

'Revue's Clues' prepares to provide hilarity

The 39th annual Keenan Revue promises to continue its comedic traditions this weekend

By MARGARET HYNDS
Associate News Editor

The 39th annual Keenan Revue — a beloved though historically controversial staple dorm event — opens Thursday night at the Stepan Center.

Directed by senior Briggs Hoyt, this year's Revue bears the title "Revue's Clues: A Private Investigation," although senior Mattie Conaghan, one of the show's head writers, claims there will only be "20-30 seconds" of references to "Blue's Clues."

According to the show's producer, senior DJ Valenti, the Keenan Revue began in 1976 after the death of a Keenan Hall resident.

The resident passed away after falling asleep in the snow after a night of drinking, Valenti said.

"[The Revue] started out in Washington Hall as a variety show. After [the resident] died, it was Keenan's way to provide something to do on the weekends that didn't involve drinking," Valenti said. "Apparently the first show was just miserable. They had seats for all the administrators saved in the front row, but none of them showed up. But then it got a really good review, because it showcased all the talent in Keenan that nobody knew about. So then they asked them to do the same show in the spring, and they called it 'The New Keenan Revue.'

"So the production value went up, Fr. Hesburgh attended, everyone went and it became a tradition. Over time though, it evolved. Pretty quickly they

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EMMET FARNAN | The Observer

Residents of Keenan perform at last year's Keenan Revue. This year's Revue, the show's 39th anniversary, is titled, "Revue's Clues: A Private Investigation" and will be held in Stepan Center, premiering Thursday night.

Nursing students venture abroad



CAITLIN JORDAN | The Observer

Nursing majors Kelly Wilson, left, Julia Brehl and Janice Heffernan present on their experiences performing medical work abroad.

By MACAILA DeMARIO
News Writer

Saint Mary's students ventured to Kyarosozi, Uganda, this past summer to learn more about the culture themselves and how they could apply both to world of nursing. Wednesday evening, nursing students and staff from Saint Mary's, Goshen and Bethel colleges presented their discoveries and how they could impact others' lives through medicinal practices.

Senior and nursing major Kelly Wilson gave an introduction to the trip.

"We stayed with the Sisters of the Holy Cross. It was three nursing majors and three education majors. Every day, us three [nursing majors] would spend the day in the Holy Cross clinic," Wilson said.

The nursing students said they felt helpful all around the clinic and learned a vast variety of new skills they can apply to their future nursing endeavors.

"As nurses, we are taught to care for our patient and advocate for our patient we help them with simple tasks such as eating,

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Author reads works

By ANDREA VALE
News Writer

Author Lynne Tillman gave a reading of her work on Wednesday evening at the Eck

Lynne Tillman
Novelist



Center Auditorium, hosted by Notre Dame's MFA creative writing program.

Tillman is a novelist, short story writer and cultural critic. Her work spans several genres, and she is known for her varied and unique styles of writing.

At the reading, professor of English Steve Tomasula introduced Tillman as "one of the most important authors writing

see TILLMAN PAGE 4

Rare Disease Day to raise awareness

By CAROLYN HUTYRA
News Writer

The third annual Rare Disease Day Celebration, organized by the Boler-Paraseghian Center for Rare and Neglected Diseases, will take place this upcoming weekend.

Outreach coordinator Barb Calhoun and director of external programs Shahir

Rizk, who both helped organize the celebration, said the event consists of a research symposium to be held in DeBartolo Hall on Friday and a community discussion to be held in McKenna Hall on Saturday.

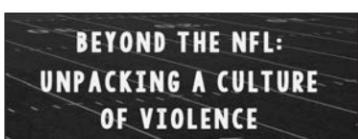
"[Rare diseases] are everywhere, and I think this is something that we wanted to emphasize and bring the community in on and be

able to have everyone tell their side of the story, patients and their families living with the disease," Rizk said.

Organizers focused on recruiting a wide spectrum of attendees, which Rizk said included physicians, health-care providers, patient services organizations and foundations and insurance company representatives.

"Each one has a very unique perspective on rare diseases and what the challenges are that they see," he said. "Doctors need more information, patients want faster diagnoses, better access to drugs and more research, and researchers want more patients and more information and more

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THE OBSERVER

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QUESTION OF THE DAY:

If you could pick another major, which would you choose?

Have a question you want answered?

Email photo@ndsmcobserver.com



Bekki Rumschlag

sophomore
Farley Hall

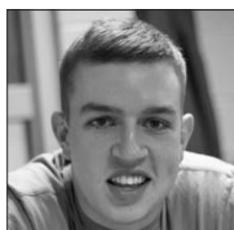
"Totally architecture."



Jamie Walter

sophomore
O'Neil Hall

"I.T."



Pat Crane

sophomore
Keough Hall

"Engineering, because everyone knows engineers have more fun and study less."



Evandro Nadal

sophomore
Dillon Hall

"Engineering."



Maggie Seibert

sophomore
Farley Hall

"Sociology. Architecture's a close second."



Tom Karam

sophomore
Keough Hall

"F.T.T."



ANNMARIE SOLLER | The Observer

A Kirby-shaped snowman on Bond Quad sucks in the cold weather as the snow gradually begins to melt. An additional eight to 12 inches of snow are expected to accumulate by tonight.

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THE NEXT FIVE DAYS:

Want your event included here?

Email news@ndsmcobserver.com

Thursday

Staff Mass

Log Chapel
10 a.m. - 11 a.m.
Rev. Jim Bracke will preside.

Mindful Meditation

Coleman-Morse Center
5:15 p.m. - 6:25 p.m.
Open to students, faculty and staff.

Friday

Graduate Student Mass

Basilica of the Sacred Heart
5:15 p.m. - 6:15 p.m.
Worship Service.

Men's Hockey

Compton Family Ice Arena
7:35 p.m. - 10 p.m.
The Irish take on Providence.

Saturday

Men's Lacrosse

Arlotta Stadium
12 p.m. - 2 p.m.
The Irish take on Georgetown.

Vigil Mass

Basilica of the Sacred Heart
5 p.m. - 6 p.m.
Worship Service.

Sunday

Mass in Spanish

Dillon Hall Chapel
1:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.
Worship service.

Men's Boxing

Joyce Center
3 p.m. - 6 p.m.
85th Annual Bengal Bouts Preliminaries.

Monday

SonnetFest 2015

O'Shaughnessy Hall
11 a.m. - 3 a.m.
Public reading of all 154 Shakespearean Sonnets.

Women's Basketball

Purcell Pavilion
9 p.m. - 11 p.m.
The Irish take on Duke.

Panel contemplates culture of violence in sports

By **SELENA PONIO**
News Writer

Three panelists, Connie Adams, director of the Belles Against Violence Office (BAVO) at Saint Mary's, Jordan Allison, a doctoral psychology intern at Notre Dame and Duke Preston, director of Football Player Development and Engagement at Notre Dame hosted a discussion Wednesday titled "Beyond the NFL: Unpacking a Culture of Violence."

The dinner and discussion, held in Remick Commons of Carole Sandner Hall, aimed to create a dialogue and address the issues of domestic abuse in today's society. The panel covered several topics ranging from abuse seen in the media and sports, such as the Ray Rice incident, and also the

cyclical pattern and causes of abusive relationships.

"A lot of times athletics mandates power physically ... there's a great pressure on

"In that environment [of the NFL] you have people at every turn trying to exhibit their dominance, worth and value."

Duke Preston
former NFL player

athletes to give the impression that they're powerful and always in control," Preston said.

Preston was a former NFL player for the Buffalo Bills,

the Green Bay Packers and the Dallas Cowboys. During the discussion, he provided personal insight on his experience as a professional athlete and the power and influence that came with the career.

"In that environment [of the NFL] you have people at every turn trying to exhibit their dominance, worth and value," Preston said. "I always thought I was pretty humble in my playing career, but I can remember walking around my house after a five-year NFL career ... and I remember thinking I wonder if my wife still thinks I'm as important as I was."

Adams, who has a background specifically in social work and violence, talked about the complexities behind an abusive relationship.

"When we're talking about



EMMET FARNAN | The Observer

Duke Preston, a former NFL player, speaks in Carole Sandner Hall on the culture of violence that is perpetuated in the NFL on Wednesday.

any kind of relationship that's abusive, we're really looking at the imbalance of power

and control in that relationship," Adams said.

Adams said the development of abuse in a relationship is gradual, and many times, it begins with a subtle exertion of power in the beginning.

Allison used his professional experience to talk about the diagnostic treatment of abusers, as well as the psychological factors that come into play in an abusive relationship.

"With each escalation, there's a transitional honeymoon phase where [the couple] is going back into that cycle where they try to make amends and go back to normal," Allison said.

Allison dismissed assertions that since more abuse cases are made public, these statistics are indicative of men becoming more abusive. Allison said more cases are made public simply because more women have the courage to come forward.

"As we become more literate and well-versed we'll have more women coming forward," Allison said. "This doesn't mean it didn't happen beforehand, but there weren't as many [resources] back then."

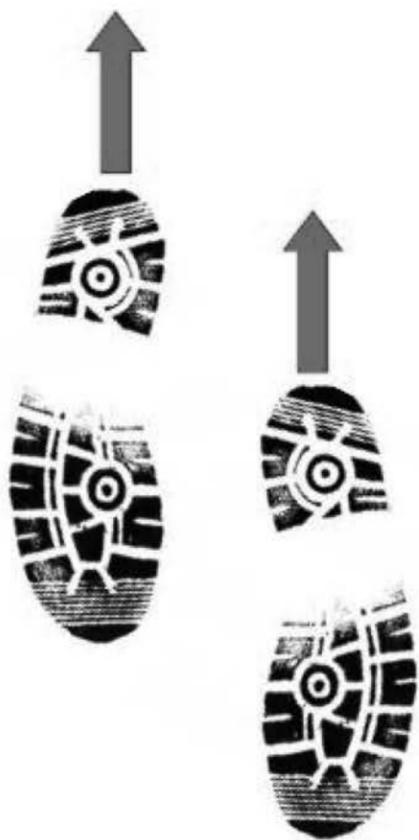
Preston said a ripple effect occurs as more people come forward and inspire other people to share their stories.

"Up until 1990 or so ... there was almost a courtesy that public figures didn't air their dirty laundry in the media," Preston said. "The exposure to issues like this is a helpful thing, and I think it gives people the courage to come forward."

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Questions? Contact Shannon Kelly (skelly7@nd.edu),
Monica Hernandez (mhernan7@nd.edu), or Marisa Villano (mvillano@nd.edu).

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Asian American Association celebrates New Year

By **ALYSSA LYON**
News Writer

Students can play games, enjoy food and try their luck for the new year at the Asian American Association's (AAA) annual casino night in the Coleman Morse Lounge on Friday in celebration of the Lunar New Year, lasting from 9-11 p.m.

Crystal Chen-Goodspeed, junior and treasurer of the AAA, said the event will give students the chance to compete for tickets and enter into the raffle for prizes, which include a Kindle and Beats by Dre headphones.

"There is free reign to play any game [visitors] want ... There will be Asian-themed goodies and

red envelopes during the course of the event to really convey the many messages of Lunar New Year," Chen said. "At the end of the night, everyone will submit their raffle tickets and drawing will commence to distribute prizes."

Khanh Mai, junior and vice president of AAA, said the games will incorporate a range of meanings and traditions.

"Some of the games are seen as traditional to the respective culture, such as bau cua of Vietnam and mahjong of China. Others are more prototypical of casinos, like blackjack and poker," Mai said.

"It is like your normal casino night with an Asian flair," Chen-Goodspeed said.

According to Chen-Goodspeed, gambling and games are traditional celebrations of the Lunar New Year.

"A big part of the holiday is large family gatherings and gambling. It is believed that if you have good luck in gambling during the celebration, then you will have good luck for the remainder of the year," Chen-Goodspeed said.

Mai said this event is important because it allows students to maintain their Lunar New Year traditions even while away from home.

"It's important for ND students to celebrate partly because it may be a glimpse of home-away-from-home for them," Mai said. "I know that my first time away from

home during Lunar New Year was especially rough; I would equate it with not being home for Christmas."

The AAA — who partnered with the Vietnamese Student Association, Korean Student Association, Taiwanese Student Association, Chinese Culture Society and Japan Club, as well as the multicultural commissioners from Siegfried, Pasquerilla West, McGlenn, Carroll and Breen-Phillips for the event — encourages all students to attend, even if they have never celebrated in the past.

"It's always insightful to learn about different cultures and their own special way of seeing and celebrating the world," Mai said.

Although celebrations of Lunar New Year vary around the world, the AAA hopes their casino night will encompass the core tradition of the holiday, Mai said.

"Families tend to gather in the days preceding Lunar New Year to indulge in family time and begin festivities; [Casino Night] plans to do the same. It's time for us to spend with one another, and amidst the fun, think back on the year past and look forward to the future," Mai said.

The entrance fee of \$5 at the door gives each student 15 tickets. Additional tickets can be purchased if needed.

Contact Alyssa Lyon at alyon@nd.edu

Disease

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

collaborations."

The events aims to bring the community together, Rizk said, to allow patients, families and everyone involved to come together and share their unique perspectives.

"A lot of researchers at Notre Dame work on rare diseases," he said. "This is a big focus, and it really comes from the Catholic mission of the University of helping those that are in need or that maybe have been marginalized by the medical industry or the pharmaceutical industry."

Although there are roughly 7,000 rare diseases, Rizk said they affect approximately 30 million Americans, which translates statistically to about one in ten people.

"Each rare disease poses its own different challenge and it takes on a different toll, but the main challenge is the diagnosis because a lot of doctors have not seen these diseases before," he said.

It is critical for all of those involved to learn from one another and celebrate everyone's point of view, Rizk said. This is achieved through the use of open forums and panel discussions dedicated to different themes, such as sibling relations.

"We actually will have a presentation from a rare disease patient that is a student here at Notre Dame," Calhoun said. "Along with that, we will then engage siblings who have brothers or sisters that have a rare disease, and share their experiences and engage in conversations about some of their ideas of caregiving."

This undergraduate participation is just one example of all the work Notre Dame students have dedicated to making Rare Disease Day a success, Rizk said.

"They're also involved in developing a database for rare disease patients

because there's a huge need for medical information on rare disease patients," he said. "There are usually just a handful, and we just want to see what's common, what's uncommon."

The data collection for the data is currently taking place regionally with plans to eventually expand nationally, Rizk said, adding that student involvement reaches a more personal level as well.

"They're also involved in telling their own stories and their experiences with rare diseases, whether it would be their own or a sibling or a family member," he said.

Kasturi Haldar, director of the Center for Rare & Neglected Diseases, created the celebration, which originally began in 2010 as a meal for students in a biology course. Although the event was originally closed to the public, faculty involvement and activity expansion grew until it was decided to make the event open to students and the community at large.

"Over the years, it's really attracted patient families across the Midwest," Haldar said.

With approximately 80 to 100 attendees at each event, Calhoun said people are travelling from as far as Pennsylvania and Seattle to attend the meeting this year.

"It's a great platform for our students to interact with the broader rare disease community," Haldar said. "You really don't learn about the diseases as well as if you directly interact with patients, and rare disease patients are usually very willing to bring awareness to the rare diseases that they suffer from because they effect a small number of people ... and they're not really well known or understood."

Online registration for the Rare Disease Day Celebration ends Thursday, but Calhoun said walk-ins are also welcome to attend the event.

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Tillman

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

in contemporary America" and as "a writer's writer ... most appreciated by those who have put pen to paper [and can] appreciate the seemingly effortless ease with which Lynne Tillman makes language do things it never has before."

Tillman said she "had always wanted to be a writer, from the age of 8, and started working hard on a couple of shorter works and giving reading around New York City and being published in smaller magazines."

Tillman's art criticism is

noted for its unique framing within fiction, narrated by "Madame Realism."

"I started doing unusual — I think it's probably unique — work in the art world in that I did not write traditional art criticism, but used a character called 'Madame Realism' to comment on shows or exhibitions," Tillman said. "I hadn't trained as an artist or art critic ... but I think in the face of all the things you don't know, it's not a bad idea to remain insecure."

Her creative work, which includes novels, essays and short story collections, has been said to "bend narrative writing into experimental realms."

"I believe that when you're writing from a point of view, your character will have a style. So I try to find different ways of approaching things ... I'm interested in making writing that convinces me as I'm working on it that I should keep going," she said.

At the reading, Tillman first read an excerpt from her first novel "Haunted Houses" (1987), followed by a piece from the 1991 novel "Motion Sickness," and finally, she shared from her most recent work, "American Genius, A Comedy" (2006).

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Health

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

dressing, going to the bathroom, simple tasks such as showering, brushing their teeth," Wilson said.

Janice Heffernan, another senior and nursing major who ventured to Uganda, described her experience learning nursing technicalities.

"When I was at the clinic, I spent most of my time in the laboratory. Before coming to Kyarosozi, I had basic knowledge of laboratory skills and tests, but I had never really practiced them in a clinical setting," Heffernan said. "Thankfully, one of the laboratory technicians was a wonderful teacher. She was patient, kind and explained every test to me.

"By the second week, I was comfortable performing rapid HIV and malaria tests on my own, which are the two most common tests we performed at the clinic," she said. "During my stay in Uganda, I was always trying and learning new things, and the clinic was no exception. I was always amazed with how much they could do with such limited resources."

While medical practices were an important and critical aspect of the trip, the students also held value in becoming mentors

and friends with the people of Uganda.

Senior and nursing major Julia Brehl talked about how the students wanted to make a positive impact in the everyday lives and community of the people there.

"We gave them suggestions [in regards to] how they could use their resources to the best of their ability and improve the overall health of their students," Brehl said. "We talked about the way the food is prepared, where it's prepared in relation to the classrooms, how close the drinking water was to the school [and] how they disposed of garbage."

Brehl also shared details about the students' day-trips to villages to give vaccinations far from the clinics.

"The closest thing we have to a birth certificate is that vaccination card," Brehl said. "It says what they had when they were born and what vaccinations they have already received."

Students from Goshen College also learned more about themselves and the world through their experiences and interactions with the medical staff and locals of the Nepal's countryside.

Ashika Thanju, a nursing student at Goshen College, introduced the trip to Nepal.

Olivia Ressler, another Goshen College student who

participated in the trip, describes how the group overcame the language.

"During our time in Nepal, we were each paired up with two or three nursing students from there and we actually called them 'diddi,' which means older sister," Ressler said.

"Communication was definitely one of the most challenging things I experienced on this trip ... I was relying a lot more on gestures and context clues and relying heavily on just asking the students," she said.

Thanju said she was excited to be able to reconnect with her family and her culture throughout the duration of the trip.

"Although I am from Nepal, going back after three years was also a culture shock for me, but I'm really glad we [the nursing students] got to have that experience together," Thanju said.

"I really hope in the future that I'll have more of that compassion when I'm caring for and communicating with these people and just realizing that being there, spending that time, even though it's really hard, it's challenging, it's embarrassing sometimes, it's worth bringing that smile to their face and taking that extra minute to just be there for them," Ressler said.

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Revue

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

realized that the comedy was landing more than the variety," Valenti said.

For many years, the Revue took place on Saint Mary's campus, however in 2011, the College decided not to renew the event, according to Hoyt.

"We moved to Stepan four years ago, and now we hold and fund an entire stage production, which is supported in a large part by Keenan alumni," Hoyt said.

Valenti said the hall turned largely to alumni to fund the Revue, which this year had expenses totaling roughly \$23,000.

"This year it's a little bit more expensive, but not a significant amount for us that we're worried about it. The lighting itself is the bulk of the cost," Valenti said. "... It's pretty much all through hall alumni, we get some through Hall President's Council, and we get some funding through SAO."

The production represents about four months' worth of work and about half of the dorm is involved, Conaghan said.

"We've had more participation in the odd roles — ushers, stage crew, a lot of people are really involved in that. The writing and the creative side have still been relatively concentrated to

the head writers and the staff," Conaghan said.

Hoyt noted the people on stage during the Revue represent only about one-third of all those involved in the production.

According to Hoyt, tickets to this year's Revue sold out in record time largely due to the success of last year's production.

"We sold out this year — 3,900 tickets — in 40 minutes, well in a way, because tickets are free," Hoyt said. "So half the student body may see this, it has a strong presence on campus."

Valenti said the very nature of a stage production makes the Revue stand out from other dorm events.

"You end up finding kids who normally slip through the cracks, who just kick ass in the show," Valenti said. "People just come out, and they blow you out of the water. There are a couple of guys on stage playing in the band who you would not have known they were these incredible musicians."

"And a lot of times in the dorms, it's all baskets, with all sports and the guy stuff. You don't really see people jamming ... it's a way to see kids find their own. It's really cool, and it's a really rewarding part of leading the Revue."

Contact Margaret Hynds at mhynds@nd.edu

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RECOGNIZE EXCELLENCE

Nominations are sought for two awards that recognize excellence in teaching and advising.

Dockweiler Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Advising

Student, faculty, and staff nominations are sought to identify faculty or professional staff members whose involvement with undergraduates inspires students to reach their academic and career goals. Nominees may be members of the academic advising and career counseling staffs or members of the faculty and staff who:

- Facilitate learning outside the classroom
- Serve as mentors or role models
- Encourage student participation in fellowships, internships, undergraduate research, and postgraduate opportunities
- Cultivate relationships with organizations that recruit Notre Dame graduates

Nominations due by Wednesday, February 25. Three faculty or staff will be chosen.

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- Foster students' ability to express themselves effectively within the discipline

Nominations due by Wednesday, February 25. Up to 20 recipients will be selected.

Submit online nominations at provostawards.nd.edu.

INSIDE COLUMN

Pushing frontiers

Emmet Farnan
Photographer

Throughout human history, brave explorers have answered the call to venture into the unknown, risking life and limb to expand humans' interaction with the world around us. Everyone remembers Christopher Columbus, who is credited with discovering the "New World" in 1492, as well as Lewis and Clark who made the perilous journey to the Pacific in 1804. Then, in 1953, Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay became the first people to successfully summit Mount Everest. After reaching coastlines all across the world and reaching the highest point on Earth, some began to wonder what could be next. That next frontier was space.

In 1962, fueled by the arms race of the Cold War, President John F. Kennedy stated, "We choose to go to the moon in this decade," setting the wheels in motion for unprecedented exploration of human limitation. July 21, 1969, Neil Armstrong took "one giant leap for mankind," becoming the first human to step foot on another celestial body.

The world looked on as we made this first step in venturing away from the pale blue dot that we call home. But what progress has been made in the past 45 years? As far as human exploration: not much. There hasn't even been a man back on the moon since Apollo 17 in 1972.

But all hope is not lost. In the past few years, the face of space exploration has been renewed with the success of companies like SpaceX that see commercial spaceflight as the next step in human exploration. This rebirth has spurred on the true potential for a human mission to our planetary neighbor, Mars. Despite facing a miniscule budget, NASA is continuing work on missions that hope to send men to asteroids and even Mars by the 2030s, although we may not even need to wait that long. The Mars One mission, a Dutch based mission, is working fervently toward getting the first crew onto Mars to establish a human settlement by 2025 and then sending another crew every two years to build on the settlement.

It is inevitable. People will continue to push frontiers and this will certainly lead to a man on Mars by the time we are our parents' age. What an amazing thought that is. When the first human steps onto the red planet, we will have reached an amazing point in our history: We can officially be classified as an interplanetary species, a reclassification that will mark a new era in human history. It will be an unbelievable feeling to be a human when this day comes. The only question now is: "When will we get there and who will be Mars's Christopher Columbus?"

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

On blind faith

Christopher Damian
Ideas of a University

Ignorant people take things by blind faith. At least, this is the belief of our age, the age which calls itself the "enlightened age." In an age of technological progress and scientific advancement, the obvious thing to do with "blind faith" is to reject it as a feature of darker times, of primitive man or of tyrannical religion. That being said, I've found that Catholicism does involve quite a bit of "blind following." Catholics are, for the most part "blind followers," who take up doctrines that they don't understand and accept them blindly. Catholics, in other words, are just like everyone else.

Most (probably all) people live and breathe and act and argue out of a set of assumptions that they neither fully understand nor fully choose. They take up what has been given them by their parents, their teachers, their professors, their legislators, their priests and pastors, their dieticians and doctors, their newspapers and newscasters, their bosses and bankers. They live by the words and ideas that are given throughout the day. They usually care little that there are teachers who have cheated, professors who have been mistaken, legislators who have loved injustice, religious leaders who have been hypocrites, health professionals who have been obese, newsmen who have misquoted, researchers who have misreported, bosses who have mismanaged and bankers who have stolen. Most people simply assume that various authorities are what they claim they are. They do not take up the task of examining everything that is said and suggested.

To desire to prove (and to feel the need to prove) every doctrine by which one is supposed to live one's life is an impossible desire for a human being. We have neither the time nor the resources to examine the truth-value of every statement and belief. So we simply take up what is given us from those whom we have come to trust. Some do this more happily than others, and often the happiness of each is in proportion to the trust of each.

The biggest question is: from whence do we take our assumptions? Wherein lies an authority with the right assumptions?

This doesn't mean that these assumptions can't or shouldn't be explained or grappled with or debated against, but it does mean that for most of our lives,

whether we consider ourselves religious or not, we live by a kind of blind trust. The question is what we put our trust in. In a certain sense, the secular left is just as much a religion as the religious right, though neither of these are Catholicism. None of these religions ask that we have a full understanding of their doctrines, and they certainly don't require active and constant thought on the part of believers, if by "active and constant thought" is meant active and constant comprehension and scrutiny. This requirement would be quite unfair to most ordinary people, who simply don't have time for it.

I once found it surprising that Notre Dame students, in particular, feel that part of being a "good Catholic" is spending a good amount of time questioning the truth of Catholicism. It seems to me to be a rather aristocratic view, a view of those who have been given ample leisure time but who are out of touch with the ordinary lives of ordinary people. Ordinary people must live by faith, because they have families to take care of and bills to pay. Certainly Catholicism encourages individual thought, but it doesn't insist upon it. It wouldn't want to place unfair burdens on people who don't have the scholarships or the trust funds to spend hours and days reading and reflecting.

But even the educated live by a blind trust and obedience. Man is only educated by trust, whether this trust reside in Scripture or a priest or the catechism or a biology textbook or a history professor or the American Psychological Association. We have no proof of our parentage, but most have little (if any) suspicion of our biological origins. We simply live as though our parents are our parents, simply because our parents told us so.

To live by proof is not to live at all. To live is to live by trust.

We live in proportion to our trust. We believe in proportion to our trust. Lack of trust always tends to a lack of belief, for lack of trust is little more than unbelief. This is why lack of religion always tends to skepticism. So the question for a man who wishes to live and to believe is: Wherein do we place our trust?

Christopher Damian graduated from Notre Dame in 2013. He is currently pursuing a J.D. and an M.A. in Catholic Studies at the University of St. Thomas. He can be contacted through his blog at universityideas.wordpress.com

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

EDITORIAL CARTOON



Valentine's Day by major

Matt Miklavic
The Maine Idea

Valentine's Day.

Oh, yay.

Yet again it is upon us, Notre Dame. Yet another night of sky-high expectations and North-Korean-rocket-launch-like failures; a night that promises "Love Actually" and delivers "Romeo and Juliet." And so, as you set out on Thursday in pursuit of being in that 1 percent of Disney fairytales, here's a little look at how the rest of us 99 percent will be faring come Saturday, major by major.

Electrical Engineering: Despite claims of an undeniable spark between the two, not even his overt professing of love can topple the date's resistance to their future together. The love letter with all the romanticism you'd expect from an engineer with a tenuous grasp on English didn't help, either.

Economics: In what observers will later refer to as a "Full Havana," has romantic advances wholly embargoed by potential date.

Music: Recovering from last year's "Scotty Doesn't Know" fiasco, wins over date with serenade. Because seriously, if there's one thing Frosh-O taught me, it's that serenades never fail. It turns out, however, that it's a wee bit more awkward when it's just you singing a classic like Justin Bieber's "Baby" rather than 80 sweaty freshmen.

Film, Television and Theater: Decides to stick to what's comfortable and opts for dinner and a movie. Turns out that "50 Shades of Grey" is anything but comfortable.

Theology: Was the FTT major's date. Makes it through movie before making a beeline to finally jumping to the seminary.

Pre-Med: Spends evening complaining about how their classes are "so much tougher" than everyone else's. Date realizes why some people turn to drugs.

Education: This was going to be a "future high school health teacher/hands-on learner" joke, but then I remembered my mom reads my column.

Finance: Realizing her date is a troubled asset, attempts hostile takeover of AAA-rated guy at the

next table over.

Russian: "I fell for you harder than the ruble," wins over Moscow exchange student.

International Economics: Swept off feet by accent-toting exchange student. There's a "stimulate the economy" joke here somewhere. I'll let you find it.

Masters in Business Administration: Takes date for a walk down memory lane to undergrad Valentine's Days. Enjoys dinner at NDH followed by a dorm party, complete with a chat with the rector the next morning about parietals.

Mechanical Engineering: Drinks too much wine to celebrate seeing a woman. Experiences mechanical failure later that night.

Law: Files a motion for a candle-lit dinner. Prospective date files for an injunction.

Arabic: Sweet talks prospective date with ancient poem. College Republicans call Homeland Security.

Applied Math: It turns out that math doesn't really apply to love.

Aerospace Engineering: Guys spend Valentine's Day wondering why they're in a major where only five out of the 30 students are girls, while the girls question how they're single. Love, apparently, is not rocket science.

Irish Studies: Inadvertently gets a jumpstart on the next generation of their big Irish-Catholic family.

Journalism: Takes a page out of Brian Williams' book and impresses date with incredible stories that didn't actually happen. Plan predictably backfires, resulting in a full suspension with "no benefits."

Biology: Asks girl to study anatomy with him on Saturday night. Date frustrated he actually meant study.

Chemistry: Love potion accidentally used by roommate as a chaser. Roommate then insists on third-wheeling to dinner.

Entrepreneurship: Tries to create relationship consulting start-up. Venture capital firms balk, noting "hip-hop night" doesn't qualify as institutional expertise.

Philosophy: "What is love?" is left unanswered

for yet another year.

English: Turns out that "May I compare thee to a night at Feve?" is a shockingly successful pickup line.

Chinese: In the most disastrous move for Sino-American relations since MacArthur pushed towards the Yalu, takes Beijing native to Golden Dragon, becoming the first ever sit-in customers of Golden Dragon.

Gender Studies: Feels like traitor to the major after resorting to Tinder for date, bowing once more to the patriarchy of society.

Nursing: Significantly less interested in date upon date's mention of philosophy thesis as nursing major calculates dismal earnings potential.

Anthropology: Too busy analyzing the historical roots of human comedy at the Revue to notice date escaping with shirtless Keenan performers.

Medieval Studies: Advertises major outside of South Bend theater, hoping to convince FTT majors and fellow "50 Shades of Grey" viewers to cling to the days of the medieval role of women. Sets up next to the Indiana GOP table, which happens to be advocating the same.

Notre Dame Administrator: Lands date with coworker in Registrar's Office after telling hilarious joke about how parietals is just about building community.

Marketing: In pursuit of a date, tries out some of the new online marketing strategies she's read about. Starts regretting it once South Bend's most eligible 50-year-old bachelors respond to her ad on Craigslist.

Air Force ROTC: Date goes to the bathroom before pulling an Amelia Earhart and never returning.

Political Science: Gets real excited for first Valentine's Day with significant other, then gets dumped the night before after declaring "pro-land mine" views. Spends 22nd consecutive Valentine's Day single.

Matt Miklavic is a junior political science and finance major from Cape Elizabeth, Maine. He can be reached at mmiklavi@nd.edu

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Theology: more life-changing than infuriating

When I entered Notre Dame as a freshman, I was pretty clueless. I learned my freshman year that one of the things I was most clueless about was my Catholic faith, which I had learned my whole life through the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine program and regular church attendance.

My freshman (required) theology class was my Waterloo. Gone were the easy morals and superficial lessons of the Bible stories I had learned about my whole life. Instead, we delved into the heart of the Old Testament, reading not just the "greatest hits," but the whole narrative, grappling with the great questions. What does it mean for God to be God? And, what does it mean for us to be human? How do we understand our identity as children of God? For what purpose do we even exist?

I hated that theology class. Our small seminar used to meet in DeBartolo before class, just to talk about how awful it was. It was (ironically, along with my second required theology) one of the lowest grades I received at Notre Dame. And yet, now almost 15 years later, the lessons I learned in that class still stick with me.

In the study of theology, I found something new and compelling in my faith, which I had been learning about for 18 years, something intellectually demanding and personally challenging. Though my required theology classes were difficult for me, they also resonated strongly, and from that initial encounter (which would never have occurred without a University requirement), I was inspired to go on retreats, become more involved in campus ministry, eventually declare a theology minor and choose the untrodden path among my fellow accounting majors and begin to work full-time in church ministry after graduation. It is not hyperbole to say that my life was changed.

And so, it is deeply disturbing for me to hear that the core curriculum committee is considering changing, reducing, or eliminating the theology requirement. Although it is very worthwhile to study "Catholic things" (the sociology of religion, Dante's *Inferno*, the history of the Catholic Church), these courses cannot and should not replace the encounter with the divine, with Truth and with the big questions of life that occurs in the study of

theology. I am sad that future students will not have the opportunity to (unwillingly) have that encounter. It is an encounter that inspires conversation and contemplation far beyond the classroom.

One of my fondest memories of college is sitting in the hallway of my dorm late into the evening with some friends (including my non-Catholic roommate) discussing points of faith and life — things we were learning in theology class — and our questions and doubts. Those were important conversations. They helped to shape me into the person I am today. They are the conversations that should come out of a Catholic university and out of a liberal arts education. They are conversations that have always been had in the Notre Dame family.

President Jenkins, Provost Burish and Core Curriculum Committee: please do not silence those conversations.

Kara Alworth O'Malley
ND '04, MA '06
Feb. 11



'Better Call Saul' begins promisingly

By **ADAM RAMOS**
Scene Writer

Anyone lucky enough to witness Vince Gilligan's television mastery of "Breaking Bad" may have mixed feelings about the startup of Gilligan's new show, "Better Call Saul." On one hand, my inner self is ecstatic to gobble down anything Gilligan. On the other hand, the thought of a mediocre spin-off soiling the memory of my thrill ride through the five ground breaking seasons of "Breaking Bad" is painful to say the least. Thankfully, after the premiere of the show's first two episodes Sunday and Monday night, we may not have much to worry about.

"Better Call Saul" surrounds Saul Goodman, the intrinsically shady attorney of Walter White. Bob Odenkirk enters Gilligan's chaotic world once again to star as the down-on-his-luck, but lovable, attorney. The series is defined as spin-off, prequel and sequel to "Breaking Bad," as it will overlap with much of its predecessor.

Odenkirk has already ran into some other "Breaking Bad" cast mates in the show, including Jonathan Banks as the forceful Mike Ehrmantraut and the terrifyingly insane "Tuco Salamanca" as played by Raymond Cruz. The possibility of more familiar faces appearing as the show progresses is certainly appealing.

The very first episode, appropriately titled "Uno," begins where "Breaking Bad" left off, with a black-and-white overview of Saul's bleak life after his identity change. The newly-mustached Saul miserably scrapes by at a local Cinnabon, desperately clinging on to his past life through an old VHS tape of his signature cheesy commercials. The opening scene sets a clear tone for the show: Saul is no longer a one-dimensional character.

Gilligan then flashes back to a young struggling Goodman, or rather Jimmy McGill, as he has yet to accept the Saul Goodman moniker. The first episode raises as many questions as it answers about McGill's background as well as adamantly pushing McGill's financially troubled state. The episode ends with a hair-pulling cliffhanger so signature of "Breaking Bad." With an astounding 6.9 million viewers on the premiere episode, "Better Call Saul" is already making waves, and it's deserved. Critics have been chiming in, assuring that Gilligan's new show will stand on its own as the impressive spin-off it is.

The second episode of the series, "Mijo," wastes no time, transitioning right into action as McGill finds himself in an extremely tense and entertaining position. Forced to talk his way out of certain death, McGill uses his gift with words at the hands of a familiar "Breaking Bad" drug lord, Tuco Salamanca.

"You have got a mouth on you" echoes Tuco as Saul's gift with rhetoric already establishes itself as a main staple for the new show. Many have wondered if Saul Goodman is a complex enough character to carry the show the way Bryan Cranston's Walter White carried "Breaking Bad." The second episode confirms Odenkirk has the potential. Where White was resourceful, ingenious and cunning, Goodman is persuasive with almost hypnotic rhetoric. Coupled with Gilligan's top-level writing and producing, Odenkirk will likely generate another impressive series.

"Better Call Saul" will not simply be a "Breaking Bad" 2.0. Where Cranston brought a very serious air to his show, Odenkirk brings a much more flippant and even funny aspect to his. "Better Call Saul" already seems to be a bit less emotionally draining, and to be a bit more watchable than its predecessor. Furthermore, the masterful cinematography, which cemented "Breaking Bad" as a television classic, is already extremely prevalent in the new show.

Don't be afraid to check out "Better Call Saul" Monday nights at 10 p.m. on AMC. I mean, it is Vince Gilligan we are talking about after all.

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FEAR OF REVISION: HARPER LEE'S 'GO SET A WATCHMAN'

Caelin Miltko
Scene Writer

If you have any interest in the book industry at all, you've probably heard that Harper Lee is publishing a new book. Yes, the great Harper Lee, perhaps the greatest "one-hit wonder" of the American literary canon, the almighty authoress of "To Kill A Mockingbird," is publishing a "sequel," 55 years after her Pulitzer Prize-winning novel.

The reaction to this announcement is not the same sort of vague excitement coupled with confusion that greeted J.K. Rowling when she followed up Harry Potter with the not nearly as compelling "Casual Vacancy." It's certainly not the overwhelming hysteria half-expected for the next Game of Thrones, and it's definitely not the annoyance felt when Sara Shepherd didn't stop writing her "Pretty Little Liars" series after the fourth book. It's not even the vague trepidation I certainly had when Christopher Paolini expanded his trilogy of "Eragon" to a quartet.

No, Harper Lee's announcement (or, rather, her lawyer's announcement) was greeted with some excitement, but primarily with confusion, outrage and, perhaps, just a little fear.

A lot of this negative press can be traced to a couple of issues. First, Harper Lee has been notoriously shy of the public limelight since the media frenzy that greeted the publication of "To Kill A Mockingbird." She, seemingly, abhors journalism and allowed her sister to act as her mouthpiece for most of her life. Like J.D. Salinger, she had no interest in being a media magnet like J.K. Rowling.

After her sister died, she got a new lawyer, Tonja Carter. Carter, Lee's agent and her publishing company

stand to make millions off of this "sequel." Let's be honest, there's very few of us who aren't at least a tiny bit curious to see what Scout got up to in her latter years.

Second, Lee has lived in an assisted living facility since 2007 after suffering a debilitating stroke. There is some concern that her living situation makes it impossible for her to control her own destiny and that her agents are taking advantage. Her previous shyness seems to support this idea.

Third, it seems odd that this book would be published now. "Go Set a Watchman" was actually written before "To Kill A Mockingbird" and, yet, for some reason, it was never published before. There doesn't seem to be any catalyst for this sudden change of heart and people are, rightfully, suspicious.

Fourth, after the debacle last year with Marja Mills' "unauthorized" biography of Harper Lee, it seems strange that Lee would choose to take the spotlight. After all, we've only recently been reminded of how very little she wants to talk to the media.

But all of these reasons, as rational as they may seem, don't cover all of the issues to which I think people are reacting. The issue is, I think, that deep down in all of our hearts, we know that sequels are never as good as the original.

We know that "To Kill A Mockingbird" was a once-in-a-lifetime type of book and that there's no way for Harper Lee to follow it up. It can only muck up whatever ending we've given Scout ourselves in the years we've loved and read "To Kill A Mockingbird."

It is this fear, I think, that drives our negative reactions to Lee's announcements.

Certainly, the concerns over her own ability to make this decision are very real and I think that people have presented some legitimate reasons to hold back the publishing for the moment.

But I think deeper than this are worries that Harper Lee could never measure up to the standard she set herself. And, to be honest, we don't really want her to try.

"To Kill A Mockingbird" is the type of novel that shapes a generation. It embodied many of the racial injustices that pervaded an entire way of life in America. It's been called the "Uncle Tom's Cabin" of its time and there's a reason Harriet Beecher Stowe isn't known for anything else.

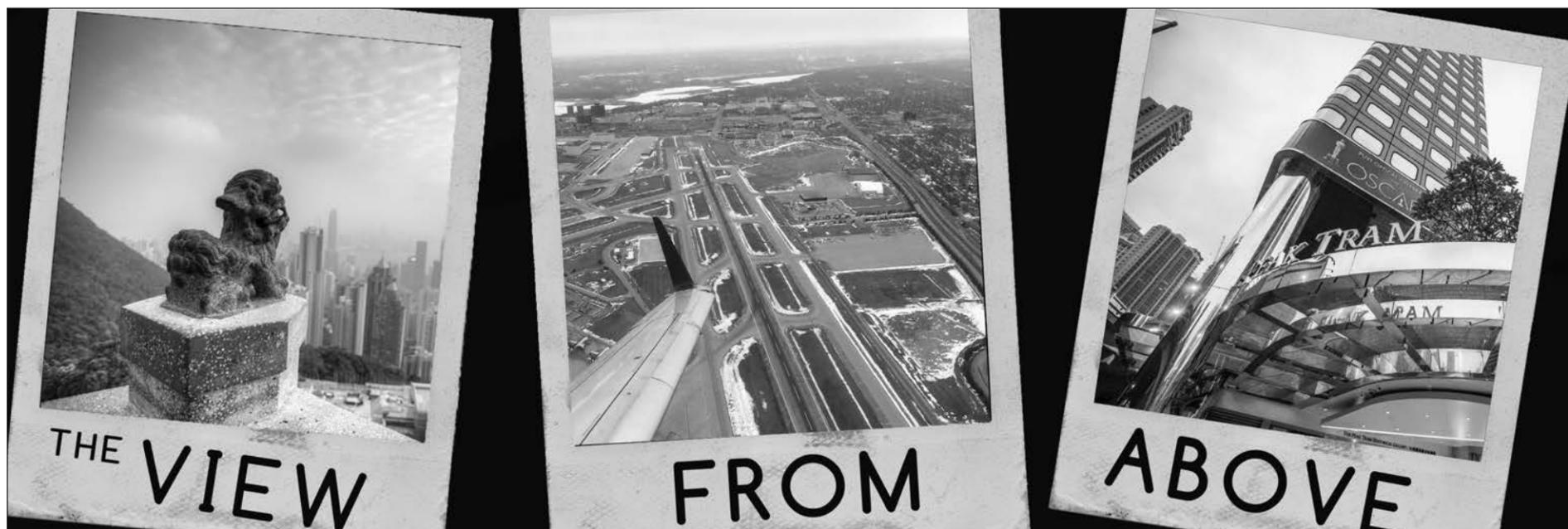
For years, we've treated Lee's book as we treat classics like "Romeo and Juliet" or "The Great Gatsby." We've read it, loved it and analyzed it — we've made our relationships with the characters and the story line and we've made our peace with it. And we've done so without any interference from the author.

Lee is not J.K. Rowling telling us retroactively that Hermione and Ron shouldn't be together; she's not Sara Shepherd dragging out her novels; she's certainly not Stephanie Meyer beginning the same novel from a new perspective and throwing a fit when it gets leaked. She's been silent, and we've reveled in that. We treated her as we treat all dead authors, like a silent ghostly authority who can say whatever we want them to and who will never come back to correct us.

"Go Set a Watchmen" threatens to undo all of that. It's the threatening voice of Harper Lee coming back to tell us how wrong we all were and I don't think we're prepared for that.

As we've learned from all of J.K. Rowling's retroactive facts and revisions, there's nothing quite like the author's voice to ruin the head canon we made for ourselves.

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



By **KEVIN SONG**
Assistant Managing Editor

Hi, my name is Kevin, and I'm a travel addict. Most people hate being shoved into a claustrophobic metal tube, eating mushy, unflavored food and breathing dry, thin air. I, on the other hand, love it.

This weekend, I took advantage of a cheap fare by taking a trip around the world to Hong Kong; I sat on 10 flights for a total of over 40 hours of flight time. Along the way, I visited three countries and five states and flew on six different types of aircraft. It was the first time I'd ever been to Hong Kong, and here's what I learned:

Luckily for me, I grew up in a rather sheltered environment and was deprived of the glorious show everyone knows as "Friends." I cast aside Delta's in-flight entertainment, and instead I put the live map up on my seat-back monitor and indulged in more than four seasons of Jennifer Aniston and friends' escapades, following Ross as he went through three divorces. So, if you're ever wondering what to do on your next transpacific flight, simply don't watch any shows when you're a kid.

On the ground in Hong Kong, I took the super-fast Airport Express train (why can't America have good rail transit?) to the island, and took in the night view of Victoria Harbour on the way to the Grand Hyatt Hong Kong, known as one of the best hotels in Asia, for a surprisingly cheap room service dinner and a few hours of shut-eye.

Early the next morning, I took a cab — for \$3! — to the Peak Tram, for the famous, tourist-heavy 7-minute ride up an exceptionally steep incline to Victoria Peak as the sun rose over the mountains of Hong Kong Island, revealing the smoggy city below.

After returning from the peak, I spent some time walking around the Central district, oddly devoid of people at that ungodly hour on a Saturday morning.

But, no trip would be complete without food, and I hopped in the rapidly-growing line for the scrumptious dim sum at the world's cheapest Michelin Star restaurant, Tim Ho Wan. I dined on flaky "char siu bao" — incredible BBQ pork buns — and incredibly tasty shrimp dumplings. After paying my \$5 tab, I headed off back to the airport.

Immigration went smoothly, and I was able to enjoy a last gratifying bowl of ramen in the Virgin Atlantic Clubhouse before boarding my flight back to the U.S. aboard a full Airbus A330.

Throughout the trip, I learned that the joys of traveling aren't just from the sights that you see and the food that you eat but also from the people that you meet. I was fortunate enough to meet many incredible people on my trip around the world, from the cab driver in Hong Kong who told me about her kids in high school who dreamed of attending college in the United States to the hotel shuttle driver in Toronto who reminisced about his family and friends back in Manila when I told him I'd just returned from Asia.

To me, traveling is an escape from the hustle and bustle of everyday life, and it's always a joy meeting new people and trying different cuisines. It's a wonderful thing being able to pop up on the other side of the world and totally worth a sore behind from sitting in an uncomfortable seat for hours on end.

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WEEKEND AT A GLANCE

THURSDAY



What: Student Band Night featuring Mouse Child and Steadfast
When: 10:00 p.m.
Where: Legends
How Much: Free

Enjoy a night of free music performed by your fellow students. Mouse Child and Steadfast are set to perform and join Legends after for a Pinterest: Be My Valentine party right afterward.

FRIDAY



What: Oscar Nominated Short Film Series
When: 6:30 p.m., 9:00 p.m.
Where: DPAC
How Much: \$4 for students, \$7

Get ready for the Oscars by seeing all the short films that you've missed in the last year. Animated shorts are 6:30 p.m. and live action shorts at 9:00 p.m. Come out to both and have an informed opinion on which ones you think should win (and which ones you don't think should have made the list).

SATURDAY



What: "Almost Maine"
When: 4:00 p.m.
Where: Washington Hall Lab Theater
How Much: \$5

Celebrate Valentine's Day by watching a "Love, Actually" style play featuring everyone's favorite feeling: love. Put on by the Student Players, "Almost Maine" is a series of nine vignette scenes that explore all the different facets of this complicated emotion. It's the perfect place to spend your Valentine's Day afternoon.



Weekly Watch is a series in which a scene writer picks a movie or show available on instant streaming service, then writes a review.

Indulge your love of vampires with "True Blood" on Amazon Instant Video. Based on the Sookie Stackhouse series, "True Blood" follows human waitress Sookie as she navigates romantic entanglements with vampires, werewolves and sprites. Watch a couple episodes (or a couple seasons) and check back Monday for Alexandra Lowry's review!

SPORTSAUTHORITY

Taking pleasure in others' pain

Alex Carson
Sports Writer

Schadenfreude.

Could I have the language of origin? German.

Definition? A feeling of enjoyment that comes from seeing or hearing about the troubles of other people.

Could you use it in a sentence? Alex Carson had a feeling of schadenfreude upon hearing that his favorite soccer team's manager had been fired.

In a general sense, schadenfreude is a funny thing. The term comes from the German words for "damage" and "joy" which has a bit of an awkward correlation in the first place. I mean, sure, when your ex-girlfriend gets dumped by her new guy, you might be a little happy about it, but to have a word for that? It's a little peculiar.

But this, of course, is a Sports Authority column, so let's get back to the sports.

There are two soccer teams in Europe that I root for — Aston Villa in England's Premier League and Hertha Berlin in Germany's Bundesliga.

Both have had incredibly disappointing seasons. Granted, disappointment as a sports fan is nothing new to me, but as time wore on, it was clear to everyone that both clubs needed to make a change.

Last Wednesday, Hertha Berlin lost in a lifeless performance that dropped it into relegation spots for the first time all year. The next morning, I woke up to the news that the club had gotten rid of manager Jos Luhukay. It was news that put me in a good mood for the rest of the day, and it carried into the weekend when the club won its first game without him in charge 2-0.

Then Tuesday, Aston Villa lost in a lifeless performance that dropped it into the relegation places for the first time all year. Yesterday, I saw the news that the club had sacked its manager, Paul Lambert.

And I can't wipe the smile off my face.

It's really weird in a way. I've never met Luhukay or Lambert and fundamentally, they've never done anything to me. They gave me some good sporting memories — Luhukay won Hertha promotion a couple of years ago

while Lambert led a run to the semifinal of England's League Cup — and put everything they had into the clubs they were in charge of.

But at the same time, their teams had driven me to the brink of hating soccer.

At the end of the day though, I'm left sitting here celebrating that a couple of men lost their jobs this week. Sure, they'll each probably land on their feet somewhere at a different team, but it's still a weird thought to have cross the mind.

When the jobs report comes out every month, I'd like to think that almost nobody celebrates if unemployment has risen. As far as I know, there won't be parties when the local high school has to lay off 10 teachers.

But the schadenfreude we take in coaches being fired is a perfect example of the level to which sports have the ability to transcend, really who we are.

And this goes well past coaches being fired. I'm a Cleveland sports fan. In 2011, I got tons of joy from seeing the Heat defeated in the NBA Finals.

Or let's go to college football, a great place to see our love of sports schadenfreude play out with 21-year-old student-athletes. It's probably because of the immense passion that we as a society direct towards college football, but it's my favorite genre of schadenfreude out there.

I mean, don't even try and pretend that you don't laugh every time an Alabama fraternity guy is on ESPN — dressed in his Sunday finest, no less — bawling his eyes out because his beloved Crimson Tide might actually lose a football game. Or as Notre Dame fans, don't say you haven't taken at least a few minutes to laugh at the misfortunes of that school in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

Sports do a lot of irrational things to us. But when it makes us take pleasure in the failures of others? That's maybe my favorite one.

So ... it's s-c-h-a-d-e-n-f-r-e-u-d-e. Schadenfreude.

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

LITTLE LEAGUE BASEBALL

Little League team stripped of championship

Associated Press

CHICAGO — A Little League team that captured the attention of the nation and the hearts of its hometown was stripped of its national title Wednesday after an investigation revealed that team officials had falsified boundaries so they could add ineligible players to the roster.

Only last summer, the all-black Jackie Robinson West team was the toast of Chicago and was honored with trips to San Francisco and to the White House.

But the sport's governing body announced that team officials had engaged in a Little League version of political gerrymandering. Instead of politicians redrawing district maps to pick up votes, it was local league officials who changed the boundaries that determined where players must live. And after learning that their scheme had been exposed, they scrambled to persuade surrounding leagues to go along with what they had done.

"This is so heartbreaking," said Stephen D. Keener, president and CEO of Little League International. "It is a sad day for a bunch of kids who we have come to really like ... who did nothing wrong." But "we cannot tolerate the actions of some of the adults involved here."

The organization suspended the manager, Darold Butler, and suspended the team from Little League tournament play until the local league's president and treasurer have been replaced. A district official who is believed to have helped change the boundaries was also removed.

All of the team's victories were thrown out, meaning that the wins will be awarded to other teams. Mountain Ridge Little League, the team from Las Vegas that lost to Jackie Robinson West in the national championship game, will be awarded the title.

Parents were angered by the news, saying their children were being unfairly punished.

"The boys had no inside dealings ... about any borders, and I as a mother had

no idea there were any (questions about) boundaries," said Venisa Green, who was driving her son, Brandon, to school Wednesday when they were "blindsided" by the news as it came over the radio.

"We weren't involved in anything that could have caused us to be stripped of our championship," said Brandon, appearing at a news conference with his mother.

Venisa Green said the move was especially disheartening because the team was part of efforts to keep children safe and prepare them for college in a community better known for gangs and drugs than any kind of achievement.

"What would you have us do, Little League, for them to be killed on the streets of Chicago?" she asked.

She wondered if the fact that the players were black had any role in the ruling, something that the Rev. Jesse Jackson and others questioned as well.

"Is this about boundaries or race?" Jackson asked.

Jackson did not discuss whether he blamed any league officials for what had happened, but in Washington, White House spokesman Josh Earnest suggested that it was the adults who let down the boys.

"The fact is, you know, some dirty dealing by some adults doesn't take anything away from the accomplishments of those young men," he said.

The Chicago Cubs said it would not ask that donations it made to the Little League team be returned.

"We can only imagine this was an extremely difficult and heart-wrenching day for these talented young athletes, but we hope they will continue to play this wonderful game of baseball for years to come. The game is counting on it," spokesman Julian Green said in a statement.

It was a stunning end to a story that began last summer as the team marched through the Little League tournament. Their odyssey ended with a loss to South Korea in the world championship game in South Williamsport, Pennsylvania.

For days, Chicago was

enthralled by the story, in large part because the team was from the city's South Side, an area that has a reputation in much of the country for being synonymous with crime and gun violence. They were part of one of the most heartwarming World Series in Little League history, with the country rooting for Jackie Robinson West and a team from Philadelphia that had Mo'ne Davis, a star pitcher who was the first girl to appear in the series for a U.S. team since 2004.

When the Chicago team returned home, the boys were treated as conquering heroes. Thousands of people lined city streets to catch a glimpse of them as they were paraded by bus from their home field to a downtown park. The team was treated to a trip to a major league World Series game in San Francisco and then a visit with President Barack Obama and first lady Michelle Obama at the White House.

Behind the scenes, Keener said, the investigation was creating a different story after a coach from a nearby suburb alleged that Jackie Robinson West had violated rules by poaching top suburban players.

The investigation, which was first reported by DNAinfo.com, appeared to end in December when the national organization said it had uncovered no violations. Officials said they would reopen the inquiry if new information surfaced. About that time, the organization learned of questions about boundary maps involving multiple leagues. The investigation resumed.

In an interview, Keener said Jackie Robinson West officials expanded the boundaries of their league at the expense of three neighboring leagues, so that the boundaries included the homes of several players on the team who would not otherwise have been eligible. The investigation found that at least one district official who had helped redraw the map went to the other teams to ask that they go along with what the team had done, Keener said.

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SMC BASKETBALL

Belles battle Knights in final home game

By DAISY COSTELLO
Sports Writer

After a heartbreaking 71-70 loss to overtime loss to Kalamazoo last weekend, Saint Mary's (3-19, 1-12 MIAA) has just one more home contest this season Saturday against Calvin (21-0, 12-0 MIAA). The struggling Belles, currently last in the MIAA, will face a Knights team that boasts a No. 7 national ranking and sits in first place in the conference standings.

Calvin features one of the highest-powered offenses in the country and is coming off an 80-59 thrashing of Adrian on Saturday. Led by senior guard Breanna Verkaik, the Knights shoot 44.5 percent from the field and 34.5 percent from 3-point range.

On the other hand, Saint Mary's will rely on senior guard Ariana Paul to lead the offense. Paul averages 14.8 points and nine rebounds per game, and she has established herself as the team's most vocal presence on the court, Belles coach Jennifer Henley said.

"[She's been] our leader all season long," Henley said. "She

has certainly established herself in this program and in the MIAA."

Ultimately, Henley said she believes any chance the Belles have of success against Calvin will rest heavily on protecting the basketball and limiting turnovers. The Belles have a season average of 22.1 turnovers per game, while Calvin is averaging only 15.7. In addition, Henley said Saint Mary's must run a lockdown transition defense in order to slow down Verkaik, who is shooting 52.5 percent from beyond the arc.

"Calvin has many threats on offense," Henley said. "We really need to work on our transition game [on defense] and not lose players like Verkaik on the perimeter."

In Saint Mary's loss to Kalamazoo last Saturday, the Belles did show improvement rebounding and free-throw shooting, going above their season averages in both categories.

"We did a great job getting to the line and on the boards," Henley said, "We shot the ball pretty well and did a good job getting looks inside."

Henley said continuing that



CAITLYN JORDAN | The Observer

Junior Eleni Shea prepares for a freethrow against Trine on Jan. 28. Shea and the Belles look to end their current slump against No. 7 Calvin College on Saturday.

improvement in Saturday's matchup will be key. The Belles and the Knights both average around 40 rebounds per game, but from the charity stripe, Calvin boasts a free throw percentage of 72.9 percent in MIAA play, while the Belles average just under 64 percent on the year.

Despite the team's vastly different records, Henley said she is optimistic about the Belles' chances this Saturday. The team's one-point loss to Kalamazoo was the narrowest defeat of the Belles' 16-game losing streak, and Henley said that if Saint Mary's is able to attack the boards and improve

their performance on the free-throw line, the Belles have a chance.

Saint Mary's hosts Calvin this Saturday in its final home contest of the season. Tipoff is scheduled for 3 p.m.

Contact Daisy Costello at mcostel4@nd.edu

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EMILY McCONVILLE | The Observer

Irish junior guard Jewell Loyd dribbles upcourt during Notre Dame's 92-63 win over Wake Forest on Feb. 1.

Green

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

Tennessee (the same program that won the national championship the last time it was held in Tampa, for what it's worth).

Then came a 13-point win over Georgia Tech that never quite looked out of hand but was also a little too close for comfort for a supposed title contender, especially to kick off a stretch of 11 consecutive ACC games before the conference tournament.

McGraw certainly didn't let her team shake that one off. She didn't enter her postgame press conference with a smile, and she didn't throw out a generic, "We didn't have our best game today, but we'll be better tomorrow" response.

Instead, she ripped into her team's performance as a whole and warned her players that a repeat disappointment like the one against Miami was still a very real possibility.

The only other Irish loss up until that point had come against No. 2 Connecticut, and they had dominated their competitors in almost every other game.

But a coach who has made it to the final weekend of March Madness four straight times only to leave empty-handed after each one wasn't about to let her team think it was invulnerable.

Since that point, Notre Dame has seemed like a new squad. Maybe it took a harsh scolding from McGraw, or maybe it took a moment to step back and realize how difficult it is to collect any win in the ACC, but something has kicked the Irish into high gear as of late.

Following the Georgia Tech win, Notre Dame has beaten — no, dismantled — five conference opponents by an average margin of 29 points.

Junior guard Jewell Loyd, who leads the team with 20.7 points per game, and freshman forward Brianna Turner, who has the most double-doubles for the Irish with six, were both named to midseason top-30-player list for the Naismith College Player of the Year award yesterday. The NCAA tournament selection

committee also released its first ever list of projected No. 1 seeds, and Notre Dame was one of them.

That being said, the flights to Tampa can't be booked just yet.

The Irish have five regular-season games left, two of which are against top competition — No. 11 Duke on Monday and No. 9 Louisville on Feb. 23. A second matchup against Georgia Tech on Feb. 19 will serve as a measuring stick to see how much their mindset has changed in less than a month.

Then comes the ACC and NCAA tournaments, in which we are annually reminded why postseason play is called March Madness.

If they keep this focus up, the Irish better start to stock up on sunscreen for an April trip down south. But if they can't, their money is better spent on rock salt for those late-spring snowfalls.

Contact Mary Green at mgreen8@nd.edu

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



ROSIE LOVOI | The Observer

Irish sophomore Lindsay Allen attempts a freethrow against Wake Forest on Feb. 1. Notre Dame has beaten its last five conference opponents by an average of 29 points. Allen is averaging 10.6 points per game.

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ND W Tennis

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

we'll have to start adjusting to the speeds of different courts," Louderback said. "And at a lot of different places the lighting is dim, so being on the road gives us that little adversity that we have to go through."

This past weekend, the Irish had a full day of rest in between their matches against Stanford and Ohio State.

This weekend, however, they will have to play on consecutive days, which Louderback said is crucial for preparing the team for the biggest tournaments of the year.

"[Playing back-to-back days] is a little bit tougher, especially when you get into those tough matches," Louderback said. "It's another thing we have to get used to, something that we haven't done yet, so it will be good, because to win the conference tournament, you have to play four days in a row, and the NCAAs is the same way."

Both the Hoosiers and the Illini are off to good starts this season, only losing twice combined to top-50 ranked teams. The key to two victories this weekend for Notre Dame is winning the doubles point in both matches, Louderback said.

"[Indiana and Illinois] both historically have



MICHAEL YU | The Observer

Irish junior Julie Vrabel prepares to serve during Notre Dame's 6-1 loss to Stanford on Friday at Eck Tennis Pavilion.

had good doubles teams," Louderback said. "You can lose the doubles point to either one of them, and if you get down 1-0, especially on the road, it makes it tough. We've been working hard on our doubles, and I think we've made a big jump from the fall to the spring, but we still just have to keep working on it. That's a big key though, because it gives you

a lot more confidence if you win the doubles."

The Irish will travel to Champaign, Illinois, on Saturday to battle the Illini at 11 a.m. They will then hit the road again Sunday to take on the Hoosiers in Bloomington, Indiana, also at 11 a.m.

Contact Ben Padanilham at bpadanil@nd.edu

M Tennis

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

singles matchups. That result was the lowlight of a string of four matches than all came down to the final singles matches. And while the Irish had a relatively easy weekend Feb. 4-5, winning their matches by a combined 13-1 score, they must prepared for an upset bid from Michigan, Sachire said.

"Michigan is a really good team," Sachire said. "They have two seniors who have played the No. 1 and No. 2 slots, and they've been around a long time but there's a lot of younger talent lower in the lineup. The rankings are deceiving. I expect a great, close match."

Notre Dame boasts a three-match winning streak after topping No. 26 Northwestern 4-3 in a close matchup two weeks ago, then sweeping

Ball State 7-0, and dominating Wisconsin 6-1 last weekend. For the Irish, this week will not be about rankings but rather consistency and keeping up their streak, Sachire said.

"We've been playing particularly well at the No. 2 and No. 3 doubles slots, getting better and better as the year goes on. Doubles are a big part of the team's identity so we want to do the best we can in the doubles component," Sachire said. "In terms of singles, each player has individual nuances on which they are focusing on. Ultimately, our philosophy is for our guys to have complete versatility so they can do virtually anything on the court."

The Irish take to the road for the second time this season Saturday at 6 p.m. at the Varsity Tennis Center in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

Contact Christine Mayuga at cmayuga@nd.edu

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Hockey

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

have hovered around the top 10 in the nation all season.

"We have to be able to play against elite level [teams] for the next three weeks," Irish coach Jeff Jackson said. "We're playing three top-10 teams in the country over the next three weeks, and we have to see if we've grown."

Growing pains have been a problem for the Irish all season, who sport a lineup with more freshmen starters than seniors. Lucia said that the young players have to step up in order for the team to succeed down the stretch.

"Whether we're ready or not is how I look at it," Lucia said. "But these teams are all in front of us, so if we can win games we can jump up [a few] spots."

Notre Dame has the added advantage of playing four of their six remaining games at home. Jackson doesn't doubt that it will be easier for his team to play in the comfort of their own building — although the team has struggled at Compton Family Ice Arena this season, sporting a 6-7-1 record.

"We haven't played the best at home, and we need to have a really good positive experience at home and play well," Jackson said.

Lucia agreed that being on home ice would be a huge factor for the team in the last few weeks.

"I mean going on the road and stealing games is a lot harder than [winning] in your own building and riding the momentum of your crowd," Lucia said. "Having that element of the crowd cheering you on and getting into the game helps a lot. And when we have a full crowd in here, it's intimidating for the other team."

After evaluating his team throughout the season, Jackson said that he knows what will make his team either succeed or fail in these last three series of the regular season.

"It's going to be all based on our goaltending, our puck possession and probably our special teams," Jackson said.

After a rocky season to this point, Notre Dame know these games against the Hockey East leaders will define its season, Lucia said.

"Obviously right now [there's] not a whole lot of room for error," Lucia said. "Basically our playoffs have started, and we have to be ready for every weekend."

The Irish begin the stretch run this Friday and Saturday when they host Providence at Compton Family Ice Arena.

Action gets under way at 7:35 p.m. and 8:05 p.m., respectively.

Contact Brian Plamondon at bplamond@nd.edu



MONICA VILLAGOMEZ MENDEZ | The Observer

Sophomore Chad Katunar guards the goal against New Hampshire on Jan. 30. The Irish sit at 12-14-4 overall this season.

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HOCKEY

ND still fighting for top-four spot in Hockey East

By **BRIAN PLAMONDON**
Sports Writer

With just three weeks left in the regular season, the outcome of Notre Dame's season is still very much in doubt.

Notre Dame (12-14-4, 7-5-4 Hockey East) sits in fifth place in Hockey East, just one point behind this weekend's opponent, No. 10 Providence. After that, the Irish square off with No. 2 Boston on the road, before concluding their regular season at home against No. 11 Boston College.

If they win a majority of their games, the Irish secure home-ice advantage and a first-round bye in the Hockey East tournament, not to mention all the momentum that comes with getting the best of three teams that are all but guaranteed a spot in the NCAA tournament. Lose most of its games, and Notre Dame will be sent back towards



the bottom feeders in Hockey East, with their only hope being a miracle run in the tournament.

"If we do well in these next three weekends here we control our own destiny for the playoffs," junior left winger Mario Lucia said. "We can get a good seed and hopefully get a bye."

After an up-and-down season, Notre Dame now

has a chance to prove itself against three teams that have hovered around the top 10 in the nation all season.

"We have to be able to play against elite level [teams] for the next three weeks," Irish coach Jeff Jackson said. "We're playing three

see HOCKEY **PAGE 14**

ND WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Forecast looks good for Irish



Mary Green
Sports Editor

Here's a warning for the northern Indiana area — don't open up the weather app on your phone any time soon.

It's currently 34 degrees outside in Notre Dame, but it feels like 21 with the wind chill. The permacloud looks like it is here to stay for a little while longer, vitamin D deficiency is starting to set in, and there's an 80 percent chance it will snow today. In fact, the forecast says South Bend will get snowfall on five of the next seven days.

Meanwhile, the forecast in Tampa, Florida, is looking pretty good. It's 68 degrees, and there are six little suns in a row on the forecast until rain is supposed to come next Wednesday.

The situations in Florida and Indiana are about as different as you can get

around the country this time of year, and Tampa seems like another world away.

For the Irish, Tampa — the host site of this year's Final Four — is still a far-off thought as well.

That being said, Irish coach Muffet McGraw said at the beginning of the season that the team's goal was to reach the Final Four for a fifth consecutive year, and I'm sure taking a trip down to Florida over Easter weekend is still on its mind.

One hiccup aside, Notre Dame (23-2, 9-1 ACC) has been on a roll since its eye-opening loss to unranked Miami (Florida) on Jan. 8.

Immediately after that defeat came a 104-58 victory over Boston College, followed by two tough wins over then-No. 12 North Carolina and then-No. 6 Tennessee (the same program that won the national

see GREEN **PAGE 12**

ND WOMEN'S TENNIS

Squad to face pair of Big Ten foes

By **BENJAMIN PADANILHAM**
Sports Writer

No. 20 Notre Dame will take to the road this weekend for matches with Big Ten opponents No. 44 Illinois and No. 52 Indiana.

Following a split this past weekend with a loss to No. 10 Stanford followed by a win over No. 31 Ohio State, the Irish (3-2) will now have to leave the friendly confines of Eck Tennis Pavilion when they travel to Champaign, Illinois, on Saturday to take on the Illini (3-1) and Bloomington, Indiana, on Sunday to take on the Hoosiers (6-1).

Although they did not walk away with two wins, Irish coach Jay Louderback said he was very happy with his team's performance this past weekend.

"First off, I felt like we played really well," Louderback said. "Both are tough teams. ... I felt like our kids did a good job of not worrying about what they're ranked and playing them tight, which is good. We've started off playing some tough teams in Stanford, Michigan and now Ohio State, and it's not going to get a whole lot easier as we get

into the ACC, but our kids are competing really well."

This weekend, however, will be the first time that the Irish take the road this season. Saturday, they take on Illinois, who is 3-0 at home. They follow that up with matchup against Indiana on Sunday, who is 4-1 at home. Louderback said he believes acquiring experience on the road is important for the team going forward.

"[Being on the road] will definitely be different," Louderback said. "It will be good for us because we have been at home so far, so it's good to get your team out. It's tougher to win matches on the road too. You got the whole crowd against you, so our kids have to have each others' back. It's just good to get that experience on the road."

In addition, Louderback said playing away from home this weekend will force the team to play through some unique challenges.

"The other thing is that we are playing on four different indoor courts in those matches, so

see W TENNIS **PAGE 13**

MEN'S TENNIS

Notre Dame travels to Ann Arbor to play Michigan

By **CHRISTINE MAYUGA**
Sports Writer

Fresh off last weekend's sweep in its first doubleheader of the season against Ball State and Wisconsin, the No. 16 Irish (5-1) will travel to Ann Arbor, Michigan, to face No. 47 Michigan on Saturday evening.

The recent ITA's men's national rankings released Tuesday placed the doubles pair of junior Alex Lawson and senior Billy Pecor at No. 4 in the country and sophomores Eddy Covalschi and Josh Hagar at No. 17. In the singles rankings, junior Quentin Monaghan leads the team at No. 29 and Hagar stands at No. 92. Despite these high rankings, the Irish do not plan to focus too much on the numbers, Irish coach Ryan Sachire said.

"Rankings are a reflection of what you've done in the past. [The] reality is that at this point in the season, they mean nothing,"



MICHAEL YU | The Observer

Irish sophomore Eddy Covalschi returns a shot during Notre Dame's 4-3 win over Oklahoma State on Jan. 24.

Sachire said. "Of course it's nice to see your name there but it's not really a big deal at the moment. Our focus is on what's next for us. We want to continue to build the team and the players throughout the rest of the season to eventually have better rankings than those by the end."

Last month, the Irish fell to the No. 15 Columbia, 4-2, at the ITA Kickoff Weekend in a nail-biter in which the Irish lost four of the six singles matchups. That result was the lowlight of a string of four matches than all came down to the final

see M TENNIS **PAGE 13**