

University holds memorial

Fr. Pete McCormick presides over Lisa Yang's Mass, family in attendance

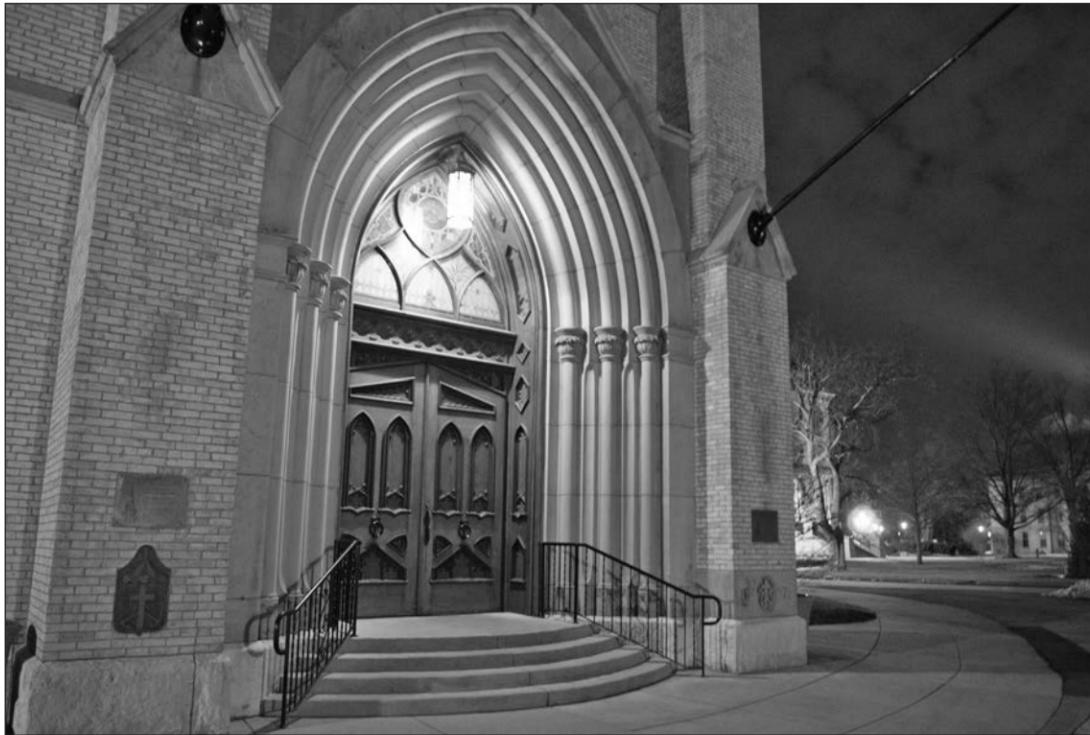
By **KAYLA MULLEN** and
EMILY McCONVILLE
Associate News Editors

Notre Dame students and staff filled the Basilica of the Sacred Heart on Tuesday evening to honor senior Lisa Yang with a memorial Mass. Yang's parents and priests from the Congregation of Holy Cross were also in attendance.

Yang, a native of Herndon, Virginia, died March 3 at Memorial Hospital in South Bend, after a suicide attempt the previous week.

Readings were done by Erin Hoffmann Harding, vice president of student affairs, and Hannah Knochelmann, a resident assistant in McGlenn Hall, where Yang had been a resident. William Kennedy delivered the petitions.

Fr. Pete McCormick, director of Campus Ministry, gave the homily. Yang's death has been difficult



MICHAEL YU | The Observer

Students, faculty and members of the Congregation of Holy Cross gathered Tuesday night to honor Lisa Yang with a memorial Mass. Yang died March 3 at Memorial Hospital in South Bend.

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Sexual assault on campus

Observer Staff Report

Notre Dame Security Police (NDSP) alerted students via email Tuesday to a report of sexual assault that took place in the early morning hours Friday in a men's residence hall on North Quad.

The report was made to a University official, the email said.

Quoting from "du Lac: A Guide to Student Life," the email defined consent as a clearly communicated agreement, which cannot be inferred from

see ASSAULT **PAGE 5**

SMC celebrates Annunciation



CAITLYN JORDAN | The Observer

Students gather in Le Mans Hall's Holy Spirit Chapel during the adoration in commemoration of the Feast of the Annunciation.

By **MARTHA REILLY**
News Writer

A 24-hour adoration for the Feast of the Annunciation began last night in Holy Spirit Chapel of Le Mans Hall at Saint Mary's and will continue until 6 p.m. this evening.

Freshman Julie Weilbaker

engendered this event and said students from Notre Dame and Holy Cross are welcome to join in prayer to commemorate the Annunciation.

"God truly is so good to us and gives Mary to each of us to be the mother of us all,"

see ADORATION **PAGE 5**

New program announced

By **KATIE GALIOTO**
News Writer

The Rome Global Gateway, a sector of Notre Dame International, will launch the Rome International Scholars Program in the spring of 2016. This program will facilitate a select group of undergraduate students to conduct independent research, participate in

job internships and practice service learning while studying abroad.

"The goal of the program is to offer to highly motivated Notre Dame undergraduate scholars the opportunity for a life-transforming education abroad experience in the Eternal City," Theodore Cachey, inaugural academic director of the Rome Global Gateway, said.

Cachey said the semester-long program will normally be comprised of five courses, including an elective at one of the universities working with the Rome Global Gateway, a foreign language course and the required on-site, "All Roads Lead to Rome" course. The international scholars' remaining

see ROME **PAGE 5**

Couple endows rector position in residence hall

Observer Staff Report

Alumnus James Corgel and his wife, Christine, gifted \$1 million to endow the rector position in Dillon Hall on Tuesday, a University press release said. This gift represents the first endowed rector position in a new initiative launched by the University to endow all

rector positions in the 29 residence halls, the press release said.

The endowment will provide for a portion of the rector's salary, which will allow the University to provide more funds to each hall for events and programs, the press release said.

"The residence hall community has always been

central to a Notre Dame undergraduate education, and the rector is a crucial figure in building that community," University President Fr. John Jenkins said.

"Through their gift, Jim and Chris support the continuation of an educational ideal at Notre Dame that

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WOMEN'S BASKETBALL **PAGE 16**

Details of SMC commencement released

By **KELLY KONYA**
Senior News Writer

Saint Mary's 168th commencement ceremony will take place on Le Mans Green in front of the iconic Le Mans Hall on Saturday, May 16, to celebrate the graduation of approximately 350 students who constitute the class of 2015. This year's graduates herald from 30 states, one United States territory and five countries besides the United States — including Canada, China, Mexico, Rwanda and Singapore.

At the ceremony, Sr. Rosemary Connelly, will deliver the commencement speech. Connelly and Terri Kosik will receive honorary degrees from the College. The 2015 valedictorian, music major Sarah Miller, will also address her graduating class.

According to a College press release, president Carol Ann Mooney said both recipients of the honorary degrees are women who have devoted over 40 years of service to their respective ministries, offering education and support to children and adults.

"At Saint Mary's we challenge our students to promote human dignity throughout their lives," Mooney said. "We are delighted to honor these exceptional women for dedicating their lives to some of our most vulnerable citizens."

Connelly, who is a member of the Religious Sisters of Mercy, was named administrator of Misericordia Home in Chicago in 1969 and is now executive director, as stated in the press release. Misericordia Home provides programs, service and residential care to more than 600 children and adults with

developmental and physical disabilities.

The organization's mission is to ensure that each person is encouraged to achieve his or her greatest potential through educational, spiritual, vocational or recreational outlets. According to the press release, the College wishes to recognize Connelly for playing an integral role in Misericordia Home's development into a loving, challenging and dignified environment to its residents.

Connelly has received numerous awards and honors throughout the years, including seven honorary doctorate degrees from Notre Dame, Loyola University, DePaul University, Lewis University, Marquette University, Dominican University and Lewis University.

Kosik also provides dedicated service to a ministry ensuring educational opportunities to children at both Notre Dame and Saint Mary's — the Early Childhood Development Center (ECDC).

The ECDC program serves children ages two through kindergarten during the school year and children through age 10 in their summer day camp program, according to the press release.

During her 41 years with the ECDC, Kosik dedicated herself to promoting quality programs for children, their parents and teachers throughout Indiana. Kosik said the ECDC fits perfectly within the Saint Mary's mission, particularly in terms of religious sensibility and social responsibility.

"[At the ECDC,] we provide unconditional love and acceptance. Our classrooms are positive and full of joyful

interactions and support," Kosik said. "Ages 0-5 are the formative years in brain development, social/emotional development and cognitive skills. So it is important for children of all races, ethnicities and faiths to have high-quality experiences with dedicated and skilled professionals. And that's what we deliver at the ECDC and have been doing for 40-plus years."

Kosik also teaches a course at Saint Mary's each fall semester that pertains to the early childhood minor, as well as, graduate and undergraduate courses at other institutions.

"What I love most about my job is supporting the development and learning of young children, but almost equally, I love supporting the learning and development of pre-service teachers as they cherish young children and learn the important non-cognitive skills in children's lives — confidence, love of learning, enthusiasm, empathy," she said.

Kosik said she especially enjoys the opportunity to provide future educators with hands on experience.

"We offer for all the Saint Mary's students from various majors ... the real-life experience that takes what they are reading and hearing from their faculty members in class," Kosik said. "They have a chance to come into the environment and observe children learning and communicating."

Kosik said she was overjoyed upon learning she would receive an honorary degree from the College this May.

"I must say that I was utterly surprised and speechless, and so honored that I would be considered yet alone selected for such a prestigious award from Saint Mary's, where I've spent 41 years on the campus," Kosik said. "I started at [age] 21 when the ECDC was tiny, and I had these wonderful people mentoring, coaching and supporting me. Carol Ann Mooney's children came to ECDC and so did my children and then my granddaughter.

Senior Audrey Kiefer said she is all the more excited for the commencement ceremony now that these two women will be honored.

"As seniors, we're all readying to go out and use all that Saint Mary's had taught us in order to change the world," Kiefer said. "Here are two prime examples of women who have dedicated their lives to servicing others and providing aid where its needed.

"I couldn't think of two better people to be honored at our commencement, and I'm really looking forward to it."

Contact Kelly Konya at kkonya@saintmarys.edu

Alumnus recalls Selma march

By **EMILY McCONVILLE**
Associate News Editor

In March of 1965, to protest the lack of voting rights for African American citizens and violence against civil rights activists, the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) planned a 54-mile march from Selma to Montgomery to talk to Alabama Governor George Wallace. Wallace promised he would prevent the demonstrators from marching, but despite his warnings, they set off from Selma on March 7, 1965.

They made it to the Edmund Pettus Bridge before they met state troopers equipped with nightsticks and tear gas. The ensuing violence, which became known as Bloody Sunday, was broadcast on national television and prompted a condemnation of the brutality from then president Lyndon B. Johnson.

Two days later, another march began, this time led by Martin Luther King, Jr. The SCLC had asked for a court order preventing the police from stopping the march, but since it had not yet gone through, the marchers turned back at the bridge. That night, a Unitarian Universalist minister by the name of James Reeb was beaten by members of the Ku Klux Klan. He died two days later.

Over the next two weeks, demonstrations took place across the country, and Johnson presented a voting rights bill to Congress. Soon after, a judge ruled that the marchers had a First Amendment right to demonstrate. Johnson federalized the National Guard and sent troops to Alabama to oversee a final march.

On March 21, 300 people set off from Selma, protected by the National Guard and media attention. Over the next four days, their numbers grew, and by the time they reached Montgomery on March 25 — 50 years ago today — they were 25,000 strong.

Among them was Jim Muller, class of 1965, a senior pre-med student at Notre Dame.

Muller, an Indianapolis native, had not been involved in the Civil Rights Movement, but voting rights for African Americans was a prominent issue at Notre Dame. Few black students attended the University, but University President Emeritus Fr. Theodore Hesburgh was on the U.S. Civil Rights Commission, and he had imparted his vision of equality on many of his students.

Muller said Reeb's murder spurred him to action.

"We were all horrified that a minister would be beaten to death just because he was helping a minority group get voting rights," Muller said. "So a call went out from the march for people to join them, and that's what I heard."

Muller took a bus from South Bend to Indianapolis, where he,

his brother John, class of 1969, and his sister Joanne, a student at Maryville Catholic College, headed to the Greyhound bus station. There, they received a crash course on nonviolent civil disobedience.

The bus traveled through the night, arriving at the City of St. Jude on the outskirts of Montgomery on March 25.

Thousands of people filled the City of St. Jude's athletic field, preparing for the final march to the governor's mansion. National guardsmen ringed the edges. Muller said in spite of the National Guard's protective presence and the media's close coverage, he did not feel entirely safe.

"I felt there was some risk involved, but people do many things with risk when there's a benefit to doing it," he said. "So I accepted that risk, but I was a little afraid."

It helped, Muller said, to see King a ways away, conferring with the other march leaders. He also saw a group of young African American girls, unafraid, singing "Ain't Scared of Your Jails."

"I thought, if those girls are doing this, then I shouldn't be afraid," he said. "That helped me as we walked down the street that day with lines of guardsmen with guns."

The crowd marched from the field to the state Capitol building, where King gave his "How Long, Not Long" speech. They then marched to the governor's mansion to deliver a petition to Alabama Governor George Wallace.

After that, the Muller siblings boarded a bus, and Jim Muller was back at Notre Dame by the morning of March 26.

Muller had no further involvement in the Civil Rights Movement after that last leg of the final Selma march. Even so, Muller said the same concern for social justice that led him to board the bus to Selma motivated him years later to campaign against nuclear war — and win a Nobel Peace Prize.

Muller had studied Russian at Notre Dame, and at John Hopkins Medical School, he became more aware of the possibility of nuclear war between the United States and the Soviet Union. In 1980, he and several other Soviet and American doctors formed the International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War, which worked to educate governments and the public about the impact of a nuclear war.

"If one side loses 10 million people and the other side loses 20 million, then the side that loses 10 million is the winner," Muller said. "That was policy, that if necessary, we would fight a nuclear war and win it. The way the medical story came into play was, we tried to help people by helping the

see SELMA PAGE 5

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SEEING WITH THE EYES OF THE HEART (EPH 1:18): *Cultivating a Sacramental Imagination in an Age of Pornography*

March 26–27

What is the effect of pornography on the human imagination and relationships? In a culture of pervasive pornography, how can we cultivate the capacity to behold one another as women and men created in the image of God (Gen 1:27) and redeemed in the image of Christ (2 Cor 3:18)?

The public is welcome to attend any of the conference sessions listed below.

THURSDAY, MARCH 26 | AT NOTRE DAME ECK VISITORS CENTER AUDITORIUM

8:30 a.m. **Morning Prayer**
Lady Chapel, Basilica of the Sacred Heart

9 a.m. **Welcome and Introduction**
Auditorium, Eck Visitors Center

I. The Visual Culture of Pornography and the Pornographic Imagination

9:10–9:30 a.m.
The Character of Contemporary Pornography
Erica Scharrer, Professor and Chair of Communication, University of Massachusetts at Amherst

9:30–10 a.m.
Pornography's Influence on Men
William Struthers, Associate Professor of Psychology, Wheaton College

10:15–10:45 a.m.
Pornography's Influence on Women
Jill C. Manning, PhD, licensed Marriage and Family Therapist specializing in research and clinical work on pornography

10:45–11:15 a.m.
Pornography and Sexual Violence
Mary Anne Layden, Professor of Clinical Psychology and Psychiatry and Director of the Sexual Trauma and Psychopathology Program, University of Pennsylvania

11:15–11:50 a.m. **Discussion**

II. The Sacramental Imagination and the Visual Culture of Catholicism

1–2:15 p.m.
The Sacramental Imagination
Kimberly Belcher, Assistant Professor of Theology, University of Notre Dame
David W. Fagerberg, Associate Professor of Theology, University of Notre Dame

2:30–3:45 p.m.
The Visual Culture of Catholicism
Dianne Phillips, Independent Scholar

4–5:20 p.m.
Graduate Student Panel
Ascesis, Prayer, and a Sacramental Imagination
Carl Vennerstrom, Villanova University

*The Force Behind the Age: The Consideration of Dominandi
in Assessing a Sacramental Imagination*
C. A. Chase, Saint John's School of Theology-Seminary

Reforming Our Minds through the Eucharist
Nathaniel Peters, Boston College

Sacramental Vision vs. Perverse Aesthetics
Michael Anthony Abril, University of Notre Dame

FRIDAY, MARCH 27 | AT SAINT MARY'S VANDER VENNET THEATRE

8:30 a.m. **Morning Prayer**
Regina Chapel, Regina Hall

III. Cultivating a Sacramental Imagination

A. Visual Culture on the Campus of a Catholic College

9–10:20 a.m.
**Beauty is God's Visibility: The Educational Philosophy
of Sister Madeleva Wolff, CSC**
Gail Porter Mandell, Professor Emeritus of Humanistic Studies, Saint Mary's College

B. Resources in the Christian Tradition for the Cultivation of a Sacramental Imagination

10:30–11:40 a.m. Panel
The Spiritual Senses
Boyd Taylor Coolman, Associate Professor of Theology, Boston College

*The Practice of the Corporeal Works of Mercy: Seeing Christ at the
Table of the Peter Claver Catholic Worker*
Nick Ogle, MTS student, University of Notre Dame, and staff member
of the Peter Claver Catholic Worker

The Song of Songs and the Sacrament of Marriage
Ann Astell, Professor of Theology, University of Notre Dame

12:45–1:45 p.m. Undergraduate Student Panel
Matters of the Heart
Dana-Kirstie Pineda, College of Mount Saint Vincent

*Where Lust Meets Life: A Phenomenological Study of Lust in a
Culture of Pornography*
Andrew J. Hoy, Walsh University

*Reclaiming the Mystery, Truth and Dignity of Man and Woman
in a Porn-Saturated World*
Deion Kathawa, University of Michigan

Seeing with Eyes of the Heart
Brandon Turk, Holy Cross College

2–4 p.m. Stapleton Lounge

Learning to See: The Sacralized Vision of Byzantine Iconography
Presentation and Icon Writing Workshop | Pre-registration required
Randi Sider-Rose, Iconographer

C. The Healing of Vision

4:15–5 p.m. Panel
The Healing of Vision
John Cavadini, Professor of Theology and Director of the Institute for Church Life,
University of Notre Dame

The Healing Power of Beauty
Jennifer Newsome Martin, Assistant Professor of the Program of Liberal Studies,
University of Notre Dame

5:15 p.m. Eucharistic Liturgy
Regina Chapel, Regina Hall

Sponsored by The Center for Spirituality at Saint Mary's College, with support from the Our Sunday Visitor Institute.

Co-sponsored by:
Saint Mary's College: Belles Against Violence (BAVO), Campus Ministry, Office of Student Affairs,
University of Notre Dame: Campus Ministry, Department of Theology, Gender Relations Center, Institute for Church Life
Holy Cross College: The Division of History, Philosophy & Theology



CENTER FOR SPIRITUALITY
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Assault

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

“silence, passivity or lack of active resistance” or given if a person is intoxicated.

“Anyone initiating any kind of sexual contact with another person must seek consent and not engage in sexual contact unless consent is given,” the email said.

Further quoting du Lac, the

email said sexual misconduct is inconsistent with the University’s values, and everyone in the community is responsible for maintaining a safe environment.

“On college campuses, perpetrators are more likely to assault an acquaintance than a stranger,” the email read. “Being aware of your own safety and watching out for your friends are

important steps you can take to reduce the risk of sexual assault.

“The perpetrator, not the survivor, is responsible for any instance of sexual assault. Nothing a survivor does or does not do is an excuse for sexual assault.”

Information about sexual assault and resources for survivors can be found at ndsp.nd.edu and csap.nd.edu

Memorial

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

to grasp, McCormick said.

“We ponder this event, the death of someone with such love and compassion for others, who suffered so greatly on the inside,” McCormick said. “We are anxious, too, by the fact that Lisa is not the only one to feel this way. We ask ourselves how is it that we can deal with this in the future.”

McCormick thanked the Yangs for their openness with the Notre Dame community.

“The Notre Dame family owes the Yangs a great debt, because if it were not for you, for your willingness to allow us to be so honest about what it is, we would not be able to help those who feel the same way, who feel that they are alone ... who feel that it is impossible for anyone else to experience this type of pain,” McCormick

said.

“Her courage, her beauty and the way in which she lived her life now serve as a reminder to us to be on the look out for people who struggle with such pain,” he said. “We know that Lisa was unwilling to share that pain that she felt with her friends, her family and those closest to her because she didn’t want to be seen as a burden.”

McCormick encouraged students to reach out to one another.

“Our great sorrow on this night is that we came to know her struggle too late,” he said. “While we cannot redo the past, we can move forward with greater wisdom, understanding and hope.

“We hope that Lisa’s death might be an opportunity to help others understand that those dealing with depression should not be completely alone, but instead, for students to reach out to others.”

One candle in the darkness only allows one to see the rough

image, McCormick said, but many candles together — such as the Grotto candles students arranged in Yang’s name the night she died — radiate brightly enough to illuminate the whole.

“The community that looks out for one another, motivated by compassion, will provide hope and clarity in even the darkest places,” McCormick said.

“My brothers and sisters, let not Lisa’s passing simply be a moment of sadness, or a celebration of life,” he said.

“That would be too one-dimensional. But instead, let it be a moment ... a moment in time where we see life as the precious gift it is. A moment in time where we commit to doing what we can to let people know that they are loved.”

Contact Kayla Mullen at kmullen2@nd.edu and Emily McConville at emcon1@nd.edu

Selma

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

public and the Pentagon planners understand just what 10 million deaths would look like.”

The organization, and Muller through it, won the 1985 Peace Prize. Over the next several decades, Muller also started Voices of

Faith, a Catholic discussion group born from outrage over priest sexual abuse scandals. A cardiologist, Muller also started a company, Infraredx, which manufactures spectrometry systems to identify plaques that might cause heart attacks.

“I have chosen to help with other large social problems,” he said. “The way I’ve put it, I’ve had

the privilege of working against nuclear war, child abuse by priests and heart attacks. Those targets are things that are good to work against, and they’re motivating, and I’ve had the privilege of working with a lot of good people on those projects.”

Contact Emily McConville at emcon1@nd.edu

Rome

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

two courses will consist of an independent research project supervised by a Notre Dame faculty member and an experiential learning activity, usually involving service or an internship.

According to Notre Dame International’s website, the Rome Global Gateway is located one block away from the Colosseum and serves as an academic and cultural center for the University in Italy. Although Notre Dame faculty will teach a majority of classes, elective courses can be taken at several of the universities in Rome, including Roma Tre University, John Cabot University, Pontifical Gregorial University and Sapienza University of Rome.

Students in the International Scholars Program will spend the spring semester of their junior year in Rome and receive funding to stay for up to six weeks in the summer.

“I’m excited by the prospect that some of Notre Dame’s most

capable students will be directly engaging the incredible intellectual, cultural and spiritual opportunities that Rome offers according to their individual academic aims and ambitions,” Cachey said. “I’m anxious to see what they come up with.”

Cachey said the application process for next year’s Rome International Scholars Program is in progress from now until April 17. Anywhere from eight to ten applicants will be chosen to participate in the program’s pilot year.

“Students in the new international scholars program will be selected from across the disciplines and departments,” Cachey said. “I would stress that this is a special program that is specifically designed for self-motivated students who would value the opportunity to undertake independent research during the spring semester of their junior year that would ideally lead to senior thesis projects or the development of post-graduate research.”

According to Cachey, the program was made possible by a donation from the Ravarino Family Endowment for Excellence in

Italian Studies. Over the past year, a steering committee co-chaired by Elizabeth Mazurek, associate professor of classics, and Christian Moevs, associate professor of Italian, designed this new opportunity for Notre Dame undergraduate students.

Cachey said the Rome International Scholars Program advances the University’s mission by providing leadership opportunities to undergraduate students and advancing Notre Dame’s global reputation.

“The program advances the University’s mission by pursuing its Catholic mission,” Cachey said. “Through the service and engagement opportunities offered by the program in Rome, home of the Holy See, students will be exposed to the challenges of contemporary social and political life in Rome, including immigration, poverty, ecological and urban cultural crises.”

To learn more about the Rome International Scholars Program or to apply visit international.nd.edu

Contact Katie Galimoto at kgalimoto@nd.edu

Adoration

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Weilbaker said. “This is a chance for us to reciprocate that gift and invite the other campuses to come to Jesus here at Saint Mary’s. I always love to be able to celebrate the feast with as many people as possible.”

Weilbaker said Annunciation is the highest Marian feast day, for it celebrates Mary’s acceptance of God’s plan to give her a son.

“Human history centers around this moment when God became man, out of pure love for us,” Weilbaker said. “Our only response can be to adore Him and love Him as best we can. Jesus is constantly calling to us, waiting for us to give Him even the slightest glance and return the love that He gives to us every moment of our lives.”

The adoration itself will allow students to do just that, as Weilbaker said it involves a variety of prayers and songs in honor of Mary. According to Weilbaker, each hour will begin with a different prayer, including the four mysteries of the rosary, litanies to Mary and meditations.

“We wanted to incorporate some of our Holy Cross traditions by including one of the meditations written by Fr. Basil Moreau and a few poems to the Blessed Virgin written by Sr. Madeleva [Wolff],” Weilbaker said. “When we celebrate the Annunciation and honor Mary, she gives that glory to God, and it is magnified.”

Weilbaker said her past

participation in 24-hour adorations at her home parish, along with the guidance of the Holy Spirit, led her to suggest this idea to Campus Ministry. She encourages peers who wish to set up similar events to pray for Mary’s intercession and to remain persistent.

“The idea just kind of came to me as I was walking out of the chapel,” Weilbaker said. “It seemed like such a simple but profound way to honor Our Lady, the patroness of our school. I just went to our chaplain Fr. John Pearson and mentioned the idea to him, and he was very willing to help me as much as possible to make sure that it happened.”

Pearson said he encourages students to become involved with Campus ministry so they can share their ideas with faith.

“Campus Ministry is open to proposals that are appropriate and that we have the resources to meet,” Pearson said. “Students proposed this opportunity and worked hard to make it happen.”

He said students should attend the 24-hour adoration to celebrate Mary’s commitment to God and to relate to her on a spiritual level.

“It took the assent of a woman even younger than our students to make possible the incarnation,” Pearson said. “That makes it a feast especially attractive to young women growing in their faith.”

Contact Martha Reilly at mreilly01@saintmarys.edu

Dillon

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

joins moral and spiritual growth with intellectual learning in the residence hall and the classroom.”

The current rector of Dillon Hall is Fr. Paul Doyle, who has served in this position since 1997, according to the press release.

“The rector role at Notre Dame is unique within higher education,” Erin Hoffmann Harding, vice president of student affairs, said. “While they have other important responsibilities, rectors serve first and foremost as pastors of our cherished residential communities ...

“This wonderfully generous gift from Jim and Chris is a powerful affirmation of the importance of this role to Notre Dame’s undergraduate education.”

James Corgel ‘73 earned his B.A. and MBA from Notre Dame and participated in the Irish Guard while he was an undergraduate, the press release said. Corgel retired from IBM in 2013, where he was a member of the senior management group, the

press release said. He currently serves as chair of the University’s Undergraduate Advisory Council and has previously served on the Graduate Studies and Research Advisory Council, the press release said. He also received the 2006 Distinguished Alumnus award, according to the press release.

His wife, Christine Corgel, earned her B.A. from Michigan State University and served in a variety of executive positions at IBM, the press release said. She now serves on the board of the Mercy Learning Center and is a mentor for at-risk high school students, the press release said.

“As a Dillon hall resident, I experienced great coaching and camaraderie that helped me prosper and grow at Notre Dame,” James Corgel said. “This environment was created and nurtured by my rectors, Frs. Jim Flanigan and Dave Schlaver.

“Today’s role models like Fr. Paul Doyle will ensure that residential life at ND remains relevant, leading-edge and inclusive. To me, this is a smart investment.”

INSIDE COLUMN

Golden weather

Brian Lach
Multimedia Editor

I stepped outside early this past Monday morning, clad in Sperry's and sans socks with only a light jacket. Sure, it was a little brisk out, but it wasn't bad at all — I headed to class no worse for wear. I'd been enjoying the span of pleasant weather the weekend had brought to campus. Flash forward to the conclusion of my biweekly hour and fifteen minutes of Strategic IT. Stepping outside DeBartolo Hall, I felt as though the seasons had shifted: six inches of snow blanketed the ground, and a veritable blizzard swirled around me. It were as if some spiteful child, no longer satisfied with his snow globe once the flakes had settled, had decided to shake it up once more when everyone was least expecting it.

I think that Notre Dame should embrace the climate with its marketing campaigns. I can see it now: Father Jenkins, standing on the steps of the Main Building, gesturing around at God Quad on a clear Spring day. "People often ask me about diversity here at Notre Dame. I just tell them, 'Look at our weather!' Our Mendoza College of Business is at the top of its class." Cue snowfall, out of nowhere. "But more importantly, we lead the nation in average snowfall after December." Rain begins pouring down on him. "We also hold the record for the world's largest Cold Water Challenge." Gale-force winds buffet him from all sides, and he raises his voice to be heard. "And now that we've conveniently re-centered campus with our Crossroads Project, admitted students get to experience even more of nature with longer walks to class." Sun begins to peek through the clouds and the rain fades, as Father Jenkins dabs at his dripping forehead with his pocket square. "This is the Notre Dame difference."

Oh, South Bend, how I love your weather. Nowhere but Notre Dame do aerospace engineers have the privilege of walking through a wind tunnel on their way to class. Nowhere else does the swim team get extra practice swimming across the lakes formed by uneven sidewalks. One thing is certain, however. No matter how much the temperature falls below zero, and in spite of the fact that winter jackets are still being worn in March, campus still manages to look absolutely beautiful every day — and that is what keeps me going every morning as I look out the window, sigh, and start layering.

Contact Brian Lach at
blach@nd.edu

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

Money madness

Tim Scanlan
Pardon the Prose

Brackets! Basketball! Sports! The NCAA basketball play-offs are in full swing right now, and the first weekend has surely contributed to the moniker of Madness. Fan bases from Spokane, Washington, to South Bend, Indiana, have something to cheer for as teams large and small deliver both elation and agony in equal portions. The excitement of March Madness came first, but since the tournament expanded to 64 teams in 1985, money followed closely behind. Today, billions of dollars are tied to the basketball abilities of 18- to 22-year-olds. So much money is involved that the real madness happens behind the scenes in how the NCAA, broadcasters and the colleges themselves profit off the tournament.

March Madness is inherently inclined to capture our short attention span as we consume the latest dunk, buzzer-beater and upset. Inspired by this and my inability to select a single topic to write about, I've decided to highlight the most interesting — and concerning — aspects of what makes your bracket really come together.

Without Princeton, there may never have been the March Madness we know today. In 1989, the power conferences were pushing to exclude the mid-majors from the tournament, citing blowout losses and a lack of competitive balance. When No. 16 Princeton was selected to face No. 1 Georgetown, another blowout could have been the final nail in the coffin for the non-power conference schools. ESPN broadcasted the game in primetime because CBS (who still owns the rights today) didn't begin full coverage until the Sweet 16. Instead of the blowout that everyone — including Dick Vitale — predicted, Princeton went into halftime up nine points and only lost on the last possession of the game on two successive Alonzo Mourning blocks. The president of CBS was inspired by the excitement and asked if CBS could manage to broadcast the whole tournament. Eight months later, they signed a broadcasting rights deal worth \$1 billion.

Today, that same deal is worth \$10.8 billion over 14 years. To put that in perspective, the broadcast rights for the entire NBA season are worth \$2.66 billion per year. With some quick math, that payout equals \$1.15 million per March Madness game and \$1.055 million per NBA game. And remember; the NBA players are getting paid for their efforts.

The distribution of all that money is part of the deal. Nearly three-fourths of the revenue is earmarked by the NCAA for various programs such as financial aid and academic programs. The remaining \$194 million is distributed based on performance in the tournament. Each game participated in counts as a "unit." Each "unit" is worth \$255,379, paid to the school's conference each year for six years. Altogether, winning a game in the tournament will earn a school's conference roughly \$1.6 million when it's all said and done. Within the conference, the money is typically split evenly, so even though only six teams from the ACC made the tournament this year, all 15 members will receive a cut. On the first day of the tournament this year, a single point decided five games. Roughly \$8 million changed hands based on five possessions of basketball.

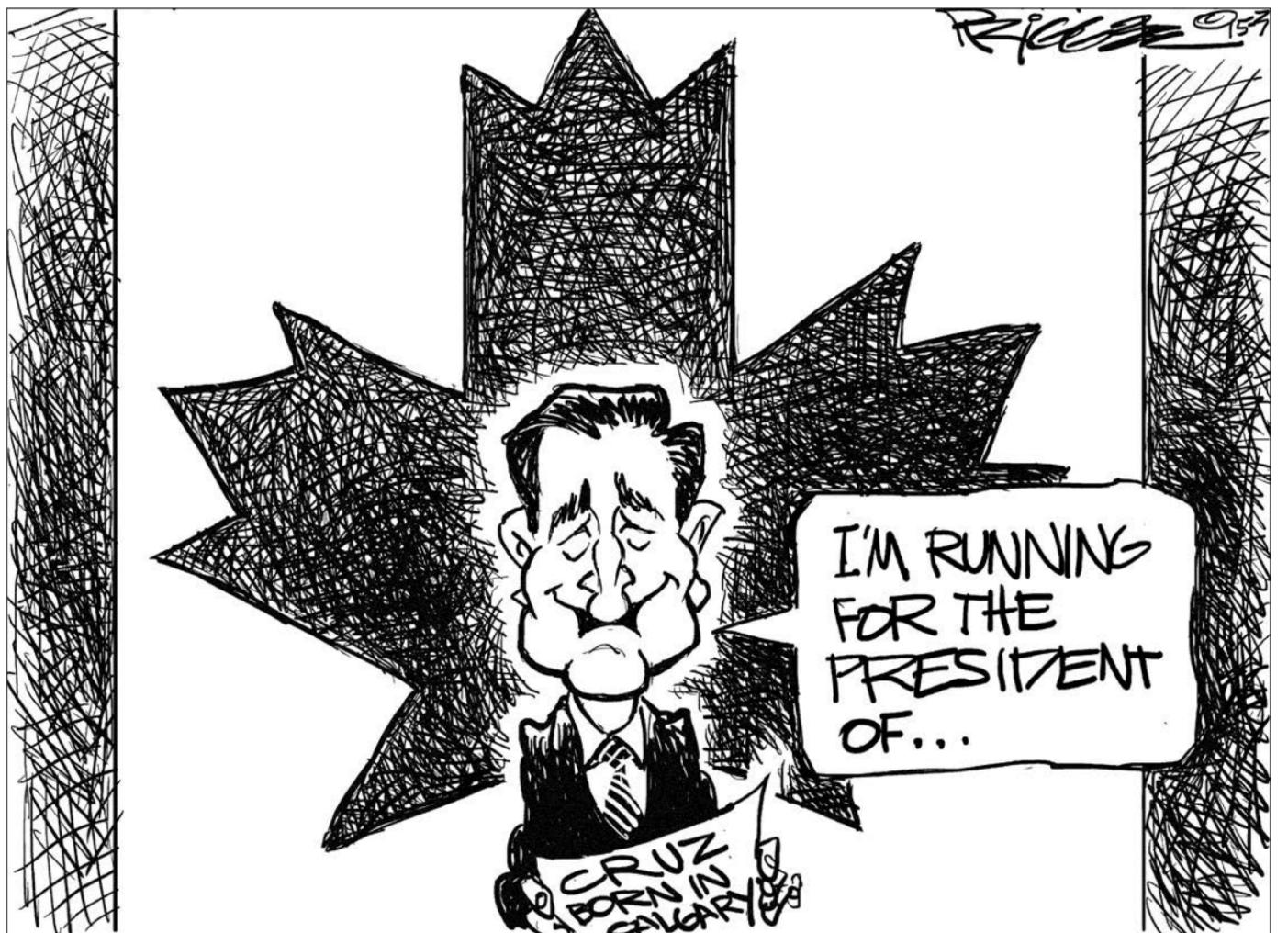
Outside of TV contracts, still more big money changes hands because of March Madness. A recent survey estimated \$9 billion would be bet on the men's tournament this year. About \$2 billion of that will be placed in bracket pools. And it's important to note that companies, such as Quicken Loans last year, often create free pools with cash prizes in the hopes of gaining new customers. In Las Vegas, betting on March basketball outpaces the revenues for the Super Bowl. March Madness commands the attention of the nation, and it also commands the nation's wallets.

The pride and passion on display during March Madness have few equals in sports. The unpredictable nature of the tournament draws fans of all levels of engagement to watch, fill out brackets and bet. While the players and coaches are the stars of the show, it is the vast amount of money behind the scenes that makes it all possible. The NCAA, college conferences, Las Vegas and television broadcasters all have a vested interest in creating and increasing the emotional connection and excitement you feel every March. So cheer and scream and pray for your favorite team to go all the way — I certainly will. But in the midst of the Madness, try to remember that there are dozens of organizations depending on your passion to cash in on college basketball.

Tim Scanlan is a senior finance major with a minor in public service. He is a former resident of Morrissey Manor. He encourages debate on his columns and can be reached with any comments or questions at tscanlan@nd.edu

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

EDITORIAL CARTOON



Dominion and peril in U.S. politics

William McMahon
Blue Collar Blues

On Monday, Senator Ted Cruz of Texas announced his candidacy for the 2016 Republican presidential nomination. He is the first major candidate to officially enter next year's race. This column isn't about 2016, though. It's hardly about Ted Cruz. It's almost about where Senator Cruz made his announcement — Liberty University, founded by Pastor Jerry "the gays caused 9/11" Falwell — but not quite. Really, it's about religion in politics.

This also isn't a column about Ted Cruz's chances for the nomination. He may not be the party favorite, but he's a high-profile senator with an active base in the "religious right." He's certainly relevant enough for us to be alarmed by his rhetoric and his popularity. I'm not going to tell you not to vote for him, since that would imply my asking you to vote for someone else — and I certainly won't be supporting Scott Walker, Jeb Bush, Hillary Clinton or anyone else thrown into the ring by the economic elite. I just want to tell you why you should be alarmed.

Ted Cruz is a dominionist, and he's far from alone. Dominionism holds that Christians should work towards a country where the government is run according to the principles of their religion. It's effectively Sharia law for Christians. This doctrine rears its ugly head every time someone makes a political argument that invokes religion, however seemingly harmless.

The dominionist point of view generally comes with two arguments. The first is that the United States is a Christian nation that has lost its way;

the second is that moving towards Christian governance is the right thing to do. The first is wholly ahistorical. The first amendment to the U.S.

Constitution prevents an establishment of religion, with the courts upholding that it was intended as a separation of church and state. The 1796 Treaty of Tripoli, ratified unanimously by the Senate and signed by President John Adams in 1797, explicitly stated, "the Government of the United States of America is not, in any sense, founded on the Christian religion." I'm hardly one to make an argument of authority from the Founding Fathers, but the dominionist history is all wrong.

Every time someone invokes religion in a political argument, however, they vindicate the dominionists little by little. The fact is, it's really unnecessary. If God tells you not to kill, you can still make an argument against murder that doesn't require someone to share your religion. If you can't make an argument for a policy without religious appeals, then maybe the policy belongs in your church, not in public governance.

No one is actually arguing for rule by the Bible. In no uncertain terms, the Bible condemns gay men to death. In no uncertain terms, the Bible says that rich men will not go to heaven. Opponents of this like to point to the following claim that all things are possible through God, but that's hardly an argument unless you apply it to everything. Best to just ignore the rules for all sins, big and small, and still hope to get into heaven, because all things are possible through God. It's straight denial.

So, what happens is that a religious group will take their holy text, pick around for their preferred morality and declare that they have "the truth"

and that their country must heed "the truth" or be struck down by God. That's what caused 9/11 and Katrina, apparently. Almost invariably, true belief is reserved for the followers, while leaders manipulate the movement for personal gain. The most extreme may not be the majority, but they have so ingratiated themselves into the public sphere for so long that every major candidate of every major party must claim at some point to be guided by their faith, preferably their Christian faith, in their decisions. Where the Constitution bans a legal test of religion for office, religious groups have made one in the court of public opinion. So you either get only those of certain religious beliefs, or you get those willing to lie to get into power. What could go wrong?

History shows that when reactionary groups motivated by religion take power, those who hold different beliefs suffer. Every time you think about bringing faith into politics, think about what would happen to you if a different religious sect won out. Next time you almost draw on religious principles rather than secular values or basic human empathy for a political decision, ask yourself if a theocracy is truly in your favor. Even if you're comfortably in the Christian majority, ask yourself if you value making up your own mind. If so, do not think that they wouldn't come for people like you once they got rid of people like me. If so, don't think they won't come for you someday.

William McMahon is a senior studying Latin American history and is active in the labor movement. He welcomes all comments at wcmahon@nd.edu

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Student Leadership at the GRC

Do you have a lot to say about what's going on around campus, but nowhere constructive to say it? Do you want to make a positive impact on issues like interpersonal relationships, gender identity, sexual identity, embodiment and sexual assault or relationship violence? These topics are important to the Notre Dame community, but often times, students don't know where to go to get involved in the conversation. We wanted to change this, and that's why we applied to be student leaders with the Gender Relations Center (GRC); most GRC student leaders echo these sentiments:

- "I became a FIREstarter student leader for the GRC because it gave me the voice I needed to try to help change the gender relations issues that I had noticed at Notre Dame. I realized in my first year here that it is very important to have ongoing discussion about gender issues such as sexual violence, relationships, friendships, sexual identity, gender identity and body image. I learned that the GRC was the best route I could take to attack these issues head-on." — Michael Nolan, senior
- "I really wanted to learn more about gender issues on campus and the intersections with gender and race. I also wanted to become an advocate for better gender relations on campus." — Chizo Ekechukwu, junior
- "I decided to join the GRC as a student leader because I wanted to be directly involved in facilitating campus dialogue concerning

gender relations, interpersonal relationships and other pertinent topics. Prior to my experience in the GRC, I had a shallow understanding of the important issues at hand, and I really wanted to have a better gauge of the campus climate." — Michael McFadden, junior

If you're thinking, "Having conversations with my friends, or even thinking about these topics myself, is hard enough. How am I supposed to feel comfortable talking about these things with the student body at large?" You're not alone. Many of us were nervous going into the process of being GRC student leaders, but you really are in a position to make a difference.

- "I realized as students, despite all our griping about gender relations at [Notre Dame], we tend to perpetuate these norms because we don't want to risk rejection. Being a FIREstarter with the GRC is not about giving permission to break norms but about creating spaces where students feel safe to do so of their own volition." — Jenn Cha, sophomore
- "With issues of gender, sexuality and sexual assault, institutional policy is only part of the solution. It's just as important to have a community that engages with these issues. I joined the FIREstarters because I wanted to help spark that kind of community. I am grateful for the training and professional development that I have been able to take

part in but even more so for the opportunity to talk to students, especially first year students, about how we can make campus a better, safer Notre Dame family." — Bryan Ricketts, junior

- "Being a GRC student leader has definitely introduced me to people who I have come to call good friends through our efforts to spread awareness of certain issues on our campus. I have seen my peers gain a better understanding of these issues, even those who were not as quick to be open-minded. I think our campus is moving in the right direction for positive reform!" — Justin Jones, junior

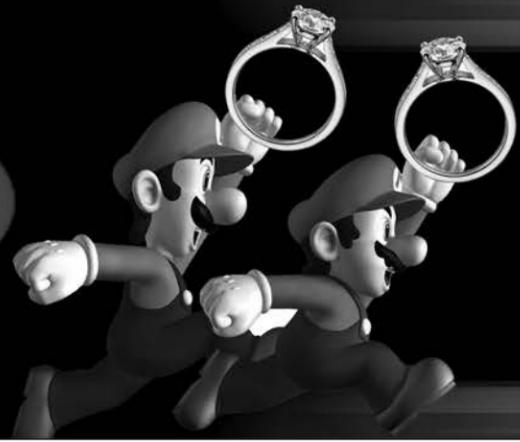
We have valued being GRC student leaders during our time here at ND, and we need new leaders like you to join us in the future. Take a risk, spark some dialogue and apply for a leadership position with the Gender Relations Center for the 2015-2016 academic year.

Applications are available at grc.nd.edu and will be accepted through Friday, March 27 at 11:59 p.m. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to current student leaders and/or the GRC

Rachel Wallace
junior

Deirdre Harrington
senior
March 24

Nintendo's Engagement



Daniel Barabasi

Scene Writer

It's official. We've heard about them flirting for a while. They've gone on a few dates through the 3DS and WiiU app store. But just last week, they came out with the big news: Nintendo and mobile are truly together.

The story isn't exactly the next Nicholas Sparks novel. Rather, it plays out like that of high school sweethearts. Nintendo, the haughty jock with a reputation to keep, had spoken out against its alleged interest in mobile gaming for a long time. Over the past two years, company president Satoru Iwata repeatedly told journalists Nintendo would not go mobile under any circumstances and dismissed any analysis of Nintendo actions that would point toward mobile as a misunderstanding of offhand remarks.

Then Nintendo made a joint announcement with the mobile gaming company DeNA detailing the upcoming modifications to Nintendo's core platform. Nintendo announced it will be making the mobile games itself, implying that DeNA will be mainly involved as an expert on the business and institutional front. Furthermore, Nintendo has pulled back on its membership program, Club Nintendo, with the intent to develop a more united solution through DeNA. The deal was solidified with a 22 billion yen capital exchange (\$184 million), which corresponds to Nintendo giving DeNA 1.24 percent of

its stock and receiving 10 percent of total DeNA stock in return.

So other than a giant bump in the two companies' trading values, what can we hope from the digital Kimye of 2015? Unfortunately, the details of what Nintendo mobile will look like have been more ambiguous than the castle Princess Peach was last seen in. What has been made clear is that Nintendo mobile will not be a professionally-developed SNES or GBA emulator. Satoru Iwata firmly believes games developed for Nintendo consoles are not compatible with the mobile interface. Personally I agree, as doing so would not offer a concrete vision for the direction of Nintendo mobile.

What are the other options? On the one hand, Nintendo mobile could become a "demo" version of console games. Think Age of Empires and Sid Meier's Civilization, both of which released simplified, mobile renditions of their widely popular desktop franchise. On Nintendo's end, however, these would not be full games but rather a form of marketing that would drive users to acquire the console rendition.

Alternatively, Nintendo could create completely free-standing experiences, either using previous characters or developing new dimensions that would simply develop the trademark as a whole. Nintendo has been pushing for a "successful" online game initiative, which may mean such full-bodied mobile games would be their choice. However, the main drawback is Japan has a strong free-to-play culture for mobile, one DeNA has

adhered to.

In order to turn a profit, it seems like Nintendo is turning towards the second option and incorporating a freemium gaming dynamic. On the 3DS, various "apps" have been released that allow for purchase of new minigames or "energy" to keep playing. Initiatives like these make me miss the days where the Wii reminded users once an hour to go outside or read a book for once.

As a die-hard Nintendo fan, I worry for the future of my Pokémon and villagers. Pay-to-win games bastardize the base Nintendo experience. Remember the first Mario games? Where you actually had to have skill to beat the game? Freemium kills that. When the going gets hard, just buy a Deku Nut. Or if you're not a fan of the new techniques of zero suit Samus, chuck your cash towards getting her suit back.

All in all, Nintendo is still a company. If mobile games overshadow console revenue, then guess where the capital will be reinvested.

I have a Wii for the social gaming it provides, be it Mario Kart, Brawl or Jeopardy. I have a Nintendo handheld for commutes but honestly mostly to play Pokémon. I love the time I spend on either, and I don't want either Falcon Punch'd out of the spotlight to make room for Donkey Kong's Mobile Beat.

Contact Daniel Barabasi at dbaraba1@nd.edu

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Obscured: George Lewis Jr.'s 'Eclipse'

By **DANIEL O'BOYLE**

Scene Writer

George Lewis Jr., better known as Twin Shadow, keeps his album titles short, never using more than a simple two-syllable word to make his statement for the album clear.

2010's "Forget" was an intimate piece of bedroom synth-pop. Its deliberately limited production and thoughtful lyrics ensured it remains his most personal album. There's a sense of nervousness to the album, like Lewis would rather forget some of what he sings about. With "Confess," Lewis made a bigger statement, with choruses that grab you like he needs to tell you everything he's been feeling, and the result was one of the best albums of 2012.

"Eclipse," then, was a word likely chosen with a purpose. Lewis might have hoped to evoke images of something beautiful, something you would simply have to stop and listen to, letting you notice the wonders all around you. The album certainly sounds like the most ambitious Twin Shadow record to date, one that he might have hoped would be a masterpiece.

But if this is what Lewis hoped to make, he did not fully deliver. There are some brilliant points in the album that could compare to the best of "Forget" and "Confess," but too many songs are awkward, go nowhere and add nothing, while Lewis' lyrics and vocals — not as clearly at the

front of "Eclipse" as they were on Lewis' earlier albums — sound less personal and more bland than in the rest of his work. The result is a scattered album, where Lewis' brilliant songwriting is sometimes there but not enough to make the whole album memorable.

The good songs on "Eclipse" are still definitely some great work. The second track of the album, "When the Lights Turn Out" drags you in towards its memorable chorus like Lewis did time and again on "Confess" and builds itself up as it goes on, with the chorus of "jealousy and ecstasy slowly taking over me" becoming more and more addictive.

But "When the Lights Turn Out" is found among some decidedly average tracks. The album opener "Flatliners" never really drags you in; if Lewis was hoping to make an album bigger than anything he's done before, he's lost any kind of personal touch in doing so. Too many tracks on the album feature loud, buzzing synths Lewis might have hoped would add some extra power to his words. Instead, they just get in the way. Many songs lurch back and forth, briefly finding what seems to be something great and then moving back to the blandness and overdone synthesizers.

"Old Love / New Love" — released in 2013 for the soundtrack to Grand Theft Auto V — remains the highlight of the album and a reminder of what it could have been. Noticeably different from the rest of Lewis' work, it's a full-blown dance track with a pounding drum,

unforgettable piano hook and screams of "drill me to the floor." If Lewis was done with personal albums, more work like this could have been somewhere for him to go, but instead it feels a little out of place and although it quickly improves, it starts off rough before thankfully lurching into a more pleasant gear.

"Eclipse" was released only days after Northern Europe experienced a solar eclipse, which served as a useful reminder of the realities of an eclipse: they're often obscured by cloud and not quite the sight that they could have been. If this was the kind of image Lewis hoped to convey with this album, he achieved his goal. If not, "Eclipse" is a hit-or-miss affair with some brilliance but too much obscuring it.

Contact Daniel O'Boyle at doboyl1@nd.edu

"Eclipse"

George Lewis Jr.

Label: Warner Bros.

Tracks: "Old Love / New Love," "When the Lights Turn Out," "Alone"

If you like: Blood Orange, Wild Nothing, Future Islands



Artistic memories of the Great War

By **ERIN MCAULIFFE**
Scene Editor

A collision of media, history and discussion will take place in the Debartolo Performing Arts Center tonight.

“WWI In the Graphic Novels: A Drawing Cabaret,” hosted by the Nanovic Institute for European Studies and the Film, Television and Theater (FTT) Department, will combine acting, drawing and an audience-centered discussion in memorial of the First World War.

Four artists chose texts that served as inspiration for their works, and four actors from the FTT department will perform each text. There will be an ongoing discussion with the graphic novelists, while one of the artists performs a live drawing of the text he or she chose. A camera will project the drawing process for the audience.

The event has been a work-in-progress since Jim McAdams, the Director of the Nanovic Institute, and Anthony Monta, the Associate Director, approached Olivier Morel for an innovative event to mark the 100th anniversary of the First World War (1914-1918).

Morel, a native of France with three ancestors who fought in the Great War, took on the project.

“We tend to forget that it was not just a ‘world’ war in the sense that many nations and people were involved,”

he said. “It is also about the scale: with this war, the world, the ancient world, was upside down.”

At the time, nearly everyone in France, Belgium, the U.K., Italy, the Balkans, Central Europe and Germany felt the war’s consequences. The stories remain prevalent today, and Morel has a few of his own.

“One of my great-grandfather’s ships sunk in the Strait — he survived after spending 48 hours on a small piece of wood. The other one, who was a very poor illiterate peasant, got a severe head injury that kept him from working. He died eight years after the war due to the consequences of his injury.”

Morel has approached the First World War in creative and insightful ways before.

“At a personal level, I have worked extensively on this conflict: from 1995 until 2004, I traveled around the world, and I interviewed and filmed many WWI veterans — they were all 99 years old and older. I wrote two books on the subject, put together an exhibit that was displayed in several venues including the Gare de l’Est train station (where many soldiers left from), and I am currently completing a web documentary with the international television channel TV5.”

Tonight’s event will focus on the graphic novel as a medium for “writing and storytelling with a strong

relationship to artistic and literary traditions, as well as photography, sociology and cinema,” Morel said.

The event will feature four graphic novelists who embody these ideals. Maël & Kris are currently turning their four-volume graphic novel, “Notre Mère la Guerre,” into a feature film, Chloé Cruchaudet’s graphic novel “Mauvais Genre” was inspired by a true story, and Ivan Petrus, who published “The Nieupoort Gathering,” has a personal family history that links him to the subject.

“One of the most interesting developments in the sector of graphic novels that I have experimented and taught is ‘documentary graphic novels’ or ‘comics journalism,’” Morel said. “Interestingly, the four artists that I invited are very active in this sector.”

The inclusion of “comics journalism” in the event will lend itself to topical discussions of the Charlie Hebdo attacks in Paris in January, Morel said.

“Several of the artists knew some of the people who were killed or targeted at Charlie Hebdo, so the audience will hear from firsthand connections,” Morel said.

The event will be held at Philbin Studio Theatre in DPAC tonight at 7 p.m. Tickets are free and can be reserved online.

Contact Erin McAuliffe at emcaucif@nd.edu

‘The Powers that B’ Review

By **JOHN DARR**
Scene Writer

It’s 6:19 p.m., and I’m in my dark, cramped, single dorm room with clothes all over the floor; I’m out of Nutter Butters. I got two hours of sleep last night. I have a six-page paper I haven’t started due tomorrow. I have to find a date for Saturday’s dance. My bracket is destroyed. I have this music review to write. Someone’s knocking at my door again. “Come in, I guess,” I say.

“Are you okay, man?” asks a voice.

“I’ve had a migraine for four straight days now, if that’s what you’re asking, and I have to write a Death Grips review.”

“Oh Lord,” says Dan as he peeks his head around the corner of my desk. He’s a fashionable, tall fellow whose only shortcoming as a hipster is his lack of Death Grips fanaticism.

“Yeah, I mean their new record is actually pretty good, but I don’t want to write about it that much, and I sure as hell don’t want to go through the whole history of Death Grips again.”

Dan says, “Weren’t they the band that got picked up by a major label and then leaked their own album for free with one of the band member’s ****s on the cover?”

I laugh. “Yeah, this is actually the first album they haven’t released for free and the first one that they’re actually asking people to pay for.”

Dan looks interested. “What does it sound like exactly?”

“A lot of it is actually really guitar-driven. Whereas a lot of their past records really built up the ‘beats’ vocalist MC Ride (real name Stefan Burnett) who raps or yells over on catchy synth lines and massive, twisted samples ranging from Bollywood to Pink Floyd. The new record — well, actually, the way I’m phrasing it is kind of confusing. The new record, half of it was released last year. Like the whole album — it’s a double album — is called ‘The Powers That B’ and it comes in two parts, one of which was released last year and one of which was just released

last week. So I guess I have to talk about both parts.”

“The first part is called N***** on the Moon, often abbreviated as NOTM, which is an odd title, because MC Ride, as the only black member of the group, has used every profane word in the book except for the one in the title I just told you. And he doesn’t really address race in his lyrics.

“But anyway, that record was basically built on the drumming work of Zach Hill, who’s been a core member of the band since day one. He’s always been bringing the fire with his beats, both acoustic and electronic. So for NOTM, he basically put a bunch of samples — drum samples, synth samples and samples of Björk singing — on an electronic drum set and hammered out the beats all by himself. They’re lightning fast, erratic and really percussive.

“MC Ride’s rapping is as crazy and ferocious as ever. His words sprint from insane violence to technology-induced paranoia to psychological terror and even symbolic social commentary over Hill’s relentless beats. I don’t know how much work Flatlander — the last core member of the band, the producer — put into the record, but there are some amazing moments on it.

“For example, the record’s first track, titled ‘Up My Sleeves,’ is about death and using your own destruction like some tool against your enemies — very kamikaze, a tactic which the group has referenced before. But anyway, there’s a moment on the track where everything cuts out, and MC Ride just describes this cemetery scene and contemplates the point of an ultimately transient existence and wonders if he even wants to know if anything matters. And all you hear is this nightly haze, this surrounding group of still crickets, unable to answer him, and capturing the environment perfectly. Death Grips are almost never quiet; the juxtaposition of their normal style with this moment of relative peace, and yet ultimate doubt, is stunning.

“There are moments like that all over the record. MC Ride raps, ‘I don’t talk to the help,’ clearly a reference to

the past ‘unofficial’ slavery of black servants post-Civil War, before shrieking ‘help!’ repeatedly after that statement — contradicting himself immediately if we assume he’s calling for the people he just claimed to be independent from or higher than.

“And then this new record, this second half of ‘The Powers That B’ that’s called ‘Jenny Death,’ is instrumentally drenched in roaring guitars courtesy of Tera Melos’ Nick Reinhart and all in all is a far more acoustic endeavor. Zach Hill’s back on the acoustic drum, hammering out sick beats, and MC Ride’s yelling out these absurd lines. What’s a better way to end your last record than by meeting Death on your front porch and having him say, ‘It’s been a pleasure, Stefan?’ Did I already tell you that MC Ride’s real name is Stefan Burnett?”

Dan smiles and laughs. “Yeah, you did.”

I laugh. “Alright, well I’m gonna have to write this review now. It’s probably gonna be really unfocused and mediocre. Sorry to kick you out.”

The door closes. I look at the blank page on my computer screen. I realize that by some miracle, I haven’t been talking to Dan, but rather I’ve been writing this review the entire time.

Thank goodness it’s over.
Sort of.

Contact John Darr at jdarr@nd.edu

“The Powers That B”

Death Grips

Label: Harvest Records

Tracks: “Voila,” “Big Dipper,” “Inanimate Sensation,” “On GP”

If you like: Clipping, Tyler the Creator, El-P



SPORTS AUTHORITY

ACC proves itself best conference

By Brian Plamondon
Sports Writer

Bracket busted? Yup, mine too.

But we're not alone. Out of 11.57 million brackets filled out on ESPN's Bracket Challenge, not one was perfect after the first weekend of play in this year's NCAA men's tournament. In fact, only 14 people picked all the Sweet 16 teams correctly.

I could write about how this team will shock everyone and make the Final Four or how that team is a lock to win it all. But after more than 20 hours of basketball frying my brain last weekend, I still don't know what's going to happen — and that's the beauty of it.

So I won't waste my time on what amounts to a guessing game. I'd rather write about something I'm certain of: the Atlantic Coast Conference is the premier men's basketball conference in the country, and it's not even close.

After a season in which pundits across the country praised the likes of the Big Ten and Big 12, it's the ACC once again proving otherwise.

The ACC boasts a Duke team that is as good as ever this year with three of its four losses coming to fellow Sweet 16 teams — not to mention it has a Player of the Year candidate in freshman forward Jahliil Okafor. Oh, and they just so happened to dismantle their first two opponents by an average of 24 points. Not bad.

Notre Dame and Louisville both are relative newcomers from the Big East but have wasted no time asserting themselves in the ACC. Notre Dame seems to do more with less every single year, this time showing their penchant for winning close games isn't limited to just the regular season. Louisville went toe-to-toe with Kentucky in December, eventually losing 58-50: a lot more respectable than Big 12 champ Kansas's 32-point loss to the undefeated Wildcats. They also moved on to the Sweet 16 even though Chris Jones, one of the Cardinals' best playmakers, was dismissed from the team in February.

North Carolina only had one loss to a team not in the tournament, falling to Pittsburgh. On their way to the Sweet 16, the Tar Heels handled an Arkansas team that was supposed to be second-best in the SEC.

North Carolina State boasts one of the best backcourts in the country, a group which powered the Wolfpack past No. 1 seed Villanova, the best the Big East had to offer.

This is all without mentioning Virginia, the ACC

regular-season champion that inexplicably fell in the round of 32.

Just look at the numbers — the ACC is 11-1 in the tournament through the first weekend, an unprecedented feat that will result in the NCAA distributing more than \$28 million to the conference over the next six years. If the success continues, the ACC would be the first conference to earn more than \$30 million off of one tournament. But sure, the ACC had a down year.

When you look at the competition, the gap is wide. The Big Ten fielded seven tournament teams, led by No. 1 seed Wisconsin. The Badgers, however, looked lackluster in a 14-point victory over Coastal Carolina. They followed that up by eking out a seven-point win over an Oregon team that suffered back-to-back losses to two dreadful teams, Washington and Washington State, in January.

The only other Big Ten team to make the Sweet 16 is Michigan State, a squad that was vastly underseeded at No. 7. The conference's other seven seed, Iowa, was dismantled by Gonzaga 87-68. In short, it's hard to make a case for the Big Ten.

How about the Big 12? The conference was praised as having the highest number of quality teams, with depth across the board. Seven teams made the Big Dance, but only two remain.

Two of their strongest teams, No. 3 seeds Baylor and Iowa State, lost to Georgia State and UAB, respectively. That doesn't need much of an explanation.

Two other teams had no business being in the tournament at all: Texas and Oklahoma State, which both finished with 14 losses and sporting sub-.500 records in conference play.

And then there's the crown jewel, Kansas, who went down without a fight against Wichita State.

The Big 12, and the Big Ten for that matter, have depth. But to be the best conference in basketball, it takes more than a bunch of quality teams beating up on one another. You need more than one elite team, teams that manhandle inferior opponents. You need teams that lurk in the periphery all season but have the ability to shock a top-10 team. The ACC has those teams — don't be surprised if more than one ends up in Indianapolis.

Contact Brian Plamondon at bplamond@nd.edu

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

NFL

Sharper pleads guilty in sexual assault case

Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — Former NFL star Darren Sharper pleaded guilty Tuesday in Las Vegas to a reduced felony attempted sex assault charge, in the third part of a four-state plea deal that prosecutors say will put him in federal prison for about nine years.

Appearing by Internet hookup from a courtroom in Los Angeles, Sharper entered his plea before Clark County District Court Judge Douglas Herndon, who scheduled sentencing for June 25.

A plea agreement calls for Sharper to serve 38 months to eight years in prison for the Nevada conviction, but at the same time as sentences from California, Arizona and Louisiana.

On Monday, the 39-year-old Sharper pleaded guilty to sexual assault in Arizona — again using an Internet hookup — and no contest in Los Angeles to raping two women he drugged after meeting them in a West Hollywood bar.

He was sentenced to nine years in the Arizona case and will face 20 years in the California case when he's sentenced July 15. The

California no-contest pleas have the same effect as a conviction, and state sentencing rules will have him serve about nine years.

Sharper is due in federal court April 6 in New Orleans, the city where he won a Super Bowl as a member of the NFL Saints franchise. He's due in Louisiana state court 10 days later.

Sharper wore an orange jail uniform with "LA County" stamped over his chest pocket as he sat Tuesday in Los Angeles flanked by attorneys Blair Berk and Lisa Wayne.

One of his Las Vegas lawyers, Richard Schonfeld, appeared on his behalf — first before a Las Vegas justice of the peace and then before Herndon.

The former all-pro safety cleared his throat and said, "Guilty," when asked to enter his plea.

Sharper's other lawyer, David Chesnoff, issued a statement noting that Sharper took responsibility in the Las Vegas case.

Sharper could have faced 20 years to life in Nevada state prison on two sexual assault charges filed against him last week in Las Vegas.

Those charges were dropped as part of the plea agreement. Prosecutor Craig Hendricks

said he spoke with the two victims, both in their mid-20s, before terms of Sharper's plea deal were made public.

Sharper was accused of club-hopping with the women in January 2014 before taking them to his room at a Las Vegas Strip hotel, drugging them and raping them while they were unconscious.

Police and prosecutors characterized the Las Vegas case as weaker than in California, Arizona and Louisiana because the women didn't report the attack until after they returned home and heard about similar allegations against Sharper.

District Attorney Steve Wolfson said Tuesday he was satisfied that Sharper was accepting responsibility for his crimes in Las Vegas and the other states.

Sharper retired in 2011 after a 14-year NFL career as with the Green Bay Packers, Minnesota Vikings and the Saints. He won a Super Bowl in New Orleans.

He was working as an NFL network analyst when women began telling police in several cities similar stories of blacking out while drinking with him and waking up groggy to find they had been sexually abused.

GOLF

Jack Nicklaus awarded congressional gold medal

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Golden Bear got a gold medal.

Congress on Tuesday awarded its highest civilian honor to golfing great Jack Nicklaus, who accepted the medal with a few tears, humility and humor.

In a ceremony in the Capitol Rotunda, the House and Senate leadership bestowed the award on Nicklaus, winner of 18 major championships, including six Masters titles, five PGA championships and four U.S. Opens.

"Few transcend their sport to achieve that kind of moment, or this kind of honor," said House Speaker John Boehner, an avid

golfer who grew emotional at times during the ceremony. "With Arnie (Palmer), it was how he brought an audience to the game - an army. With Jack, it's how he gave the game a gold standard - a ladder to climb."

The 75-year-old Nicklaus, dubbed the Golden Bear, recalled the hard work of his parents, praised his family and paid tribute to his wife, Barbara. He recalled that when his son Jack was six, he was asked what his father did for a living. The younger Nicklaus said, "Nothing, he just plays golf."

An emotional Nicklaus told his family that his whole life he wanted to make them proud of him, and "hopefully I have."

The speakers, from

Congressional leaders to Nicklaus' son, recalled the drama of the golfer's 1986 win at the Masters. They praised Nicklaus' charitable work, including the Nicklaus Children's Health Care Foundation, which recently pledged \$60 million to the Miami Children's Health System.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., said Nicklaus had a brush with polio as a teenager. McConnell said that as a fellow survivor of polio he appreciated Nicklaus' perseverance.

Attending the ceremony for Nicklaus was golfing legend Arnold Palmer. The Ohio State marching band performed for the Ohio-born Nicklaus.

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SMC LACROSSE

SMC falls to Elmhurst, prepares for IIT, JCU

Observer Staff Report

Despite establishing an early 2-0 lead, Saint Mary's fell victim to an 8-0 scoring run en route to their 14-5 loss to Elmhurst on Saturday.

Sophomore goalkeeper Shannon Weyer established herself as a presence in the Saint Mary's net early, saving the first four shots that she faced and giving the Belles defense a fair bit of early game momentum. Efficient ball movement in the defensive zone eventually resulted in an opportunity for freshman midfielder Clare Theisen, who drove toward the goal and scored to earn a 1-0 lead for the Belles.

Theisen's offensive production would continue a few minutes later, as she scored her second goal of the afternoon to give the Belles a 2-0 lead with about twenty minutes remaining in the first half.

Unfortunately for the Belles, the Elmhurst offense responded in kind soon after. Though offensive possessions were fairly even throughout the remainder of the first half, and the Belles saw a few more opportunities within the 8-meter

fan, the Blue Jays were able to capitalize on their chances and earn an 8-2 lead moving into halftime. This despite the continued efforts of Weyer, who had two strong saves in the closing moments of the half to prevent Elmhurst from expanding their lead before moving into the break.

The second frame allowed for an opportunity for Saint Mary's to reclaim some offensive momentum early, as sophomore attack Emilie Vanneste managed to convert on a free position shot, making the score 8-3 with 24:38 remaining. The Blue Jays did not take long to respond, however, responding with a goal of their own four minutes later. This sparked the Elmhurst offense to score three more consecutive goals before the Belles managed to respond again.

The Belles' fourth goal on the afternoon came with 11 minutes remaining in regulation time, when Theisen caught a pass from freshman attack Hanna Makowski and converted on the ensuing shot to complete her hat trick. Still not done, Theisen would convert her fourth goal of the game in the closing moments

of the match, bringing the final score to 14-5 in favor of Elmhurst.

The Belles now look to continue their out-of-conference schedule in the early stages of the season, with their next two matches pitting Saint Mary's against two other programs that have only recently entered the competitive collegiate field: Illinois Tech and John Carroll. This is the first year that Illinois Tech (1-3) is a member of a formal conference. As an independent program in the Spring of 2014, the Scarlet Hawks posted a record of 0-11, scoring an average of 3.56 goals a game.

John Carroll's program is one of the newest in the country — this season marks the first that the university has fielded a varsity women's lacrosse team. The Ohio-based university has seen a fair amount of success in the early stages of their squad's inaugural season — they currently hold a 4-2 record following a 21-1 victory over Waynesburg on Tuesday.

The Belles travel to face Illinois Tech on Thursday at 6 p.m. before returning home for their match against John Carroll on Saturday.

NBA | MAVERICKS 101, SPURS 94

Ellis scores 38 in win over Spurs

Associated Press

DALLAS — Monta Ellis provided an emphatic rebuttal Tuesday night to a dismal performance 48 hours earlier.

Ellis matched his season high with 38 points and the Dallas Mavericks rallied in the second half to defeat the San Antonio Spurs 101-94.

Ellis hit 16 of 27 shots, bouncing back from his 4-for-22 showing Sunday in a loss at Phoenix. In that game, he went 0-for-8 in the fourth quarter as Dallas' six-point lead vanished down the stretch.

"Too much Monta tonight, don't you think?" Mavericks coach Rick Carlisle said. "The fact that we got in transition got him some easy buckets early and got him rolling."

Ellis said his shooting was simply taking what the defense gave him.

"Everybody was juiced up," he said. "We came out very aggressive. They made their run, and we made our run."

Dirk Nowitzki collected 15 points and 13 rebounds and Chandler Parsons added 15 for the Mavericks.

Kawhi Leonard led the Spurs with 19 points and Danny

Green added 17.

The victory pulled Dallas within percentage points of sixth-place San Antonio in the Western Conference.

"I think we started out well," Spurs coach Gregg Popovich said. "After that, it was the Mr. Ellis show. We just couldn't contain him."

That's nothing new this season. Ellis is averaging 34 points in three games against the Spurs.

He wasted little time putting Sunday's outing behind him, scoring seven points in the opening 3:05.

Ellis was assessed a technical foul midway through the third quarter, thinking he was fouled on an unsuccessful drive, the Spurs leading 54-53. He then hit a 3-pointer that sparked a 23-12 Mavericks run for the rest of the period and a 76-66 advantage.

"We changed defenses (on Ellis)," said the Spurs' Tim Duncan, who had just six points and rebounds and sat out the fourth period. "We went back and forth. But he had a night, and those are situations where we can do what we can do. But if we're making shots, we can kind of counter that a little bit."

NBA | THUNDER 127, LAKERS 117

Westbrook carries Thunder in win

Associated Press

OKLAHOMA CITY — It would have been understandable for the Oklahoma City Thunder to overlook the struggling Los Angeles Lakers Tuesday night with a road game looming against defending NBA champs San Antonio

NBA scoring leader Russell Westbrook refused to let that happen, scoring 27 points and adding 11 assists as the Thunder beat the Lakers 127-117 for their fourth straight victory.

Westbrook took over the game after the Lakers had closed to 70-61 three less than three minutes into the second half, getting a steal and dunk and draining a 3-pointer seconds later on his way to a 14-point third quarter.

"We did a good job of just staying in attack mode and finishing well in the paint," said Westbrook, who finished just shy of his league-leading 27.5 scoring average.

Enes Kanter contributed 25 points and 16 rebounds, and for the second straight game, got off to a fast start, recording a double-double in the first quarter with 15 points and 10 rebounds as Oklahoma City raced out to a 37-27 lead.

Kanter has scored 52 points and grabbed 28 rebounds in his last two games. Many of his points have come after offensive rebounds, especially when defenses try to gang up on Westbrook when he drives to the basket.

"He did a good job of being aggressive," Westbrook said. "Enes has good touch, especially around the paint and you are seeing that early."

The Thunder, the NBA's best rebounding team, crushed the Lakers 49-28 on the boards. Steven Adams joined Kanter in the double-double category with 16 points and 10 rebounds. Dion Waiters added 23 points and Anthony Morrow had 12 off the bench.

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Jane Dailey, University of Chicago | Michelle Nickerson, Loyola University Chicago

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Philip Gleason, University of Notre Dame (emeritus)



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ND SOFTBALL

Irish ready for matchup with Mastodons

By **BENJAMIN PADANILAM**
Sports Writer

Notre Dame will carry its five-game winning streak into its non-conference matchup with Purdue-Fort Wayne (IPFW) today at Melissa Cook Stadium at 5 p.m.

The Irish (19-11, 4-5 ACC) enter their game with the Mastodons (0-23, 0-3 Summit) having won five straight games, including four straight conference victories, to rebound from their 0-5 start in the ACC.

Despite the fact that the Mastodons are winless on the year, senior third baseman Katey Haus says that the team will treat this game as they would any other.

"I don't think there's any concern about overlooking IPFW," Haus said. "We're looking to take this season one game at a time and play our A-game regardless of the opponent."

The Irish will likely send either sophomore Rachel Nasland or junior Allie Rhodes to the mound against the Mastodons. Nasland currently leads the team with 10 wins and a 2.42 ERA in 18 starts. In the series sweep of Georgia Tech this past weekend, she pitched two

complete games and allowed just one run, including a one-hitter with 10 strikeouts in the series finale this past Sunday. This performance led to her being named ACC Pitcher of the Week for the second straight week and third time in total this season. Rhodes, on the other hand, pitched three shutout innings in the team's 13-0 win on Saturday. She has started 10 games for the Irish, and she currently holds a 3.68 ERA and a 7-4 record on the year.

The Irish bats have recently woken up as well, outscoring their opponents 44-5 during their five game winning streak. As a result, the team is now ranked in the top five in the conference in batting average, hits, stolen bases, slugging percentage and runs per game. They have been led on offense by the trio of Haus, junior first base Micaela Arizmendi and sophomore left fielder Karley Wester. Haus leads the team with eight home runs and is second in RBIs with 24 and batting average at .404. Wester leads the team with a .438 batting average and 15 steals, while Arizmendi has a team high 25 RBIs and trails only Haus with six home runs.

The Mastodons' poor record is in large part due to

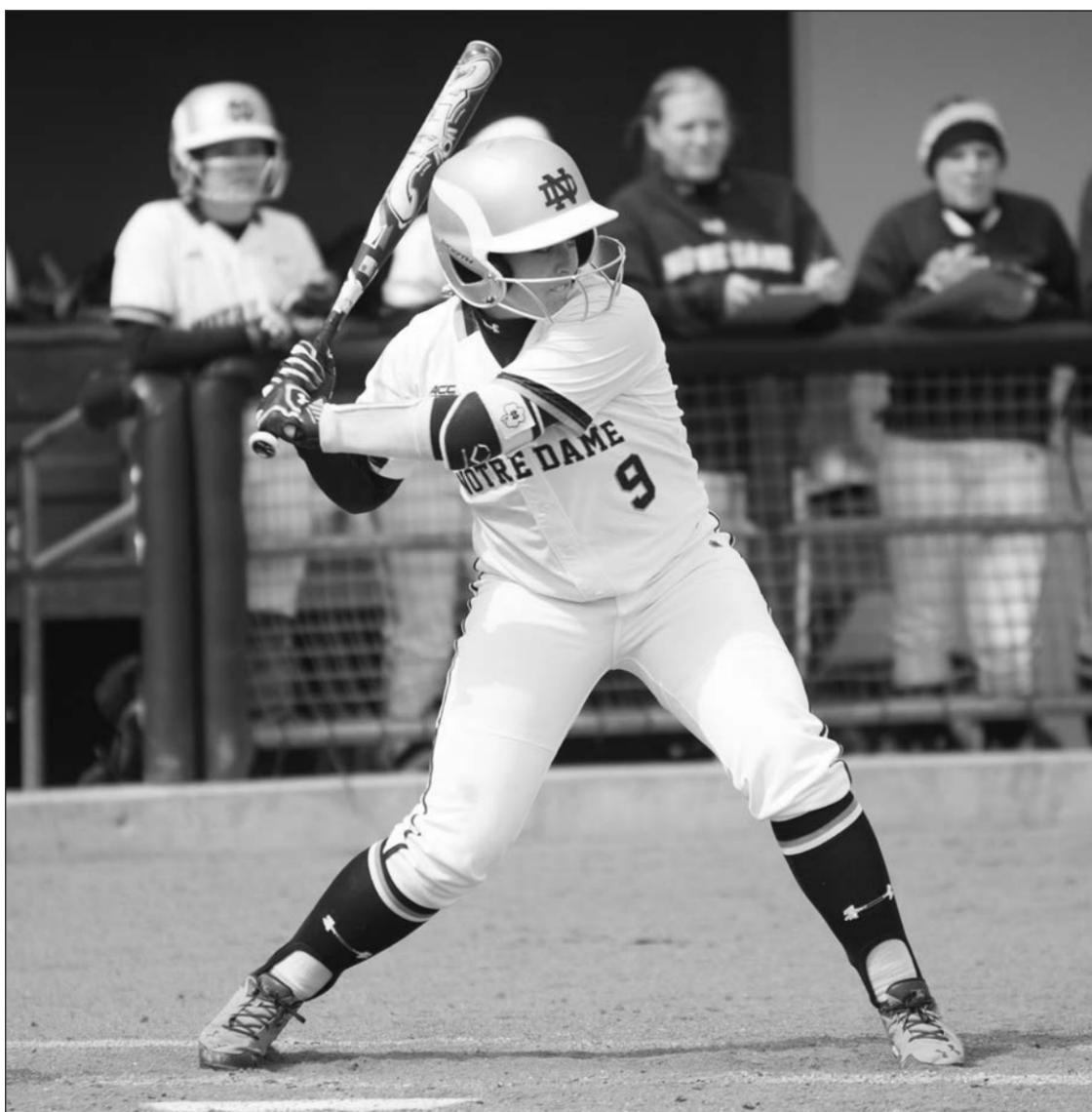
their struggles both on the mound and at the plate. As a team, they hit just .186 and have 25 RBIs total through 23 games. Their pitching staff, consisting of junior Sarah Lazarowich, sophomore Kaitlyn Biere, and freshman Kaitlin Kowalski, have a combined ERA of 10.27 and an opponents have hit for a .389 average against them as a staff.

Over the next few weeks, Notre Dame's schedule consists of one or two non-conference games in the middle of the week followed by a weekend series versus an ACC opponent. Haus believes that the formatting of the schedule in this way is beneficial for the team.

"These midweek non-conference games give us more opportunities to work in game situations to better prepare us for the weekend," Haus said. "We're focused on making sure we're playing the way we can for a full seven innings every game. If we do that everything else will fall into place."

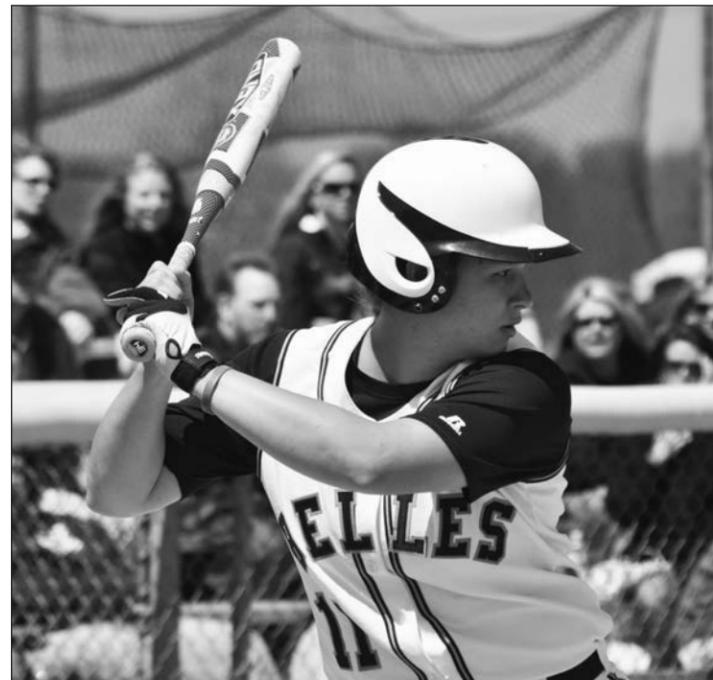
Notre Dame will take the field later today against IPFW at Melissa Cook Stadium at 5 p.m.

Contact Benjamin Padanilam at bpadanil@nd.edu



CHRIS COLLINS | The Observer

Irish senior third baseman Katey Haus readies for a pitch in Notre Dame's 6-1 win over Georgia Tech on Saturday at Melissa Cook Stadium. Haus had one RBI in the victory.



CAROLINE GENCO | The Observer

Belles junior catcher/first baseman Jillian Busfield bats in Saint Mary's 3-2 win over Adrian on April 19 at home.

SMC SOFTBALL

Belles set to take on Thunder

Observer Staff Report

After a strong start to their season, the Belles look to stay hot as they travel to play Wheaton on Thursday.

Saint Mary's (8-2) has not taken the field since a Spring Trip game in Florida on March 12 after their scheduled double-header against Dominican this past Sunday was postponed. Wheaton is not a familiar foe for Saint Mary's, as the scheduled matchups between the Belles and the Thunder (6-7) were cancelled in both 2014 and 2013.

The Belles' early season success has been in large part due to the team's performance at the plate. Freshman outfielder Cassie Young currently leads the team in batting average at .452, registering 14 hits in 31 at-bats. Junior outfielder Sarah Callis is not far behind Young, however, registering a .424 average thus far.

The Belles have also received a significant amount of production from junior catcher/first baseman Jillian Busfield. Busfield, who was named first team all-MIAA and first team all-region in

2014, has been tearing the cover off the ball up to this point in the season. Through 10 games, Busfield has hit four home runs and has registered 16 RBIs, leading the team in both categories. Her slugging percentage of .735 far outpaces the player with the next highest percentage on the team, which is Young at .581.

The Thunder are led by junior pitcher/first baseman Katie Thornton. Through just 13 regular season games, Thornton has already pitched six complete games, pitching a total of 50.1 innings thus far. Despite her heavy workload, Thornton has been very efficient, only giving up 16 earned runs while her opponents are hitting a mere .175 against her.

During the Belles' spring trip to Clermont, Florida from March 7 to March 15, they outscored their opponents 61-28. On the contrary, the Thunder will be looking to get out of a slump and register their first home win of the season after starting 0-4 at home.

The Belles look to make their case as a legitimate MIAA title contender at Wheaton this Thursday at 3 p.m.

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Baseball

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

open midweek slot by adding Western Michigan (8-11, 1-2 MAC).

Sophomore right-hander Ryan Smoyer will get the start tonight for Notre Dame, making his third midweek start of the season. Smoyer earned the first win of his college career last Wednesday, giving up seven hits and one run in 4 1/3 innings against Central Michigan.

The Irish will face Broncos sophomore left-hander Keegan Akin, who has a 1-1 record and 4.50 ERA in six starts this season. Akin started Sunday for Western Michigan, only lasting 2/3 of an inning and surrendering four runs, three of them earned, on four hits.

Despite Akin's struggles Sunday, Western Michigan avoided the sweep in its conference-opener series against Miami (Ohio) with a 9-5 victory. Junior infielder Hunter Prince paced the Broncos with two doubles and three RBIs, and junior infielder Kurt Hoekstra added two hits and two RBIs in Sunday's win.

Hoekstra currently leads Western Michigan with a .416 batting average, .489 on-base percentage, 16 runs scored, 32 hits, four triples and 21 RBIs. The next-highest batting average on the Broncos belongs to junior catcher Brett Sunde, who sports a .299 mark.

Aoki said it will be key for the Irish to play with a renewed

energy and focus, something he admitted they lacked at different points against Louisville.

"I think the big thing is for the first half of [Sunday's] game, I wasn't all that enthused with where our energy level was," he said. "I think the important thing for us is that we show back up on [Wednesday], and our engagement and compete level are back to where it's been. I thought in the latter half of the game we did that.

"We will get back to who and

what we are, and the wins and losses will take care of themselves. We just have to worry about us trying to be as good as we can, both individually and collectively, and keeping that one-pitch-at-a-time mentality."

Notre Dame and Western Michigan will meet tonight at Frank Eck Stadium. First pitch is scheduled for 6:30 p.m.

Contact Brian Hartnett at bhartnet@nd.edu



MICHAEL YU | The Observer

Irish sophomore pitcher Ryan Smoyer delivers a pitch in Notre Dame's 8-3 win over Central Michigan on March 18.

ND WOMEN'S LACROSSE

Irish look to keep rolling

By ZACH KLONSINSKI
Sports Editor

After riding a special source of inspiration to a second-half trouncing of No. 14 Ohio State on Saturday at Arlotta Stadium, No. 18 Notre Dame looks to keep the momentum going tonight on the road against Marquette.

The Irish (5-4, 1-2 ACC) returned to their locker room after practice Friday night to find new green jerseys hanging in their lockers. The next day, donning green for the first time in program history, Notre Dame tallied the first six goals of the second half to pull away from the Buckeyes (8-2, 0-0 Big Ten) by a final score of 13-5.

After a three-game losing streak to begin the month of March, the win was Notre Dame's second consecutive victory after a 15-8 victory over Virginia Tech on March 14. With lots of youth seeing time on the field and a number of key players returning after missing extended stretches last year, Irish head coach Christine Halfpenny said she witnessed a transformation in her team over spring break.

"I think it's just been [playing with] a lot more conviction," Halfpenny said. "I think kids have really settled into their 'role.' ... I think that they're really getting comfortable in their contribution to the team.

"I think they've put expectations on themselves a little bit higher. You don't hear them anymore being like 'Oh, that's ok,' when a ball drops. They're saying 'I've got the next one.' A switch has been flipped for the team, and it's all been a natural process."

Halfpenny said she noticed players like senior defender and co-captain Leah Gallagher, who has been a mainstay in the Irish starting lineup since her sophomore season, assume control of the drive and mentality of this year's team, causing a change in mindset among the younger players.

"[Gallagher] feels like she's playing the best ball she's ever played," Halfpenny said. "So when you have that first older kid that says 'I'm playing out of my mind,' and a little pep in her step comes and a little edge comes, and that just starts to become — there's electricity with that, and

it's starting to spread."

This in turn has let the Irish settle into an offensive rhythm that was missing at the beginning of the month, Halfpenny said.

"We've also been very patient with the ball, very deliberate on offense, and because of the skill sets our kids have and all of their training ... they're being able to be thrown into — yes, a deliberate offense — but once that ball's in play, it's a read offense," Halfpenny said. "That's really fun for us, and that's where we're generating more offense in the last few games."

After a slow first half in both its victories, Notre Dame exploded for a combined 18 goals in the second 30-minute periods. Halfpenny gave credit to her training staff for making sure the Irish still had legs in the second half, but she said the Irish can't afford to get off to a slow start against the streaky Golden Eagles (4-5, 0-0 Big East).

"The reality is at the first whistle, the game is tied no matter where you're ranked," Halfpenny said.

"We've got great speed and dodging ability ... so we're really going to look to fast-break on this team. ... We're really going to focus on us and go together."

Marquette coach Meredith Black is a 2004 Notre Dame graduate who was part of the team that reached the program's first two NCAA tournament appearances in 2002 and 2004. She also earned the team's first-ever first team All-American honors in 2004. She was an assistant with the Irish program from 2008-2010.

"Her dream is going to be to knock us off," Halfpenny said. "... Our players, they get that, and they can put that on the shelf and focus on each other.

"No matter if it's a first-half team or a hot-second-half team, we're able to take it in stride now and continue to focus on us. If we can just be our best and execute to our best ability, we should be able to limit that streaky, high-low game that Marquette plays."

The Irish and Golden Eagles are scheduled to meet at 4 p.m. today at Valley Fields in Milwaukee.

Contact Zach Klonsinski at zklonsin@nd.edu

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Westbeld

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

bad performance can make the offseason a few days too long.

Even though she's in the middle of her first postseason go-round, Westbeld said she has figured out how to channel any butterflies before the opening tip.

"You want to focus on the next game, and I just kind of take that excitement and bring as much energy as I can when I come in the game, and that's really what my main goal and one of the roles I play is," she said.

Westbeld proved she knew how to play that role in Notre Dame's 77-43 first-round win over No. 16 seed Montana last Friday at Purcell Pavilion. Checking in three minutes into the game, she pulled down eight rebounds in the first half and notched 10 total boards, leading all players, along with eight points and four steals.

"We were definitely happy for her," Irish junior guard Jewell Loyd said. "She's a big-time player. She comes from a history of basketball where all she knows is success, so it was nothing new for us."

The Kettering, Ohio, native wracked up major accolades during her time at Fairmont High School, including McDonald's All-American honors and four Ohio all-state selections.

However, Westbeld earned those honors while playing a different role for Fairmont than she currently does for Notre Dame.

"She was recruited as a shooter, not really a post

player, so when she got here, she kind of had to transform her game a little bit," Loyd said. "... But her confidence is very high right now. She's very smart, so she understands the game, so just for her, figuring out where she could score and how she can help us has really grown."

Though her transition to the college game looks solid based on the stat sheet — she has played in all 35 games this year, averaging 7.3 points and 4.6 rebounds in 18.1 minutes on the floor — Westbeld said she has learned by making those adjustments in her first season in an Irish uniform.

"You come from being one of the best in high school and you get to college, it's a completely different experience and game out here," she said. "It's a lot faster, so you've really just got to take it from what you've done in practice is how you're going to play in a game. So if you don't go hard in practice, it's not going to translate over into the game."

She said she has also noticed a new vibe on the team during these crucial days in mid-March.

"After we came back from the ACC tournament after our break, you could just tell it was a different atmosphere," she said. "It was a different feeling to our practices. It just feels a lot more intense, and you can tell, so I think that just had a lot to do with it."

Westbeld continues her first NCAA tournament with the Irish on Friday, when Notre Dame takes on Stanford in a Sweet 16 matchup in Oklahoma City.

Contact Mary Green at mgreen8@nd.edu

Receivers

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

new offensive coordinator, it was considered by some to be an unexpected hire. Unlike its other coaching hires of the offseason, Notre Dame already had an offensive coordinator in Mike Denbrock, who is now the associate head coach.

Sanford comes from Boise State, where he was a quarterback from 2000 through 2004, and Robinson said he is looking forward to working with the new offensive coordinator.

"It's gonna be awesome," Robinson said. "I'm really excited about him, excited about what he's gonna do with the quarterbacks and offense in general. ... I think we're gonna make some big plays."

As for the role of spring practice, Robinson said he feels like things really started to make sense for him at this time last year.

"I think towards the end of spring, right before the spring game last year, was one of the times it started to click for me," Robinson said. "... You go out there, and you know everything, and you know what you've got to do. ... You just relax and ... be a leader."

Though the Irish have not yet named a starting quarterback for the 2015 season — and likely will not in the immediate future — Robinson said his unit is unfazed and has confidence in both options at quarterback, graduate student Everett



MICHAEL YU | The Observer

Irish junior receiver Will Fuller carries the ball towards the endzone in Notre Dame's 43-40 overtime loss to Northwestern on Nov. 11.

Golson and junior Malik Zaire.

"I trust both of those guys, and I know they're both incredible," he said. "It's one of those things where we're just kind of sharing reps and seeing what happens with it. ... We're just trying to get it down as an offense."

Robinson said the receiving corps knows their potential but has to stay focused on putting in their best shift each day.

"We all know how good we can be, but you can't be talking about the future like that," Robinson said. "So one of the things that just drives is just trying — I mean, literally every day in practice or in the weight room — to keep each other to a certain standard, like, 'Look, guys. We've got to be great today.'"

Contact Alex Carson at acarson1@nd.edu

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MICHAEL YU | The Observer

Irish freshman forward Kathryn Westbeld talks at a postgame press conference after Notre Dame's 77-43 win over Montana on Friday.

LEGENDS
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FOOTBALL

Robinson, receivers ready for big year

Wideout group is determined and looking to get better every day

By **ALEX CARSON**
Associate Sports Editor

Notre Dame started spring practice a week ago with a new offensive coordinator (Mike Sanford), a receiver cross-training at running back (junior C.J. Prorise) and without a clear view as to who will be under center when the season opens in September.

But despite all the noise, the Irish receiving corps carries on.

"This is a big spring for us as a receiving corps, for everyone coming back," junior receiver Corey Robinson said March 18. "We want to be a great receiving corps, so [spring practice] is the first step in that."

Junior Will Fuller — whose 15 touchdown receptions ranked tied for third nationally last season — leads a receiving corps into 2015 that returns a full complement of players from last year, as senior Chris Brown, graduate student Amir Carlisle and junior Torii Hunter Jr. are all back, joining Fuller,

Robinson and Prorise as the core of the group.

But despite everyone who returns, the Irish could get contributions from a pair of sophomores that did not see the field last year in Justin Brent and Corey Holmes.

"I think I see a lot of hunger in both those guys," Robinson said. "They've been working hard ... and I'm really excited to see what they do this year."

Robinson also said he and the rest of the corps have faith in the youngsters.

"We're in a group where we're encouraging and building each other up," he said. "When we put those guys in the situation, we've seen them practice, and we've seen them make those plays, so when they get nervous or anxious, we calm them down and say, 'Look, guys, we do this all the time in practice, so just get out there and do it.'"

When Irish head coach Brian Kelly brought in Sanford as his

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KEVIN SONG | The Observer

Irish junior receiver Corey Robinson catches a touchdown pass in Notre Dame's 31-15 win over Syracuse on Sept. 27 at MetLife Stadium. Robinson had eight receptions for 91 yards in the game.

ND WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Westbeld calm and confident for Irish

By **MARY GREEN**
Assistant Managing Editor

As unpredictable as the NCAA tournament can be, there are a few certainties for No. 1 seed Notre Dame in its game against No. 4 seed Stanford on Friday.

It'll definitely be warm in Oklahoma City, or at least warmer than South Bend.

Irish players, coaches and staff will all sport their traditional postseason green nail polish.

And freshman forward Kathryn Westbeld will be set for the 10 p.m. tipoff at Chesapeake Energy Arena.

"I think it's more exciting because this is what you really play for all year long," Westbeld said about the difference between the regular season and the NCAA tournament. "It's finally here, so I'm just really excited and ready to play."

Pregame jitters and anticipation are common in any locker room before a game in the tournament, when one



MICHAEL YU | The Observer

Irish freshman forward Kathryn Westbeld defends the basket in Notre Dame's 77-43 win over Montana on Friday.

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BASEBALL

ND looks to get back on track

By **BRIAN HARTNETT**
Senior Sports Writer

After three close losses at the hands of No. 16 Louisville over the weekend at Frank Eck Stadium, Notre Dame will try to get back on track when it hosts Western Michigan tonight.

The Irish (15-7, 3-6 ACC) managed only four runs in 36 innings of play against Louisville (18-6, 8-1). Notre Dame didn't score runs in shutout losses Friday and Sunday, and the Irish fell 6-4 in 18 innings Saturday.

Notre Dame head coach Mik Aoki said the weekend's series showed how difficult it is to win in the ACC. Notre Dame is currently 1-2 in its conference series this season — the Irish won two of three games at Clemson and lost two of three games at Georgia Tech, both earlier this month.

"You've got really good teams in this conference, really good arms in this conference," Aoki said. "It's a difficult league, it's a challenging league, that's for sure. It doesn't get any easier next week with [No. 9] Virginia."

Aoki cited the recent absences of senior outfielder Ryan Bull

and freshman outfielder Jake Johnson as part of the reason for the Irish offensive struggles. Bull, who sports a .386 batting average and .481 on-base percentage, has missed the team's last four games due to injury, and Johnson, who reached base in the first 19 games of the season, did not play in the last two games of the Louisville series due to an oblique strain.

Nonetheless, the team has enough talent to successfully compensate for injuries in the lineup, Aoki said.

"You certainly don't want to make excuses, but it doesn't help that two of your better offensive players are out, one with Ryan [for] the entire weekend and Jake Johnson in two out of the three games," he said. "We've got to be good enough to overcome that. Everyone's going to overcome a little injury adversity."

Notre Dame was scheduled to play at Illinois-Chicago on Tuesday, but the game was cancelled due to snowy weather in the Chicago area. The Irish decided to fill in their newly

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