

so I felt that same level of excitement. Now I feel like I get to have that repeat experience every night.

O: Now that you are on the other side of it playing multiple roles, how do you switch between characters? Is there one you like playing the best?

D: I play Mary, Frankie’s wife, and Tom plays Gyp. I have 12 other characters that I have to play. Collectively there are only three girls in the show and we play over 50 characters so it’s a little crazy. But the costumes and the wigs and everything, it all helps you to transform. Some of the changes happen very quickly. I have the quickest change in the show and it is eight seconds so shifting from one person to the other, you kind of have to play on your schizophrenia.

F: I love playing the mob guy, [Gyp DiCarlo], and he’s certainly a favorite because of who he is and how he influences the story. But I also love the smaller characters that I play. I play this bowling alley owner who just takes one look at these guys and basically says, “No, you’re not going to play in my bowling alley and I don’t want your kind here.” I love who this guy is because he is a real character — he is a really strong character and he just shows up, says what he says and leaves. To me, it’s about being a part of the fabric, being one thread in the fabric of this whole tapestry of the story.

D: Yes and all these characters are 100 percent real people.

F: There is a police officer that is seen in the show and he didn’t have a name at first.

A guy showed up, sees the show and says, “Hey, I was that police officer.” So they verified that through the real Frankie and the real Bob and sure enough, now we have to say this is Officer Petrillo because that is the real guy.

O: What is your favorite part of the show?

D: The show is about Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons so the women in the show are slightly less prominent. But of course we serve a purpose in telling the story. So something about my character is that she is a really nice arch. The love between her and Frankie, the not-so-great times and the really bad times — you see it all. So it’s fun to be able to a play such a strong, funny, foxy woman. But my favorite song is “Who Loves You.” I love that, every single night!

F: “Who Loves You” is way up there and it really is a culmination of the show where so many of the elements come together in that moment and you can’t help but get excited about it. But I also like even very small, non-big-spectacle moments in the show. There is some very honest work that happens that you wouldn’t necessarily see in a huge spectacle type of show. There are some really small moments, just little exchanges and moments from the heart. Those to me are as thrilling as the big spectacle moments.

Jersey Boys runs for approximately two-and-a-half hours, including and 15-minute intermission through Dec. 8 in the Morris Performing Arts Center. Tickets start at \$28.

Contact Elaine Yu at iyu@nd.edu

SPORTS AUTHORITY

King of the court ... and movies?



Isaac Lorton
Sports Writer

What is an NBA star supposed to do when he becomes too big for the game that made him famous?

Show business, obviously.

Once a player has transcended the realm of the average player, basketball becomes boring for him. Posterizing dunks are mundane. Behind-the-back passes are just blah. Stepping onto the court no longer holds the same thrill and excitement that it did when he was a younger. Thus, rather than step on the court, the player steps onto the stage. The best example of this is Michael Jordan.

Remember when Michael Jordan defeated a group of power-hungry aliens alongside Bill Murray and Newman in order to save the Looney Tune characters from being kidnapped and objected to a lifetime of forced servitude?

I do, and it was awesome.

No longer could mere mortal human beings beat Michael Jordan in basketball — they all tried and failed. The game had become too simple for him. So Jordan had to take down a horde of extraterrestrials in order to show the universe that he was the best basketball player to ever step or leap onto a court.

Sadly, this never happened in real life, but it goes to show Michael Jordan had become so good the only things that could come close to beating him were made-up characters in a movie. In order to play out this imagined scenario, Jordan had to become an actor.

Since the early 1990s, it seems to be the ultimate goal of an NBA player to become a movie star, television series regular, director/producer or even a rapper — anything more than just an NBA player.

Shaquille O'Neal tried to be both a movie star and rapper. He starred in the movie Kazaam and Steel in 1996 and 1997, respectively. Both movies were terrifically bad. Shaq also rapped. He produced four albums (Shaq Diesel, Shaq Fu: Da Return, You Can't Stop the Reign and Respect) by 1996. What happened to the fifth album, Shaq Attack is Back?

Early in his career, Kobe Bryant also dabbled in the hip-hop game. He rapped with a group called CHEIZAW. He was signed to Sony Records in 1998 and had a song with Tyra Banks entitled "K.O.B.E.," but

was dropped from the label by 2000. He should have rapped about Shaq.

Kevin Durant recently starred in a movie called Thunderstruck, where he switched talents with a clumsy teenager. Clever.

Dwyane Wade is currently working on a sitcom called "Three the Hard Way" for FOX. The sitcom will be about an NBA player who is also a single father. Clever.

But what about Wade's teammate, "The King?" With all of the other NBA stars looking for fame beyond the NBA, it was only a matter of time before the drama-loving diva, LeBron James, actualized his dream to be in a Hollywood movie. Unfortunately, the film is not an in-depth tear-jerker about the confused misunderstood superstar entitled Indecision. James will work alongside comedian Kevin Hart in a movie called Ballers, which centers around the younger brother of an NBA star attending a fantasy basketball camp. Obviously, Hart will play the NBA star, and James will play the unknown brother. Filming is supposed to begin in Miami next summer. Can't wait.

Once again, James has missed a huge opportunity to do something momentous in his career.

He should have done a sequel to Space Jam — Space Jam-Packed.

Thufferin Thuccotash. Who wouldn't want to see that?

Lebron James, Bugs Bunny, Lola Bunny, Daffy Duck, Sylvester the Cat, Tweety, Yosemite Sam, Elmer Fudd. All make a triumphant return to inter-stellar basketball to overcome another invasion of hapless aliens who gain super skills.

Hart, like Bill Murray, could have been the cool comedian friend, who, at 5-foot-3, is ill equipped to play basketball but has a lot of heart. Jonah Hill could easily step into the bumbling roll of Wayne Knight and play Stan, the over-eager LeBron James pleaser. Think about it. This movie would be so bad — like every other NBA player's attempt at fame outside the league — but it would be oh so good.

And then the conversation could commence about whether Jordan or James is the best ever Looney Tunes savior.

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

NCAA FOOTBALL

Winston will not face sexual assault charges

Associated Press

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — Florida State quarterback and Heisman hopeful Jameis Winston will not face any charges in a sexual assault case, mostly because there were too many gaps in his accuser's story, a prosecutor said Thursday.

State Attorney Willie Meggs said the woman's memory lapses about the events last December were problematic and there was not enough evidence to win a conviction.

"It's not inconsistencies, it's lack of memory most of the time," Meggs said.

The woman told police she had been drinking at a bar with friends and went home with a man she didn't know. She said she the alleged assault took place at an off-campus apartment, but she couldn't remember where it was.

A month later, she identified her alleged attacker as the quarterback. Winston's attorney said the sex was consensual.

The quarterback said in a statement he was relieved.

"It's been difficult to stay silent through this process, but I never lost faith in the truth and in who I am," Winston said.

The alleged assault happened long before Winston became a star on the national

stage. Reports about an investigation didn't surface in the public until last month, as the redshirt freshman was well into a remarkable season with Florida State.

Winston, 19, has led the Seminoles to a No. 1 ranking and a shot at a national championship if they defeat Duke on Saturday in the ACC title game. As for the Heisman, many voters were waiting to see whether he would be charged before casting their ballot. The deadline is Monday and Winston is considered a leading contender for the trophy for the nation's top player. It will be awarded Dec. 14.

The accuser's family has been sharply critical of the Tallahassee Police Department, accusing the agency of delaying the investigation and discouraging her from going forward with the case because of the public attention it would receive.

"The victim has grave concerns that her experience, as it unfolded in the public eye and through social media, will discourage other victims of rape from coming forward and reporting," according to a statement from the accuser and her family.

The Associated Press does not identify alleged victims of

sexual assault.

On Thursday, specific details of the alleged assault were released. The woman told police she and friends were drinking at Potbelly's and said she remembered getting into a cab with a man she didn't know.

At the apartment, she said she tried to fight the man off, but he wouldn't stop. At some point, she said another man came into the room and told her attacker to stop, but he didn't.

Her next memory was of the suspect dressing her, putting her on a scooter and dropping her off at a campus intersection. Once she got back to her room, she called police and later went to the hospital.

Police said they opened an investigation and were collecting evidence when they were told in February she didn't want to pursue the charges. The woman's attorney has denied she wanted to drop the investigation.

Winston refused to be interviewed by police and has not answered questions from the media. Two of his teammates backed his story in statements they gave last month to an investigator for the quarterback's attorney, Timothy Jansen. The statements were part of an investigative file released Thursday.

BOXING

Heavyweight champ mulls political career

Associated Press

KIEV, Ukraine — Towering over his fellow protest leaders, Vitali Klitschko, the reigning world heavyweight boxing champion, has emerged as Ukraine's most popular opposition figure and has ambitions to become its next president.

Thanks to his sports-hero status and reputation as a pro-Western politician untainted by Ukraine's frequent corruption scandals, the 6-foot 7-inch Klitschko has surpassed jailed former Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko in opinion polls.

As massive anti-government protests continue to grip Ukraine, the 42-year-old boxer-turned-politician is urging his countrymen to continue their fight to turn this ex-Soviet republic into a genuine Western democracy.

"This is not a revolution. It

is a peaceful protest that demands justice," Klitschko told The Associated Press in an interview Wednesday. "The people are not defending political interests. They are defending the idea of living in a civilized country."

Dubbed Dr. Ironfist for his prowess in the boxing ring, Klitschko has scored 45 victories in 47 fights, 41 of them with knockouts. He has successfully defended his title 11 times, most recently in September 2012, and plans to have one more bout before he retires. He still spends several hours a day training.

Now Klitschko must prove that he has as much stamina in the political arena.

Despite earning a doctorate in sports science, Klitschko has had to fight a stereotype of being intellectually unfit to run this economically troubled

nation of 46 million.

Having been raised — like many Ukrainians — in a Russian-speaking family, Klitschko only recently learned Ukrainian and sometimes struggles to find the right word. Still, he appeals to many Ukrainians with his air of sincerity and his image as a handsome tough guy ready to defend his compatriots.

"He is a national hero and comes across as being decent," said Andreas Umland, assistant professor of European studies at the Kyiv Mohyla Academy.

Klitschko was one of only a few opposition politicians who tried to stop several hundred radical protesters from storming President Viktor Yanukovich's office during a demonstration Sunday that drew hundreds of thousands to the streets of the capital, Kiev.

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.

TRACK AND FIELD

Irish ready to begin indoor season

By GREG HADLEY
Sports Writer

Notre Dame will kick off its indoor season with two events this weekend. Most of the team members will stay at home for today's Blue & Gold Invitational at the Loftus Sports Center, while several multi-eventers will travel to the Kent State Field House in Kent, Ohio for the Golden Flash Gala, which begin today and continue Saturday.

The meets are the only ones the Irish have scheduled in December, but senior long jumper and captain Logan Renwick said the weekend presents a good opportunity for the squad to get back into competition after training for most of the fall.

"It's a very small meet," Renwick said of the Blue & Gold Invitational. "It's a good chance to get our first meet in before winter break. The freshman also get their first collegiate meet in heading to the indoor season."

For the second consecutive season, the Irish will welcome Marquette, Bethel, DePaul and Detroit Mercy to the Blue & Gold Invitational. Despite winning 26 of 33 events at last year's meet, the Irish are not focused on a team victory, Renwick said. Instead, he noted the team is concentrated on qualifying as many individuals as it can for the ACC Indoor

Championships in February.

Several top distance runners will be absent, however, as they recover from the NCAA Cross Country Championship on Nov. 23. Instead, the team will look to performers from other events to step up, Renwick said.

"A lot of our top distance guys will be gone, but some of our sprinters like [junior] Jade Barber,

"It's a good chance to get our first meet in before winter break. The freshmen also get their first collegiate meet in heading to the indoor season."

Logan Renwick
senior long jumper

[junior] Chris Giesting and [senior] Pat Feeney had a lot of success last year, and they should have a great meet," Renwick said.

At the Golden Flash Gala, graduate student Ted Glasnow and sophomore Brent Swanberg will compete in the heptathlon, while senior Meghan Moore and junior Carly Loeffel are entered in the pentathlon. Loeffel and Glasnow are coming off an outdoor season in which Loeffel earned All-Big

East honors in the heptathlon and Glasnow racked up All-Big East honors in the decathlon, and Renwick said he believes both are primed for a fast start to the season.

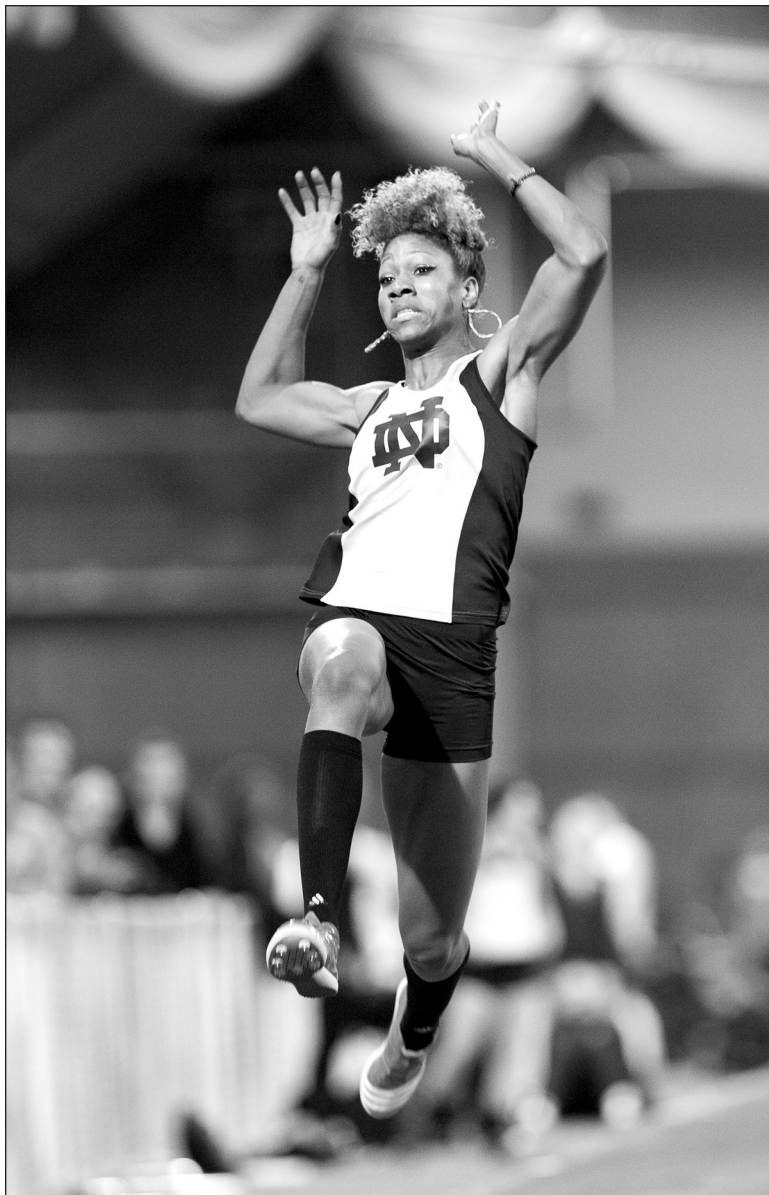
"All the multi-eventers have had great training leading up to this weekend, so they should put up some big performances, especially Loeffel and Glasnow," Renwick said.

Looking down the road, Renwick said the Irish would look to get off to a good start in their first season in the ACC.

"The ACC is a great conference and will continue to be in the future and we're excited for the challenge," Renwick said. "It's a really competitive group of teams, and we know that it will be more difficult than the Big East was, but we feel we can jump right in and make an impact immediately. The goal is always a conference championship, and hopefully the performances this weekend will be a good first step towards eventually reaching that."

The Irish will split up this weekend, competing at home in the Blue & Gold Invitational at the Loftus Center today, and throughout the weekend at the Golden Flash Gala in Kent, Ohio.

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GRANT TOBIN | The Observer

Irish senior Jessie Christian competes in the long jump at last season's Mayo Invitational on Feb. 1 in the Loftus Sports Center.

NBA | NEW YORK 113, BROOKLYN 83

Knicks win NYC battle

Associated Press

NEW YORK — The Knicks are no longer the biggest losers in New York. The Brooklyn Nets look like the real Big Apple busts.

Carmelo Anthony had 19 points and 10 rebounds, Iman Shumpert scored a season-high 17 points, and the Knicks ended a nine-game losing streak with 113-83 romp Thursday night in the first meeting of the season between the city rivals.

The Knicks (4-13) snapped a tie with the Nets (5-14) for most losses in New York, winning the game and the crowd with a dominant second half that had Spike Lee and the rest of the fans wearing blue and orange cheering perhaps the Knicks' most complete performance of the season.

Andrea Bargnani scored 16 before he was ejected in the fourth quarter, Knicks fans roaring in support of him standing up to Kevin Garnett.

Brook Lopez had 24 points and nine rebounds for the Nets, who again played without Paul Pierce, Deron Williams, or much passion in the second half.

The game was nationally

televised, as all four matchups are this season, but neither team had been giving fans much reason to watch. Nets coach Jason Kidd said Tuesday that both teams "stink," and Anthony not only agreed but added that the Knicks were the "laughingstock" of the league.

Nobody was laughing at the Knicks on this night.

New York made a season-high 16 3-pointers in 27 attempts (59 percent), rediscovering a stroke that has been missing all season after it set an NBA record for makes in 2012-13, and led by as many as 34 points.

Shumpert, who has been the subject of trade rumors and has struggled, hit five 3s and added six rebounds.

The Nets hung in while the Knicks made 16 of their first 21 shots overall and trailed by only seven at halftime before their season-long woes in the third quarter returned, when the Knicks outscored them 34-16.

When the public address announcer urged fans to stand and cheer before the fourth, they responded by booing, clearly sick of watching Brooklyn get hammered over the previous 12 minutes yet again.

Tensions rose a couple of times, chiefly in the fourth quarter when Bargnani and Garnett became tangled as Bargnani fell to the court while trying to box out. Both players, along with Amare Stoudemire, were called for technical fouls, and Bargnani was hit with a second and thrown out shortly after when he appeared to say something toward Garnett after making a jumper.

There were also double technicals and words exchanged after Andray Blatche set a hard pick on Shumpert in the first half, but that was about all the fight the Nets showed on the way to their sixth straight home loss.

Both teams were booed during the introduction of starting lineups by split fan bases who are united in their early season disgust. The Nets believed they were a championship contender after acquiring Garnett and Pierce from Boston, the centerpieces of a roster that will cost more than \$180 million in salary and luxury taxes. The Knicks are second to the Nets in payroll but had never gotten going after losing Tyson Chandler to a broken leg in their fourth game of the season.

NHL | TAMPA BAY 3, OTTAWA 1

St. Louis leads Tampa past Sens

Associated Press

TAMPA, Fla. — Martin St. Louis scored two goals, Ben Bishop won his 15th game this season, and the Tampa Bay Lightning beat the Ottawa Senators 3-1 on Thursday night.

Valtteri Filppula also scored for the Lightning, who were coming off consecutive shut-out losses to Columbus (1-0) and Pittsburgh (3-0). Ondrej Palat had two assists.

Ottawa got a goal from Patrick Wiercioch.

St. Louis beat goalie Robin Lehner from just outside the crease to give Tampa Bay a 2-1 advantage 13:19 into the second. The Lightning captain tied Jason Arnott for 91st place on the NHL points list with 938.

Filppula's goal from the left circle made it 3-1 at 10:56 of the third.

St. Louis put the Lightning up 1-0 when he scored from in-close while falling forward with 3:15 left in the first.

Wiercioch tied it at 1-all with a power-play goal 6:11

into the second. The defenseman had not scored a goal in his previous 20 games dating back to last season.

Bishop made a nice save early in the first on Chris Neil's slot shot. The Lightning acquired Bishop from Ottawa last April.

Lehner kept the Senators within one early in the third when he stopped a shot by Nate Thompson during a breakthrough.

Tampa Bay defenseman Victor Hedman left after the first period with a lower-body injury, while defenseman Keith Aulie departed during the second due to an upper-body injury.

The Lightning were already without several key players, including center Steven Stamkos (broken leg), left wing Ryan Malone (broken ankle), and defensemen Eric Brewer (lower body) and Radko Gudas (upper body).

Stamkos has a goal of returning in February, while Malone will be out three to four weeks. Brewer and Gudas could soon return.

SMC BASKETBALL

‘Grinnell style’ to test Belles defense

By KIT LOUGHRAN
Sports Writer

The Belles take to the court in a home matchup against North Central on Saturday.

The Belles (2-5, 0-1 MIAA) enter the game after an 80-70 loss to Adrian on Wednesday in the conference opener. Saint Mary's allowed the Bulldogs (3-3, 1-0) to take a 45-33 lead at halftime, but the Belles opened the second half with a 17-6 run. However, the Bulldogs prevailed in the end.

"I thought we played a very

good second half against Adrian on Wednesday night, so we are looking to build on that," Belles coach Jennifer Henley said. "Our mindset [against North Central] continues to be focused on defense."

Leading the Belles against out-of-conference opponent North Central (3-2), senior guard Shanlynn Bias and sophomore forward Eleni Shea both had strong rebounding and scoring games against Adrian. Bias was the game-leader in rebounds against

Adrian with a career-high of eight. Shea tallied seven rebounds and scored a career-high 17 points against the Bulldogs, which increased her season average to 11.6 points per game.

The Belles look to maintain the same intensity in scoring and rebounding against North Central but need to adjust their strategy to better suit the Cardinals' style of play.

"North Central is running what is known as the Grinnell style of offense," Henley said. "It is very up-tempo with a

goal of shooting 50 two-point shots and 50 three-point shots a game, in addition to forcing you to play the same tempo.

"This is a style that is not very common among our opponents over the last several years, so we are exposing our team to that style of basketball as we prepare."

The Cardinals implement the Grinnell style of offense with the help of junior forward Larynn Shumaker, freshman guard DeJa Moore and junior forward Uzuri Williams. Shumaker averages 15.0 points

per game and Moore follows at 10.6 points per game.

North Central faces the Belles after a 108-93 loss to Luther College (5-1) on Saturday. The Cardinals forced 27 turnovers, but shot just 35.4 percent from the floor.

The Belles look to clinch their third win on the season against North Central on Saturday at Angela Athletic Facility at 3 p.m.

Contact Kit Loughran at kloughr1@nd.edu

NCAA FOOTBALL | LOUISVILLE 31, CINCINNATI 24 (OT)

Cardinals outlast Bearcats

Associated Press

CINCINNATI — Teddy Bridgewater made several great escapes to help No. 19 Louisville get to overtime, and Dominique Brown's 2-yard run gave the Cardinals a 31-24 victory over Cincinnati on Thursday night.

The comeback clinched the first American Athletic Conference title for Central Florida, which had a one-game lead over Cincinnati (9-3, 6-2) heading into the final weekend.

For the second year in a row, the Ohio River rivals went to overtime to decide who gets the Keg of Nails, this time for the foreseeable future with Louisville (11-7, 7-1) leaving for the Atlantic Coast Conference next season.

The Cardinals won 34-31 in overtime in the rain in Louisville last season. This one went to overtime on a wet, raw night when Cincinnati's

Tony Miliano kicked a 26-yard field goal with 7 seconds left.

An interference penalty in the end zone set up Brown's 2-yard run to open overtime.

The Bearcats wound up with a fourth-and-14 at the 29, and Brendon Kay's pass went off the hands of Anthony McClung at the 6, ending Cincinnati's first overtime game at Nippert Stadium since 2003.

Bridgewater was 23 of 37 for 255 yards with three touchdowns, two of them in the fourth quarter. He eluded three tacklers on a 14-yard run on a third-and-12 play to keep one touchdown drive going, and finished it by scrambling away from defenders and throwing an off-balance pass for a 22-yard score.

He and Kay kept topping each other in the fourth quarter, but Cincinnati's sixth-year senior didn't have one more big play left in him. He was 22 of 40 for 304 yards with two interceptions and two

touchdown scrambles, one of which left him woozy.

For Louisville, the game amounted to a farewell.

The Cardinals head off to the ACC next season, leaving Cincinnati behind. Louisville claimed the final Big East football title last season, beat Florida in the Sugar Bowl and was favored to win the first AAC championship.

A loss at home to Central Florida ended the Cardinals' chances of winning the league's BCS bowl berth. Cincinnati's slim hopes were extinguished by the loss Thursday.

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NHL | ST. LOUIS 5, NEW YORK 1

Islanders drop eighth straight

Associated Press

ST. LOUIS — Derek Roy and David Backes scored power-play goals 2:31 apart in the second period to lead the St. Louis Blues to a 5-1 win over the struggling New York Islanders on Thursday night.

St. Louis won for the sixth time in eight games. The Islanders have lost eight straight overall (0-6-2) and eight in a row on the road.

Jay Bouwmeester, Magnus Paajarvi and Brenden Morrow also scored for the Blues, who improved to 12-1-2 at home and tied Boston (12-3-2) for the most home wins in the NHL. Jaroslav Halak made 22 saves and upped his record to 15-4-2.

Andrew MacDonald scored for the Islanders, who are 2-11-2 in their last 15 games.

St. Louis was 3 for 6 on the power play after managing one goal in its previous 10 chances.

The Blues scored three times in 7:57 during the second period to break a 1-all tie. Roy converted the rebound of a shot by Kevin Shattenkirk at 7:02 to put St. Louis in front 2-1. Following an instigator penalty on Matt Carkner, Backes scored on a wrist shot from the top of the circle.

Paajarvi added his second of the season just more than 5 minutes later.

New York goalie Anders Nilsson lost for the first time in regulation in his third start of the season.



EMMET FARNAN | The Observer

Irish junior guard Whitney Holloway dribbles around a defender in Notre Dame's 99-50 win over UNC-Wilmington on Nov. 9.

W Bball

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

No. 10 Penn State on Wednesday. The margin of victory was Notre Dame's smallest of the year. The Lady Lions, then-No. 19 Michigan State and then-No. 25 DePaul are the only Notre Dame opponents to lose by fewer than 20 points.

Still, McGraw sees room for improvement.

"We've got to get better offensively," McGraw said. "We had been shooting well until [Wednesday], but we're still not executing as well as I would have liked, so I think that's the one thing I really want to get better at by Saturday."

The Irish are shooting just under 50 percent from the floor so far this season, although they only made 37 percent of their shots against the Lady Lions on

Wednesday.

Sophomore guard Jewell Loyd and senior guard Kayla McBride have paced the Irish offensive attack in the first seven games of the season.

Loyd has averaged 17.1 points and 7.1 rebounds per game, while McBride has averaged 15.1 points per game and played a team-high 29.3 minutes per game.

Senior forward Natalie Achonwa missed the first three games of the year after undergoing a knee scope just before the season began, but has averaged 13.3 points and 23.8 minutes played in the four games since her return.

The Irish and Bruins will tip off at noon Saturday in Purcell Pavilion.

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NFL

Jaguars win third consecutive game

Associated Press

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — The Jacksonville Jaguars have a bona fide winning streak.

Chad Henne threw two touchdown passes, Jordan Todman scored on some trickery and the Jaguars held on to beat the Houston Texans 27-20 on Thursday night.

The Jaguars (4-9) won their third straight — their fourth victory in five games since a bye — and continued to show signs of progress under first-year coach Gus Bradley.

They also won at home for the first time since Nov. 25, 2012, against Tennessee.

"Our guys just really believe," Bradley said. "The biggest challenge is to keep doing what we're doing. We're a young team that's learning how to do this."

Houston (2-11) extended its franchise-record losing streak to 11 games, a stunning stretch of futility that could lead the franchise to fire coach Gary Kubiak.

Kubiak and the Texans looked as if they would end the streak

after a quarterback change, but Geno Hayes intercepted Matt Schaub's pass with 2:08 remaining to seal Jacksonville's first series sweep since 2009.

Schaub came off the bench and carved up Jacksonville's secondary in the second half.

He replaced starter Case Keenum late in the third quarter and led the team to a touchdown and a field goal in his first two possessions. The Texans were in the red zone again, but failed to convert a fourth-down play with 3:37 to play. Jacksonville picked up a huge first down that flipped the field — not surprising that it came on a penalty — but punted.

Hayes picked off Schaub's next pass, a floater over the middle.

The Jaguars milked the clock from there, and Josh Scobee's 39-yard field goal provided some insurance. Houston had one final chance, but Schaub was sacked on his first snap with 20 seconds left and 77 yards to go.

Schaub completed 17 of 29 passes for 198 yards, with a touchdown and an interception.

WOMEN'S SWIMMING

ND preps for invitational

By KATIE HEIT
Sports Writer

The Irish close out their fall season this weekend with the three-day Hawkeye Invitational in Iowa City.

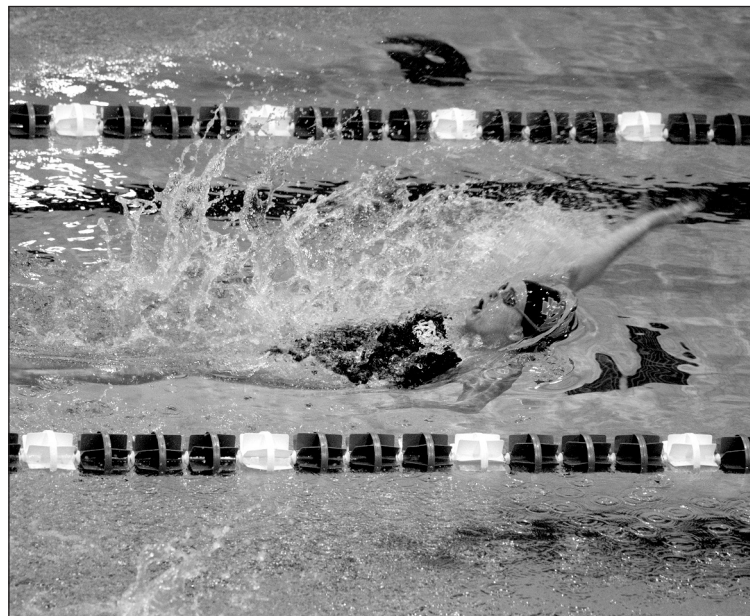
The Hawkeye Invitational is set up identically to the NCAA Championships, which will give the Irish (4-3) valuable experience before participating in the actual championship in March. Competition at the Hawkeye Invitational begins at 11 a.m. every morning with final heats swimming at 7 p.m. on Friday and Saturday and at 5 p.m. on Sunday.

The Irish will see a wide range of competition at the event, swimming against Boise State, Denver, Iowa, Nebraska and Washington State. The divers will also be taking on Iowa State. This will be the first time the Irish have faced any of these opponents so far this season, although the Irish diving team is familiar with this arena after competing in the Hawkeye Invitational last season.

Junior diver Allison Casareto said the invitational will be a good chance for the Irish to see how they compete when they face both preliminaries and finals.

"I am looking forward ... to learning a lot about our own team and how we perform at such a long meet under the pressure of finals on the horizon," Casareto said.

Notre Dame enters this meet off four straight wins in dual meets, most recently topping Wisconsin at home on Nov. 16.



WEI LIN | The Observer

Irish junior swimmer Courtney Whyte swims the backstroke during Notre Dame's 219-60 dual victory over Valparaiso on Nov. 15.

The Irish won 10 events in that contest, with junior breaststroker Emma Reaney leading the way with three individual victories and a relay win. Casareto also claimed victory in two events.

Reaney and Casareto were named ACC swimmer and diver of the week, respectively, after their meet against Wisconsin. Reaney has already qualified in several events for the NCAA "B" cuts in March.

Casareto said the Irish will need to compete well early in order to make the finals.

"Our diving team goals are to focus on consistency and performing well in prelims," Casareto said.

Reaney has won ACC Women's Swimmer of the Week three times so far this season and currently sits in the top 20 nationally in both the 100-yard and the 200-yard

breaststroke.

Notre Dame will also be looking to freshman Katie Miller to make a big impact this weekend. Miller took first in the 100-yard backstroke against Wisconsin and has consistently finished at the top this season.

Reaney said the invitational will give the Irish an opportunity to see where they need to improve before championship season.

"This team has put in so much work over the last couple of months," Reaney said. "This is our first rested meet of the year. Anything could happen and that's very exciting."

The Irish are in action at the Hawkeye Invitational beginning today at 11 a.m. in Iowa City.

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MEN'S SWIMMING

Notre Dame travels to Iowa

Observer Staff Report

After impressive back-to-back victories over Michigan State and Wisconsin, the Irish will travel to Iowa City for the Hawkeye Invitational.

Along with the Irish (4-4), the tournament will feature Denver, Milwaukee and No. 23 Iowa. The tournament will take place over a three-day period and will be the last competition for the Irish before the conclusion of the fall semester.

The Irish will need continued strong performances from team linchpins such as senior Frank Dyer, who helped the Irish in their previous meet against Wisconsin by claiming first in the 50-, 200-, and 500-yard freestyle events, and was part of Notre Dame's first-place winning 200 medley relay team. Junior Zach Stephens, an All-American, placed first in the 100- and 200-yard

breaststroke, the 200 individual medley and was also part of the Irish's winning 200 medley relay team. Senior co-captain Colin Babcock swam a sizzling 45.81 to win the 100-yard freestyle.

The Hawkeyes (1-3), coming off losses to No. 10 Ohio State and No. 22 Purdue on Nov. 8, will look to rely on swimmers such as senior Dustin Rhoads, who hit the NCAA "B" cut time of the season for the 100-yard backstroke with a time of 48.36. Sophomore Roman Trussov, the reigning Big 10 Swimmer of the Week, placed first in the 100-yard breaststroke and 200-yard breaststroke with respective times of 54.35 and 1:59.82. Trussov's 100-breaststroke time also qualified for an NCAA "B" cut.

The Pioneers (1-0) have several racers on their roster who shined during last year's invitational, and who will look

to repeat their performances. Senior Kyle Milberg finished the 200-yard backstroke in 1:43.06, breaking both the Denver school record and the pool record. As a freshman last year, sophomore Dylan Bunch swam a school record-breaking 9:18.95 in the 1,000-yard freestyle. The Pioneers placed fourth in the event last season.

The Panthers (2-3) won the Stevens Point Border Battle on Nov. 15-16 for the eighth straight season, defeating Stevens Point and South Dakota. They will rely on work-horse distance swimmers such as sophomore Nic Halverson who won the 400-yard individual medley with a time of 4:12.31, while junior Kenny Stelpflug won the mile-long 1,650-yard freestyle with a time of 16:45.50.

The Hawkeye Invitational will begin Friday and continue through Sunday.



MICHAEL YU | The Observer

Irish sophomore center Thomas DiPauli fights for position in Notre Dame's 4-0 victory over Merrimack on Nov. 15.

Hockey

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

readjustment period.

"Ideally, it'll be much better when we come back from Christmas break, and we actually have time to get down and dirty with getting them back into the mix of things, because it's the competitive aspect of the game that they're going to be behind in," he said. "It's okay to practice, but the [competition] level in a game is probably a little bit higher."

The Irish will be able to claim a winning conference record if they sweep the Minutemen (3-10-2, 1-6-2) this weekend. Massachusetts has been in a free fall of late, going winless in its last seven games. Despite this, a raucous Compton is unlikely to intimidate the Minutemen, who travelled to then-No. 7 Boston College and earned a 2-2 draw on Nov. 15.

Senior forward Conor Sheary sparks the offense for the Minutemen with a team-leading eight assists, while senior forward Branden Gracel and freshman forward Steven Iacobellis will look to notch their sixth goals of the season against

Irish senior goaltender Steven Summerhays.

In goal, junior Steve Mastalerz has seen most of the time for Massachusetts, but freshmen Mac Haight and Alex Wakaluk have each started two games this season. While the Irish have been struggling on offense, the Minutemen defense will be challenged by the consistent threat of Irish leading scorer — and last week's Shillelagh Tournament Most Outstanding player — senior center T.J. Tynan.

With Tynan on a hot streak and a battery of players returning, Jackson said Notre Dame must capitalize and enter Christmas break on a winning note.

"We need to get points in the league," Jackson said. "Right now, we're under .500 in the conference. We've only played six games, but even so, I think we have even higher expectations than that."

Notre Dame and Massachusetts will face off at Compton Family Ice Arena at 7:35 p.m. Friday and 6:35 p.m. on Saturday.

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ZACH LLORENS | The Observer

Irish sophomore midfielder Connor Klekota chases a loose ball in Notre Dame's 4-2 win over Wake Forest on Sunday. Klekota and the Irish face Michigan State in the NCAA Championship quarterfinals Saturday.

M Soccer

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

just a very solid team."

According to Clark, the Spartans boast an impressive cast on defense as well, led by redshirt senior defender Kevin Cope and redshirt junior defender Ryan Keener.

"Cope and Keener have been a solid foundation of the Michigan State teams for the last few years," Clark said. "They are both very good and strong in the air. They are excellent players who are very good in set pieces, both for and against. In general, they have a lot of solid players back there."

On the other side of the pitch, the Irish boast an equally talented team, led by senior forward Harrison Shipp. On Tuesday, Shipp was named as a MAC Hermann Trophy semifinalist.

"We just have to play the way we play every game," Clark said. "We have so many creative players on our team. If we play well, Notre Dame is the best team in the country when we play properly. We just have to turn up and play as a team."

With a win Saturday, the Irish will travel to Chester, Pa., to compete in the College Cup for the first time in program history.

"It will be difficult," Clark said of Saturday's game. "I think our lads know it will be difficult, but I think this team is really focused. We've got to have patience in the game. [Michigan State] won't lie down and roll over. We have to play the full 90 minutes and maybe over that, well into overtime, if we want to advance."

The Irish will look to advance when they host the Spartans on Saturday at 7 p.m. at Alumni Stadium in the quarterfinals of the NCAA Championship.

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M Bball

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

rebounds per game.

Even without Saddler, the Blue Hens still have several veterans contributing in their lineup. Senior guard Davon Usher is averaging 19.3 points and 7.1 rebounds per game and junior guard Jarvis Threatt adds 17.9 points and 5.5 rebounds per contest. Senior forward Carl Baptiste is chipping in 12.5 points per game, while leading the team with 7.5 boards per game.

The depth Delaware has displayed so far this season will present a challenge for the Irish, who allowed five different Hawkeyes players to score in double digits Tuesday.

"It starts with each individual person being locked in and engaged, and then it comes together as a team," Irish freshman guard Demetrius Jackson said of defending a team with multiple scoring options. "I definitely feel like we are taking steps toward getting better every day."

For the past two outings, Irish coach Mike Brey has plugged Jackson into the starting lineup, alongside senior guards Eric Atkins and Jerian Grant, junior guard/forward Pat Connaughton and fifth-year center



MICHAEL YU | The Observer

Irish junior forward Pat Connaughton looks to pass in Notre Dame's 84-69 win over Santa Clara on Nov. 22.

Garrick Sherman. Although Connaughton appears on the stat sheet as a forward, the lineup is smaller than the one most teams use, a reality that has both positives and negatives.

"Definitely with the smaller lineup it allows us to attack a little more, get into the lane and create," Jackson said.

"If you can't defend those bigger guys, if we can't rebound, it's going to be tough to stay in there."

A particular focus for Brey following the game against Iowa (8-1) has been getting his team on the same page defensively, Jackson said.

"Just to be locked in and engaged every single possession, and to get stops ... We would tie the game up or get it close, a one-possession game or something like that, and we would just kind of have a breakdown defensively that we shouldn't have," Jackson said. "And those are the kind of mistakes we want to fix."

Notre Dame will have a chance to get back on track when it faces Delaware on Saturday at 4 p.m. in the Purcell Pavilion.

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MEN'S SOCCER

ND hosts Elite Eight match

By AARON SANT-MILLER
Sports Writer

For the first time in program history, No. 3 Notre Dame will host a quarterfinal match in the NCAA Championship. No. 11 Michigan State will travel to Alumni Stadium on Saturday to face the Irish for a berth in the College Cup.

"This is the biggest game, probably, in the program's history," Irish coach Bobby Clark said. "This is the time when you get a home game, the students are on campus and we have an opportunity to get to the Final Four. This is the toughest game we will have played at Alumni Stadium all year. I know we've played some big games here, but Michigan State has won a lot of big games on the road. It would be great if we could get Alumni Stadium rocking on Saturday night. This is a tough team we're facing."

Notre Dame (14-1-6, 7-1-3 ACC) traveled to Michigan State (14-5-3, 3-2-1 Big Ten) for a regular season matchup on Nov. 5 and beat the Spartans, 2-0. When the two teams met last month, Michigan State junior forward Adam Montague



ZACH LLORENS | The Observer

Irish sophomore midfielder Patrick Hodan chases the ball in Notre Dame's 4-0 win over Wisconsin on Nov. 24.

was out with an injury. Montague scored Michigan State's lone goal in the 28th minute of its 1-0 victory over No. 6 Georgetown in the NCAA Championship Round of 16 on Sunday. Though he has had a quiet 2013 campaign due to injury, Montague led the Spartans in points and goals last fall and earned a First Team All-Big Ten nomination.

"[Montague] is their big threat up front, so he needs to be handled," Clark said. "No question, having Montague back in the mix gives [Michigan State] an added threat up front. They have a lot of guys who deserve attention, though. They have won despite injuries, so they're

see M SOCCER **PAGE 14**

HOCKEY

DiPauli, Johnson scheduled to return

By CASEY KARNES
Sports Writer

No. 11 Notre Dame will look to head into Christmas break with a pair of home victories when Massachusetts visits Compton Family Ice Arena this weekend.

The Irish (9-6-1, 2-3-1 Hockey East) will be bolstered in their final series of the semester by the returns of sophomore center Thomas DiPauli and junior defenseman Eric Johnson, who have been held to six and eight games respectively this season by shoulder injuries, and senior forward Mike Voran from a lower body injury.

Irish coach Jeff Jackson said he also hopes freshman center Vince Hinostroza, Notre Dame's second-leading scorer this season despite only playing 10 games, will be able to return from a knee injury, although the freshman is still questionable heading into the weekend.

According to Johnson, the recovering players can't wait to get back on the ice.

"Practice this week has been really high tempo," Johnson said. "It's been fun just to be back on the ice with everyone. You can tell there's a little bit different energy now that there's a lot more guys back. It almost seems like [the chemistry] hasn't missed a beat."

Their return couldn't come at a better time for the Irish, who stumbled to a sub-.500 record in November. Notre Dame won just one of its past five games, including a 3-2 loss to Northeastern in the final of the Shillelagh Tournament at Compton on Saturday. After such a rough stretch, Jackson said he was looking forward to the added line of flexibility provided by the returning offensive weapons.

"We're anxious to get some guys back, just to try and create some offense, frankly," Jackson said. "Also, to enhance our penalty kill, our special teams, to utilize more guys."

But Jackson also said he expects the returnees to have a

see HOCKEY **PAGE 14**

ND WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Notre Dame looks to get past UCLA

By VICKY JACOBSEN
Sports Writer

After winning their third game over a ranked opponent on Wednesday, the No. 4 Irish return to Purcell Pavilion to take on UCLA at noon Saturday.

The Bruins (3-4) have found mixed results on the court so far this season. The Bruins have shown flashes of potential in their first seven games, which include a victory over No. 17 Oklahoma and a respectable 10-point defeat at the hands of No. 18 North Carolina.

But UCLA also lost by 18 points to unranked North Carolina State and was trounced by No. 15 Nebraska, 77-49, in the squad's season opener on Nov. 8.

But Irish coach Muffet McGraw had measured praise for the Bruins.

"They're a really athletic team. They're very young," McGraw said. "They upset Oklahoma a couple of weeks ago at home, and they're a very good team."

McGraw also praised sixth-year senior forward Atonye Nyingifa and sophomore guard Nirra Fields, UCLA's two leading scorers. Nyingifa is averaging just over 18 points per game, while Fields is close behind with an average of 16.6 points per contest.

Nyingifa earned Pac-12 Player of the Week honors on Nov. 25 after the Bruins beat the Sooners (5-2). She reached or surpassed her career-best in six different statistical categories, scoring 28 points and pulling down 16 rebounds.

Fields banked in the winning shot with two seconds remaining to give UCLA a come-from-behind victory over Grand Canyon (6-2) this past Saturday in the consolation bracket of the Gulf Coast Showcase.

Bruins senior guard Thea Lemberger has also lit up the scoreboard this season with an average of 16.0 points per game.

The Irish (7-0) are still undefeated after a 77-67 victory over

see W BBALL **PAGE 13**

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Irish prepare for Delaware

By JOSEPH MONARDO
Associate Sports Editor

Coming off a 98-93 defeat at the hands of Iowa on Tuesday, Notre Dame will retake the court Saturday when it welcomes Delaware in the regional round of the BlackRock Gotham Classic.

After traveling to Iowa City, Iowa for their first road contest of the season, the Irish (5-2) will host three games over the next week in the Purcell Pavilion as part of the second-annual event before facing No. 5 Ohio State in the showcase round Dec. 21 at Madison Square Garden in New York City.

In the opening game, Notre Dame will face a Delaware team coming off three straight wins. The Blue Hens' last loss came Nov. 22 against undefeated Villanova in a closely contested road game. Delaware (5-3) fell short of pulling off the upset, losing 84-80.

Delaware finished last season 19-14, compiling a 13-5 conference record to finish third in the Colonial Athletic Association before falling in the semifinals of the conference tournament



ZACH LLORENS | The Observer

Irish freshman guard Demetrius Jackson dribbles up the court in Notre Dame's 95-69 victory over Indianapolis on Oct. 29.

to eventual CAA champion James Madison.

This season, the Blue Hens have five players averaging more than 12 points per game and five players rebounding at a rate of at least five boards per game. Senior guard Devon Saddler, a first-team All-CAA selection last season and the second-leading

scorer in Delaware history, will not play against the Irish due to a month-long suspension imposed for a violation of team rules on Nov. 12. In the Blue Hens' first two games of the season, Saddler contributed 23 points per game and five

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