

New administration takes office

*Vidal, Devine
reflect on past
year's impact*

By MARGARET HYNDS
News Editor

As their tenure came to a close March 31, outgoing student body president and vice president Lauren Vidal and Matthew Devine reflected on their year in office, sharing in hindsight the issues that proved to be their greatest triumphs and challenges.

In particular, the two said, they took pride in the wide range of programming and initiatives they took on to respond to the diverse opinions and needs of the student body.

"We've been able to meet

see VIDAL **PAGE 5**



Outgoing:

student body president:
Lauren Vidal, class of 2015

student body vice president:
Matthew Devine, class of 2015



Incoming:

student body president:
Bryan Ricketts, class of 2016

student body vice president:
Nidia Ruelas, class of 2016

EMILY DANAHER | The Observer

*Ricketts, Ruelas
discuss plans for
upcoming term*

By MADISON JAROS
News Writer

Bryan Ricketts and Nidia Ruelas, who take office as president and vice president today, intend to leave their own unique mark on Notre Dame.

Ricketts and Ruelas have waited nearly two months to assume their positions – the pair was elected Feb. 5 on a ticket that focused on student identity and well-being.

The president and vice president hope to address campus sexual assault through programs that will especially emphasize the education of the

see RICKETTS **PAGE 5**

Basilica prepares for Holy Week

April 2
HOLY THURSDAY
5 p.m.

Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper

April 3
GOOD FRIDAY
3 p.m.

Celebration of the Lord's Passion

April 4
HOLY SATURDAY
9 p.m.

The Paschal Vigil Mass

April 5
EASTER SUNDAY
12 p.m.

Easter Sunday Mass

7:15 p.m.

Solemn Easter Vespers

EMILY DANAHER | The Observer

By KAYLA MULLEN
Associate News Editor

Easter Sunday at the Basilica of the Sacred Heart is notable not only for its status as the most holy day of the year in Catholicism, but also for its ability to draw crowds rivaling a sporting event.

"On Easter Sunday, we do a couple of things — we add a Mass and we allow more times for the Masses because the crowds are so big," Fr. Peter

Rocca, rector of the Basilica, said. "We have an 8 [a.m.] Mass; the only other time we have an 8 [a.m.] Mass is on football weekends — that's the kind of crowd we get."

Rocca estimates that over 1,000 people come to each of the three main Masses offered on Easter Sunday. The crowds are so large that each Mass must be dismissed in a specific way, Rocca said.

see BASILICA **PAGE 5**

HPC awards Walsh with 'Hall of the Year' title

By KAYLA MULLEN
Associate News Editor

The Hall Presidents Council announced the Hall of the Year awards at its weekly meeting Tuesday, with Walsh Hall winning Hall of the Year, Keenan Hall bringing home Men's Hall of the Year, and Farley Hall taking Women's Hall of the Year, Michael Wajda, co-chair of Hall

Presidents Council (HPC), said.

"All three dorms had enthusiastic and sustained participation in their hall events, achieved in large part through their personal outreach to all members of the dorm communities," Wadja said in an email.

The dorms are selected by a committee consisting of the HPC Executive Board, the Judicial Council President and

two student Senators, Wadja said. The selection committee focuses on how the dorms embodied "mind, body and heart," based on their Hall of the Year presentations and monthly Rockne submissions.

"Walsh did an astounding job of engaging the women of Walsh in mind, body, and

see HALL **PAGE 3**

Panel discusses struggles of Vietnam War veterans

By STEPHANIE SNYDER
News Writer

Saint Mary's hosted a panel on Tuesday night titled, "The Battle After the War: Veterans in Their Lives and Struggles," to discuss veteran's issues including PTSD, mental

see PANEL **PAGE 4**



MONICA VILLAGOMEZ MENDEZ | The Observer

Vietnam War veteran Kent Laudeman (left), mayor of South Bend Pete Buttigieg and Rep. Jackie Walorski discuss veterans' issues.



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MEN'S LACROSSE **PAGE 16**

THE OBSERVER

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QUESTION OF THE DAY:

What is your favorite April Fools' Day prank?

Have a question you want answered?

Email photo@ndsmcobserver.com



Josefina Durini-Wollak
freshman
Lewis Hall

"A guy burned lots of fires at the mouth of a volcano, making the city think the volcano was active."



Rebecca Wiley
freshman
Cavanaugh Hall

"A guy turtled everyone in his class's backpacks."



Katie Mackin
freshman
Breen-Phillips Hall

"Covering the toilets with saran wrap."



Erin Callaghan
freshman
Breen-Phillips Hall

"Putting fake bugs in lampshades."



Mel Ricker
junior
Breen-Phillips Hall

"Putting a rubber band around a faucet to spray water."



Corey Chiavelli
sophomore
Morrissey Manor

"Making a scavenger hunt for a friend to find his headphones."



ROSIE LoVOI | The Observer

Bikes emerge again on campus as the warm weather melts away the last of the snow, leaving the many paths clear and open for riders to pedal about the grounds. Sunny skies and temperatures in the 60s are in the forecast today.

THE NEXT FIVE DAYS:

Want your event included here?

Email news@ndsmcobserver.com

Wednesday

MFA Student Reading
Hammes Bookstore
7:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m.
Reading sponsored by English Department.

Softball

Melissa Cook Stadium
4 p.m.-6 p.m.
The Irish take on Eastern Michigan.

Thursday

"Behind the Beautiful Forevers"
DeBartolo Performing Arts Center
7 p.m.-9:15 p.m.
National Theatre Live.

Mindful Meditation

Coleman-Morse Center
5:15 p.m.-6:15 p.m.
Weekly meditation.

Friday

"Prayer from Around the World"
Coleman-Morse Center
7 p.m.-8:30 p.m.
Jewish Seder meal.

Stations of the Cross

Basilica of the Sacred Heart
7:15 p.m.
For Good Friday.

Saturday

The Paschal Vigil Mass
Basilica of the Sacred Heart
9 p.m.
Holy Saturday mass.

Easter Break

Campus-wide
All day
No classes in session.

Sunday

Easter Sunday Mass
Basilica of the Sacred Heart
8 a.m., 10 a.m. and 12 p.m.
Easter celebration.

Solem Easter Vespers

Basilica of the Sacred Heart
7:15 p.m.
Evening prayer service.

Nun speaks out against death penalty

By **EMILY McCONVILLE**

Associate News Editor

Sr. Helen Prejean, whose book about her experience as a spiritual adviser to two death row inmates inspired the Academy-Award-Nominated film “Dead Man Walking,” spoke about her spiritual journey and anti-death-penalty advocacy at Our Lady of the Road Church in South Bend on Tuesday.

The lecture was sponsored by the Michiana Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty, St. Peter Claver Catholic Worker and the Center for Social Concerns.

Prejean said her story is one of awakening to a gospel of justice. She recalled a privileged childhood in Louisiana during the Jim Crow era, when she said she never questioned segregation or understood the legacy of slavery, which led to the disproportionate imprisonment of African Americans.

It was only later, after she became a member of the Congregation of St. Joseph and the Second Vatican Council emphasized a preferential option for the poor, that her “awakening” took place.

“We have 10 major housing projects in New Orleans, and I had never been to one of them,” she said. “When I woke up — and that’s the first part of ‘Dead Man Walking,’ was waking up — and I got it. The Gospel of Jesus is about people that don’t have a voice, that people look down on, people despise, people call them losers — these are [marginalized] people.”

Prejean moved into the St. Thomas Housing Projects, where she witnessed poverty and how the poor were affected

by police brutality and bad education and healthcare. She said she realized then that living the gospel meant leaving her own privilege behind.

“It was like the world, it was always there in the inner city, but I had no anchor to it,” she said. “... God put me there. We never wake ourselves up.”

While she was working at St. Thomas, Prejean began a correspondence with Elmo Patrick Sonnier, who was on death row for murdering two teenagers. Prejean later visited him in prison and became his spiritual adviser, the only person allowed to spend time with him in the hours leading up to his execution. In the electric chair, her face was the last one Sonnier saw before the hood was pulled over his head.

“Knowing what I’d just seen, having learned, beginning to learn about the death penalty, how it worked, who got it, who didn’t and how race place a part and how poor people get — everything I learned, I thought to myself — I wasn’t picturing your faces, but I was thinking of you, because I [thought] the American people will never be close to this, to see this,” she said.

“Executions are a secret ritual done behind prison walls, and people are never going to be there to see those things through. As long as we don’t see it, we don’t care — there was a crime, justice was done, and so we don’t even think about it because it’s so removed from us. I was a witness, I had to tell the story, and my mission began that night.”

Prejean worked with many other death row inmates and started advocating against the death penalty. In 1993, she wrote “Dead Man Walking,” about her experience with

Sonnier and another inmate, Robert Lee Willie. The book found its way to actress Susan Sarandon, who showed it to her then-partner, Tim Robbins. Working with Prejean, Robbins wrote the screenplay for the film of the same name and cast Sarandon as Prejean and Sean Penn as a composite of the two inmates.

Prejean said a person’s position on the death penalty is often portrayed as a choice between convict and victim.

“When we hear about the death of innocent people who were killed in cold blood, there’s a part of us that experiences rage. ‘Whoever did that, who carjacked that mother with those children, deserves it. That’s what the death penalty’s for,’” she said. “Do we deserve to kill?”

Prejean said part of her own moral journey was learning to reach out to victims’ families as well as death row inmates. She was reluctant to contact the parents of the teenagers Sonnier murdered, Loretta Anne Bourque and David LeBlanc, especially after she learned the details of Sonnier’s crime.

“I felt this guilt ripple through me,” she said. “What am I doing? I’m with them. I’m a spiritual adviser to the two people who killed these innocent kids, what am I doing?”

Prejean encountered LeBlanc’s parents at a hearing of the Louisiana pardon board, where she was testifying on Sonnier’s behalf. LeBlanc’s father asked her why she had not reached out to them before, but to her surprise, he also invited her into their lives.

“This man takes me into his heart,” she said. “He was the first victim’s family, even though I had done him wrong,

who takes me into his heart, and I go pray with him.”

The LeBlancs, Prejean learned, were under tremendous pressure to be in favor of Sonnier’s execution. Instead of letting anger consume him however, LeBlanc’s father forgave his son’s murderer, even visiting Sonnier’s mother at her house. Prejean said Lloyd LeBlanc was the hero of “Dead Man Walking.”

“He was the first victim’s family that taught me that what forgiveness means — when you give it, is not so much what you do for the one who hurt you to relieve their burden, though it may in fact do that, but it’s to save his own life,” she said.

Prejean said she met many families like the LeBlancs; when New Jersey was in the process of eliminating the death penalty, 62 families testified in favor of the ban.

“When we meet those people who have been thrown in that fire, and we see the call of grace in them, it calls us,” she said.

Prejean ended the talk by telling the story of Pope Francis, who left his own life of privilege to work with the poor in Buenos Aires, and encouraging those in attendance to advocate for the end of the death penalty.

The talk also featured Misty Wallace and Keith Blackburn from Bridges to Life, an organization which connects victims of crimes with prison inmates. In 1992, Blackburn shot Wallace in an attempted carjacking and spent eight years in prison. Wallace later found Blackburn on Facebook and forgave him, and the two now travel together, discussing forgiveness and redemption.

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Hall

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

through their Harry Potter Week, their Brother-Sister Broomball and their Soul Sister discussion series,” Wadja said.

“Their ‘I am WILD’ initiative also highlighted all of the cultures within the dorm in a way that was inclusive and engaging.”

According to the Hall of the Year results on the Hall Presidents Council website, Farley placed second, trailing Walsh by half a point.

“Farley engaged both the women within the dorm as well as the greater campus community with their variety of events and invited all residents to ‘Come Share Life,’ their new Hall motto,” Wadja said.

“Farley’s award affirmed the attitude that has been seen in Farley all year,” Casey Skevington, president of Farley Hall, said.

“‘Farley’ - just one word makes me smile,” Skevington said. “To me, it means home, family and friends all wrapped into one loving environment. I have been blessed to watch and be a part of the growth of our community all year long.

“I could not be more proud of the women that live within the Finest dorm on campus.”

Keenan placed third in the overall competition but first out of all men’s residence halls and earned the highest presentation score of all dorms as well, according to the results.

“Keenan in particular revealed that they made it their goal to reach out to individuals who might not necessarily be the first ones to participate in events but are members of the community nonetheless,” Wadja said.

Howard came in fourth but earned the highest score in Rockne category, according to the website.

“We heard from so many presidents and vice presidents about events, processes and structures which reflected the unique cultures of their residence halls,” Kathleen Clark, co-chair of HPC, said at the awards.

“They each found a personal leadership style which matched the greatest need of their dorm. We will give out three awards tonight, but we are immensely proud of each of you and what you were able to achieve this year. All of you deserve recognition for a job well done.”

All three winners will receive a monetary award from HPC, Wadja said, while Keenan Hall and Walsh Hall will receive Dome Dances next year.

Contact Kayla Mullen at kmullen2@nd.edu

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Panel

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

health, homelessness, employment, caregivers, services and policies.

The event — which was organized by students in the Social Work 236 Human Behavior and Social Environment II class — included panelists such as South Bend Mayor Peter Buttigieg, who took a leave of absence to serve in Afghanistan in 2014; U.S. Representative Jackie Walorski, who is known for her services in the House Armed Series, Veteran's Affairs and Agriculture Committees and Chairs the Nutrition Subcommittee; and Dr. Kent Laudeman, who served in the U.S. Army since 1968 and is currently as a retired Lieutenant Colonel.

Despite the speakers' variety of perspectives and personal experiences of working with veterans, they all advocated making a difference by working as a community first.

"Regard veterans not as liabilities but assets. This will help more veterans to find a place in the community," said Buttigieg. "We can do right by everybody who

serves by welcoming them into the community more than just saying, 'Thank you for your service.'"

Laudeman currently serves as the Director of the Robert L. Miller Sr. Veterans Center, which is connected to the South Bend Center for the Homeless. The temporary housing hosts veterans in need of help for two years without having to pay a cent.

"The goal of the facility is to get them back on their feet with shelter, food, a warm shoulder and a warm shower," Laudeman said.

Laudeman said his personal experience from fighting in Vietnam for a year inspired him to begin working with veterans.

"There are some experiences that I don't want to remember, but I wouldn't trade it for anything in my life," said Laudeman. "I've grown."

Walorski went on to discuss the problems that veterans face after coming home from war. Twenty-two American veterans commit suicide per day, she said, and more than half of the suicides are due to sexual assault.

"There are tens of thousands of veterans today that have suffered sexual trauma that have never been

reported," said Walorski. "The greatest catastrophe is the issue of suicide."

Laudeman agreed and said that another major issue of homecoming troops is drug and alcohol abuse. Most cases are the result of PTSD, of which one in every five soldiers is a victim because they are trying to numb the pain of their memories, said Laudeman.

"There are mountains facing our veterans when they come home," said Walorski. "I have such a profound

"Regard veterans not as liabilities but assets. This will help more veterans to find a place in the community."

Pete Buttigieg
Mayor of South Bend

respect for the American Reserves."

Buttigieg said although every veteran's return home is different, they are all difficult. The South Bend mayor said civilians should set aside common assumptions that they have.

"You come home, and you come to this radical change,"

said Buttigieg. "There's no question there are heroes — the things they did with no regard for their life or safety. In our rush to be complementary, we've created the T-ball effect, where everybody gets hit [with gratitude] — but not everyone comes back feeling like a hero. Not everyone is damaged either; most veterans don't regard themselves as victims. Everyone has a very different experience."

Walorski said that whatever the condition the soldiers are in when they come home, they need help from civilians to advocate for them so that they can get as little or as much help as they need.

"We have a half a million veterans and their families in our state [Indiana]," said Walorski. "It's the greatest reward I've ever had to sit across from a veteran."

"We want to do them right for the sake of right."

All three panelists said they were frustrated about what the government is doing to help veterans on a national level.

"We are passionate about veterans because we are outraged," said Walorski. "I think there's a way that Saint Mary's can rise up and be a part of a national model in a way that people have never

seen."

Walorski said she wants to implement a new national program that more veterans could have advocates to get the help they need.

"I think it would be incredible if we could start a national model through Saint Mary's students," said Walorski. "We could get social-work students at Saint Mary's to be an advocate for so many of our veterans across the country."

Freshman Anna Riddle said she found Walorski's idea appealing and inspiring.

"I think it would be a good idea if we get Saint Mary's involved in the National Program," Riddle said. "I think it would show that it doesn't just have to be the government providing aid. People have the power to provide aid."

Sophomore Abbie Spica said she was concerned about peers who were just entering the military.

"Personally, I have community members I know enlisting, and they have concerns about problems coming back, I like the idea of first focusing on community involvement," Spica said.

Contact Stephanie Snyder at ssnyder02@saintmarys.edu

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Ricketts

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

freshman class, Ruelas said.

The pair will also create an ad hoc department that addresses mental health at Notre Dame, Ricketts said. This new resource, combined with a confrontation of the climate that surrounds students struggling with mental illnesses on campus, aspires to increase the ease with which these students can pursue help.

“We have to say, ok students with mental illness ... are we in a climate where they feel comfortable seeking treatment and talking openly about it?” Ricketts said. “And students, when they recognize someone [struggling with mental illness], are they ready to respond? We don’t think we’re there yet. And that’s going to be our goal to make that a reality.”

Ricketts said the team also plans to create an online forum which they hope will allow greater communication between students and campus administrators.

“[The forum will] create a way to bridge the gap between students and administrators, so people know what’s going on and can appreciate the work that administrators are doing for the students, and students have a way to say, ‘These are our concerns,’ and know that they’re being heard,” Ricketts said.

Ruelas said she and her partner are especially

looking forward to talking to the students themselves. The team’s office is open “for whoever, whenever, all the time,” she said.

“I think the question [of what will be most exciting] is always so overwhelming, because there are so many things to get excited about,” Ruelas said. “I’m really excited about Senate and chairing Senate – that’s one of my bigger responsibilities. And I’m really excited to get to meet all the representatives from the dorms. But in addition to that, just all the day-to-day things, like interacting with people — that’s really my passion, I think, and why I ran for this position.”

Although the pair’s distinct vision for the next year in office separates them from outgoing student body president Lauren Vidal and vice president Matt Devine, Ricketts and Ruelas hope their term will have a similarly positive effect on campus, Ruelas said.

“I feel that we have a very distinct vision, that’s the one we articulated throughout our campaign, and we firmly stand by that,” she said. “We want to carry that out through the entirety of our term. And in terms of meeting with Matt and Lauren, they’ve been great resources; they’re wonderful leaders. And we just hope that we can fill their shoes and hopefully come with new initiatives to student government and also have the same effect that they had.”

Contact Madison Jaros at mjaros@nd.edu

Vidal

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

so many people and to learn many perspectives and stories through all the different things that we’ve done this year,” Devine said.

Highlights

In particular, Vidal said this administration tried to focus on community, both on campus and in the greater South Bend area, by tackling issues such as the Alma Mater policy after football games and the 29 for 29 program, which paired residence halls with needy families from the South Bend community.

“At the beginning of the year, we sat down with the Football Unity Council and looked at the Alma Mater policy and why it was eliminated after home games and then discussed all the concerns in a very honest conversation,” Vidal said. “Going forward, we essentially assured that we would be promoting a supportive environment in the stands.”

The Football Unity Council will continue to address the Alma Mater policy annually.

Devine said he and Vidal hope the 29 for 29 initiative would go beyond the holiday season and become a permanent fixture on campus. As of right now, a student government focus group has been assembled to review the program, and Vidal estimated that 10 to 15 residence halls are still actively engaging with their assigned families.

“[29 for 29] was a really organic effort to bridge our understanding of how students see the South Bend area but also at the

same time develop really strong relationships with needy families around the area and to bring them to campus to be honorary members of the dorms,” Devine said. “The goal was to enrich students’ understanding of South Bend, but also to develop those personal connections.”

Challenges

Vidal said throughout the process of working with the Worker Participation Committee — which addressed the University’s “China Policy” — she and Devine struggled to connect the feelings of the student body with the University’s administration.

“We really tried to engage the campus, really giving it my all,” she said. “ ... We did get some pushback after the fact; students were discouraged by the fact that they thought that they didn’t have enough of a forum for conversation or input. We understand that a gap between students and the [University] administration has always been present.

“That’s something that every [student government] administration has struggled with, trying to bring the two together. What we’ve learned is that the [University] administration is extremely open to speaking with the students at all times.

“I think there’s work to be done building that communication. ... It’s just something to maintain and keep healthy.”

Moving forward

Although the two are free from nearly all their student government obligations for the rest of the year, they have several lingering commitments, including

their Board of Trustees Report and Communitiversity Day. Additionally, Vidal will chair the Campus Life Council for the remainder of the academic year.

Looking forward to next year, Devine predicted several key issues would remain at the forefront of the minds of students and community members.

“One of the big conversations we’ve had is surrounding campus safety, but also with students moving off campus and the considerations they have for campus safety and out in the community as well,” Devine said.

“Something that I think will come up a lot next year — and has begun at the end of this year — are students of different socioeconomic backgrounds as well as undocumented students. That’s something that’s been publicized more recently, but I think that will continue to be something the university talks about.”

‘An extreme privilege’

Of the team’s year in office, Vidal said she was grateful for the ability to speak with and learn from so many of her fellow students.

“This has been an extreme privilege,” Vidal said. “Matt and I have really been given a unique opportunity to have input on behalf of our peers and on how the University is moving forward, and we’ve seen that as a great honor. We haven’t taken one day for granted ... we’ve really tried to give it our all, every day. ... We’ve learned, truly, what a special place this is.”

Contact Margaret Hynds at mhynds@nd.edu

Basilica

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

“What is interesting is that at the end of that Mass, I make an announcement on how to exit the Church because people are asked to exit through only certain doors,” Rocca said.

“At the other doors, there are hundreds of people waiting in line to come in [for the next Mass].”

However, while the Easter Sunday Masses draw the largest crowds, the Basilica has many events planned for Holy Week, Rocca said. The Basilica begins the Paschal Triduum, the period of three days between sunset on Holy Thursday and sunset on Easter Sunday, with the Mass of the Lord’s Supper, Rocca said.

“That Mass is most noted for two things,” Rocca said. “First, the washing of the feet, which is symbolic of our call to service. Then, we celebrate the institution of the Eucharist and how that should touch our lives.

“As we eat Christ’s body and drink his blood, we do not only do it for ourselves, but we take that strength, that grace

[from communion] to serve others, and that is beautifully portrayed in the Mass.”

Following this Mass, the Basilica holds Tenebrae, Latin for “shadows,” at 11 p.m. Holy Thursday.

“This is a prayer service that originated in the Middle Ages in the Church, and it took place in the early, early hours of the morning of Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday,” Rocca said.

“The monks would gather in their monasteries in darkness with candles and would sing psalms and listen to lessons from the Old Testament, during which they would extinguish these candles.”

One candle would remain ignited but would be hidden, plunging the whole monastery into darkness, Rocca said.

“The monks would take their books and bang them on their choir stalls to create this loud sound, called strepitus,” Rocca said. “It was supposed to be symbolize the chaos that ensues when darkness reigns supreme.

“Then the candle would come back in, and the banging would stop. It would then be placed in the candlebra and

would symbolize the light of Christ that would shine ever so bright at the Easter Vigil.”

Students pack this service, Rocca said, because it is so unlike anything else they have experienced in Church before.

“The music is very classical — a lot of chanting from the Book of Lamentations, a lot of polyphony, a lot of Latin,” Rocca said. “It is just a different kind of music than we would normally hear at Mass.”

Last year, Bishop Kevin Rhoades of the South Bend-Fort Wayne diocese presided over the Tenebrae service. He loved it so much that he asked to preside over it every other year, Rocca said.

“It is just great for all of the students to be able to see our chief pastor, our diocese Bishop, there, and he does such a wonderful job,” Rocca said.

This service concludes around midnight, Rocca said, leading into Good Friday. The chief celebration on Good Friday is the Celebration of the Lord’s Passion at 3 p.m.

For those who cannot make the Celebration of the Lord’s Passion, the Basilica also offers Stations of the Cross at 7:15 p.m., Rocca said. No

events are planned for Holy Saturday, since it is meant to be a day to commemorate the Lord’s death and burial, he said. At 9 p.m., the community gathers in the Basilica for the Easter Vigil.

“What we celebrate, in addition to the resurrection of Christ, is the elect, also known as catechumens, and their reception into the Church by receiving the sacraments of baptism, confirmation and Holy Communion,” Rocca said.

Following the homily, the elect receive the rites of baptism and confirmation, Rocca said. When communion begins, the elect come forward to receive their first Holy Communion, Rocca said.

“This is just a glorious celebration; the Liturgical Choir sings and there is just so much energy,” Rocca said.

There will also be a 9 p.m. liturgy specifically for students, Rocca said.

“This was started years ago by a former director of Campus Ministry, Fr. Richard Warner, who is currently our Superior General and lives in Rome.

“He just thought it was a great idea to bring the whole

community together, especially since it is geared for the students.”

It is important, however, to remember the celebrations for Holy Week represent one liturgy, Rocca said.

“The Mass on Holy Thursday night does not really have a dismissal,” Rocca said. “The liturgy just pauses and people come back to continue the liturgy with Good Friday.

“It is basically three separate liturgies — the Mass of the Lord’s Supper, the Celebration of the Lord’s Passion and the Easter Vigil — but the Church considers it one continuous liturgy over those three days.”

To conclude the celebrations of the holiday, the Congregation of Holy Cross ordains some of their deacons on the Saturday following Easter, Rocca said. There are six deacons becoming ordained priests this year, he said.

“It is just a great time — beginning with Holy Thursday and Easter Sunday and ending with Easter Saturday — it just is a wonderful time for the Holy Cross community.”

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INSIDE COLUMN

Joy in failure

Jimmy Kemper

Scene Writer

I was walking down the street near sunset. The sky was painted blood red, and a cathedral bell echoed in the distance. I was the only person in sight. I turned the corner not entirely sure what to expect. A man with a vague resemblance to Freddy Krueger was waiting for me and jumped at me before I even have a chance to react. I died quickly and painfully.

Over the weekend I began “Bloodborne,” the latest video game by legendary designer Hidetaka Miyazaki and his team at From Software, the makers of the infamous “Dark Souls” and “Demon’s Souls” games.

Like Miyazaki’s past works, “Bloodborne” is a cruel, grueling and honestly horrifying game and probably one of the most miserable gaming experiences I have ever encountered. Monsters of all shapes and sizes are always lurking around the corner, waiting to strike and end whatever traction you’ve gained in the game. Experience does not add up unless you make it to one of the game’s few safe havens. “Bloodborne” forces you to play by its rules and punishes you severely whenever you make even a slight mistake.

A massive “You Died” appears on the screen each time you fail, and it feels like the game is mocking me for even trying. The game seems to hate my guts, but I can’t put it down.

Every time I fail, I learn something new. Maybe I should have dodged left when the Freddy Krueger-esque character charged at me instead of fighting him head on. Maybe I should have taken a different pathway. Each failure gives me an opportunity to learn something new about “Bloodborne” and about myself. The missteps make the game that much more worth it though, because the defeats add up to a much more satisfying experience when I finally achieve a goal.

Failure is as integral to any part of our lives as it is to “Bloodborne.” Whether it be a bad grade on a test, a rejection letter from a dream job or a poorly written Inside Column, failure is bound to occur at some point in our lives. Fortunately none of these missteps have a giant “You Died” message attached to them.

Rather, failure just means another opportunity to try again or the option to explore a new path. If we believe in ourselves, we can take these opportunities and make something wonderful out of them. So relax and take joy in failure, knowing that each defeat shapes us, and lets us grow into who we are meant to be.

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

Christopher Newton

Stepping Out Of The Cave

Incessant warnings about looming catastrophe typically have the unintended and counterproductive effect of desensitizing people to an issue. Think of warnings about climate change or the effects of binge drinking on your liver function. Better yet, consider the Game of Thrones refrain “Winter is Coming.” Said so often, they tend to be ignored until calamity strikes. As I’ve argued in this column before, my own personal mantra has been “Yemen is collapsing.” Lo and behold, the country now stands at the brink of not only a multi-sided civil war, but also a Hobbesian war of all against all. Already a state resting on crumbling foundations, and the tectonic geopolitical shifts across the broader Middle East are now toppling the entire edifice of the Yemeni statehood and threatening numerous others.

The poorest of the Arab states, Yemen possesses the second highest guns per capita in the world, depleted oil reserves, a rapidly dwindling national water supply and incorrigibly corrupt government institutions. In a land filled with guns, but lacking exportable commodities, water and any means of nonviolent redress, violence and extremism have become aspects of daily life. Repeated rebellions in the north, a simmering secessionist movement in the south and the world’s deadliest al-Qaeda franchise are hallmarks of modern Yemeni politics.

Houthi rebels, members of a minority sect of Shia Islam, have moved from their mountain redoubts to not only seize the capital, Sana’a, but major ports such as Mocha and a string of military bases. They now march south, engaging military units loyal to former President Ali Abdullah Saleh, who was ousted in the Arab Spring protests, as well as those who remain faithful to current president Abd Rabbuh Mansur Hadi. Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) continues to control its own southern and western territories, waiting for the opportunity to expand its influence amidst a growing security vacuum.

As the fighting intensifies, with each faction backed by various states and other organizations, the violence will further distract Yemenis and the international community from the country’s real problems. Its economy and natural resources will continue to suffer from neglect and exploitation, and in turn, feed back into the basic motivations for violence. As geopolitical concerns assume greater prominence in the conflict, this downward cycle will only grow in speed and intensity, much to the detriment of the average Yemeni.

Following in the footsteps of Syria and Iraq, Yemen is rapidly becoming yet another battlefield for the region’s major powers, an opportunity to extend one’s own influence and to reduce one’s rivals’. Iran, Saudi Arabia and the rest of the Gulf Coast Council, Egypt and the United States have flocked to

Winter is here

the state, proffering interventions of various forms alongside platitudinous claims of safeguarding Yemen’s sovereignty and regional stability. In a region where several centers of power have vied for supremacy since the close of World War II, any instability is akin to blood in shark-infested waters.

Iran backs the Shia Houthis, providing intelligence and logistical support and seeking to expand its reach deeper into Saudi Arabia’s backyard. The Gulf States do not so much back the irrelevant Yemeni government as they oppose Iranian encroachment, with their airstrikes targeting Iranian facilities more than strategic Houthi positions. The United States, already forced to close its primary Special Forces base, schizophrenically seeks to counter Iran’s moves in Yemen while also allying with its involvement in Iraq and negotiating a possible nuclear deal in Switzerland. Egypt’s Abdul al-Fattah al-Sisi is more than willing to commit Egyptian ground troops to the fray to serve its own interests. AQAP seems to have been almost lost in the shuffle.

Yet Yemen stands as one arena among several in the broader Arab world. Libya, Iraq, Syria, Lebanon and the Occupied Palestinian Territories all present opportunities for the extension of this or that regional power’s influence. With so much instability, it appears to many westerners that the Arabs may be experiencing their own, tempered version of Europe’s Thirty Years’ War. When pan-Arabism died with Gamal Abdul Nasser following the debacle that was the Yom Kippur War, the ideological void was filled with a dichotomy of secular autocrats like Hafez al-Assad, Saddam Hussein and Hosni Mubarak on one side and dynastic theocrats like the House of Saud and the Iranian ayatollahs on the other.

This dichotomy held throughout the 1980s, 1990s and early 2000s until its contradictions boiled over with the rise of violent Islamic fundamentalism and the Arab Spring uprisings. These trends swept away the post-Nasser paradigm, ushering in a new period of political reorganization, historically a bloody affair. Not only has despotism been questioned as a legitimate form of rule, but also Sykes-Picot itself is in jeopardy.

Yemen is the canary in the coalmine, the first alarm to sound of catastrophe over the horizon. If there is indeed to be a geopolitical reshuffling of the Arab world, Yemen will not be the only failed state. Libya is about to follow suit, Syria stands at the edge, Iraq is at risk for dismemberment and Lebanon remains ready to implode at a moment’s notice. Yemen has collapsed, just as climate change is a reality, our lives may need a check-up and winter will fall upon Westeros. What will follow will likely not be a peaceful series of events.

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

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dangers of ditching diplomacy

March 31 was the deadline to reach a nuclear agreement with Iran. It is necessary to recognize what exactly is at stake.

One need only consider the alternatives to diplomacy in order to see that any efforts to undermine a deal with Iran would be a major mistake. The alternative to the current negotiations with Iran on its nuclear program is no deal at all, an outcome detrimental to all parties involved.

Experts such as Ali Vaez, the International Crisis Group’s senior

analyst on Iran, would agree that without a deal, Iran will have the opportunity to increase its uranium enrichment capacity. That means if the U.S. and Iran fail to reach an agreement — which several members of Congress are trying to ensure — Iran would be several steps closer to acquiring a nuclear weapon and bringing the nuclear club to 10.

If we back away from the negotiation table too quickly, it is likely that harsher sanctions will be imposed on Iran, resulting in further isolation and

the potential for hostilities. The dangers of ditching diplomacy are real. Abandoning a deal with Iran could escalate into a march to war — with costs far greater than any of us can afford. As president of Global Zero: Notre Dame, I’m committed to supporting negotiations with Iran because we know what is at stake. I hope our elected officials do too.

Theresa Rinaldo
junior
March 31

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

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Thoughts on the RFRA

Something with which I’m sure many of you can sympathize is the utter disconnect that one feels from the outside world while being a college student. I am often so immersed in my courses that I have a complete lack of awareness of the entirety of national and world events, leaving me with only Twitter as a barometer for inflammatory incidents. As I’m sure many of you have become aware, the Religious Freedom Restoration Act is this week at the top of the list of things that are prompting rants and blow-ups on Twitter and other social media. Just today, in fact, I read a headline that read, “Mike Pence Legalizes LGBT Discrimination.” I then continued to scroll to see more and more statuses saying, “Whatever happened to separation of church and state?” and “I thought this was supposed to be land of the free,” and, my personal favorite, “I’m moving out of Indiana.” While all of these opinions are valid with regard to that particular headline, as it relates to painful and enraging imagery from the events of civil rights issues that have polluted our history and poisoned the integrity of the culture of our great nation, I cannot help but see the flaw of this particular uproar. Many are petitioning to kill the bill and recall Mike Pence, but have they even read the bill? Do they even know what it’s about? I’ve taken the liberty of giving it to you. The bill states the following, as shown on the Indiana General Assembly 2015 Session website: “Religious freedom restoration act. Provides that a state or local government action may not substantially burden a person’s right to the exercise of religion unless it is demonstrated that applying the burden to the person’s exercise of religion is: (1) essential to further a compelling governmental interest; and (2) the least restrictive means of furthering the compelling governmental interest. Provides that a person whose exercise of religion has been substantially burdened, or is likely to be substantially burdened, by a state or local government action may assert the burden as a claim or defense in a judicial proceeding,

regardless of whether the state or a political subdivision of the state is a party to the judicial proceeding. Allows a person who asserts a burden as a claim or defense to obtain appropriate relief, including: (1) injunctive relief; (2) declaratory relief; (3) compensatory damages; and (4) recovery of court costs and reasonable attorney’s fees.” Basically, it just states that if you feel that your right to act in a manner congruent with your religious beliefs is being threatened or extinguished, you have the ability to not participate in that interaction. As you can see, there is no mention of LGBT populations or values related to a particular religion. The idea behind the bill is to protect a person’s right to act in a way that is in keeping with their personal religious views in their churches, homes and workplaces. For instance, let’s say you’re an anesthesiologist. You’re being asked to anesthetize a girl for an abortion, but you have deep personal convictions about abortion and simply don’t believe it’s right. This bill gives you the right to abstain from participation in what you believe is morally wrong according to your religion. Let’s say you belong to a Jewish family that owns a sign making company. If you were sent in an order that asked you to print a sign with an anti-Semitic message, this bill would protect you from having to do so. So while talk of LGBT discrimination may bring concerns, for instance, that a same-sex couple would be ejected from a restaurant simply because they are gay, that is surely not the content or intent of the bill. The place of the law is to protect the rights of the individual, not impose the particular opinions of any group on the individual, and I think this law does just that. If the girl wants to be anesthetized for her procedure, she can still have that done by another anesthesiologist. If the anti-Semitic customer wants his sign printed, he can go to any other sign maker to get that done. It would be out of line for him to pick on the sign maker for not participating in his prejudice and legally harass him for lack of accommodation, would it not?

For those of you who still have concerns that this bill puts LGBT individuals in a negative position, I have a one-word solution: capitalism. If a company or business has a policy that you disagree with, take your business elsewhere. Better yet, organize a boycott. America is the land of the free. People have the freedom to express themselves how they want, hence why we have narrow-minded individuals and why we have prejudiced jerks. If we who combat those close-minded mentalities are to truly give ourselves credit for being accepting and tolerant, we have to engage in acceptance and tolerance even when it’s uncomfortable for us. Our tolerance must include those that we disagree with (after all, isn’t that the fundamental nature of tolerance, enduring that which you don’t necessarily personally subscribe to?). While the law can’t necessarily legislate to the degree of the moral convictions that you feel, it is absolutely within your power to contribute to a positive change in culture where we, the people, stand up for one another in the face of injustice. It is the responsibility of the people to promote the values with which we expect one another to respect one another. So be vocal and be bold, but make sure you’re directing that audacity towards the source of the problem, which is the organizations that participate in discrimination, not the bill that protects someone’s right to believe and act as they desire. When you accidentally take aim at the wrong issue, you become the oppressor who shoots down freedoms instead of the defender who promotes them. And finally, when you allow yourself to be swept up by extremely biased second- and thirdhand information, like intentionally inflammatory headlines, you undermine your own deliberateness and credibility, so be cautious and selective with what you choose to fuel your passion.

Gabrielle Weldy
freshman
March 27

UWIRE

Powdered alcohol approved for sale

Nashwa Bawab
The Daily Texan

The U.S. Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau recently approved the sale of powdered alcohol, which is expected to be available to purchase this summer, although possibly not in Texas. Powdered alcohol, or palcohol, is a powder that can be mixed with liquids — similar to the way Kool-Aid is mixed with water — to create an alcoholic beverage that can have alcohol content levels equivalent to a shot of vodka. Six states have banned the product, while more than two dozen others have introduced bills to do the same. The House Licensing and Administrative Procedures Committee approved a bill Monday banning the product’s sale in Texas. Palcohol has the same potential dangers as normal alcohol, according to Jessica Cance,

chairperson of the High Risk Drinking Committee for UT’s Wellness Network. “Technically it’s just alcohol, so we know what alcohol does to us,” Cance said. “Knowing what potential side effects powdered alcohol could have on individuals or the public at large, we don’t know yet.” Students might be enthusiastic about the new product because it can be an alternative to waiting in long drink lines at concerts, according to government senior Javier Abrego. “If it works the same way as alcohol, then I don’t see what’s wrong with it,” Abrego said. “Colleges have been known to have alcohol problems and drug problems on campus, so I guess it’s easy to conceal or hide powdered alcohol versus if you have a whole bottle of alcohol.” English senior Miles Hosanna, director of the Pearl Street Co-Op, said he does not see powdered alcohol gaining a lot of popularity because alcohol is already easy enough to obtain at parties.

“I don’t reckon you can buy a keg of powdered alcohol, so I don’t think it will affect us at all,” Hosanna said. “I guess I can see it being something on sale at a convenient store, which would be cool, but I don’t know if it will ever be quite the same as a beer or anything.” As long as students are cautious and stay educated on the project, there shouldn’t be trouble, Cance said. “I’m really hesitant from the public health perspective to say that something is horrible and to sound the alarms,” Cance said. “There are reasons to be cautious about this product, and, as with everything, I think having the combination of education and surveillance of the data is the best thing we can do.”

The Daily Texan is the student newspaper serving University of Texas at Austin’s community. The views expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.



By **DANIEL BARABASI**
Scene Writer

In this time of oscillating winter and summer, a season many other areas of the world can simplify call “spring,” it gets difficult to keep your outfit on fleek from one day to the next. For when the sun’s rays actually do break through the Indiana permafrost, check out a few of these style tips to best show off your winter weight room investment.

The Jean Jacket

It’s iconic for a reason. You see it on runways, at metal concerts, on the backs of boy band members and on the ruggedest of dudes out there. What’s awesome about a jean jacket is that it’s simple in design, but it adds a boat-load of character with the colors and accessories you choose. Black and blue are awesome, but if you’re looking to be extra bold try on a white and a tan one, or even change up the material!

For the chillier days, throw on a snugly fitting jacket as another layer, replacing the vest portion of a three-piece. Then, as the sun shines brighter, it can be mixed with a button-down and tie to channel your inner urbanite. And if you get too hot in the mid-day sun? Go Cali on your jacket and tie it around you waist for bonus sartorial

points; it won’t care.
Just don’t go Canadian tuxedo on me.

Measuring Your Shorts

Don’t let your shorts get confused with your chubbies. This means that the “below the tips of your fingers” rule from Catholic school doesn’t apply to shorts in the same way as it did to skirts. This summer, keep the hems of your britches cut above the knees. Any longer, and you have the horrid capris on. Shorter? Just consider how little sun your thighs got this past winter.

For styling: slim and printed. T-shirts aren’t the only place for graphic designers to go wild, and shorts are a great location to show off some creativity. Stripes and polka-dots are good for beginners, then go for some heavy prints as you get more comfortable. Checking out a sail-boat-printed pair? Those are for people who either own a boat or at least know how to use one. Plan accordingly.

The Little Things

Time to give yourself the “pop” you may have been missing. My personal goal is to invest in my wrists this summer. No Apple Watch for this college student, which means the focus is on “dumb” watches and bracelets. All on a budget.

Some of my shopping pet peeves are the accessories

that high-end stores peddle, where they offer a leather bracelet for the price of their finest suit. To save your cash for a dapper blazer, try creating your own wrist bling. Black and brown leather strips are available at most hobby stores, and just by adding a clasp you could be ready to go. If you have an ache for something fancier, try weaving a few leather strips together or making a minimalist bead bracelet.

For watches, DIY is less of an option. To avoid blowing your ring-by-spring budget on your tick-tock, check out Timex’s collections. The Weekender collection puts an affordable \$40 price tag on casual watches with great designs that will be with you through both summer camps and internships. Although the brand isn’t the best for formalwear pairings, the “Timex Originals” can get you through a black-tie event if needed.

For the rest of the body, look for better lapel pins and rings that make even Frank Underwood jealous. A floral fabric pin or a metal badge adds extra styling to your go-to suit and comes as an easy way to match the liveliness of the season. For rings, experiment according to your comfort level. I’m a minimalist guy, so I’m on the hunt for a simple, cast-iron-esque piece until I can start knocking my class ring around.

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By **KEELY BERGIN**
Scene Writer

“The Casual Vacancy” by J.K. Rowling was released under a pen name in 2012 where it was greeted with minimal fanfare and was generally not well reviewed, even after she was revealed as the author. It was called “not only disappointing — it’s dull,” according to “The New York Times.” Rowling also released another book under a different pen name, called “Cormoran Strike,” which was received much more enthusiastically. The negative reviews that “The Casual Vacancy” received may have prevented some Rowling fans from actually giving the book a shot. It may be that when reading “The Casual Vacancy,” many Potter fans were looking for that same sense of magic which they simply did not find in the bleak village of Pagford.

However, new life has been breathed into the book by HBO and BBC One. The book has been transformed into a three part miniseries. There seems to be brighter prospects for the story as a miniseries, with the adaptation credited to Sarah Phelps, who wrote scripts for “Great Expectations,” “Camelot” and “EastEnders.”

The cast brings in “Harry Potter” alum Michael

Gambon. Gambon previously starred as Albus Dumbledore and will now star as Howard Mollison, owner of a delicatessen in the seemingly idyllic town of Pagford. Rory Kinnear, who recently starred in “The Imitation Game,” will take on the role of Barry Fairbrother, a councilman whose death opens the series. Other cast members are up and coming stars, like Abigail Lawrie. While the cast may not be completely stacked with huge names, the trailer for the series looks promising. The illusion of the idyllic town is stripped away quickly, with the plot revolving around the town’s reaction to Fairbrother’s death and the ever present resentments within the town of Pagford. Some considered the story to be too dark — almost an antithesis to “Harry Potter” — but it can also be viewed as dealing with many of the same struggles present in “Harry Potter” from a more “muggle” perspective. Within the story, there is a wealth of struggles among all manners of people: rich against poor, teenagers against parents, students against teachers, to name a few. While these struggles are used in many different mediums, Rowling’s darker take on these issues creates a more compelling drama for television.

For those who have read the book, don’t expect it to be a word for word translation. As with most

adaptations, allowances must be made for the medium the story is told in. Phelps has revealed that she had to change the “grim, grim, grim” ending of the novel and put in “some kind of redemptive moment” to make the story work for television.

Rowling fully supports Phelps’s adaptation choices, calling her “a writer at the top of her game.” Rowling had discussed Phelps’s vision of “The Casual Vacancy,” making Rowling “happy and confident to hand over the job” of shaping the story for television.

The series has already been released in the United Kingdom, and the reviews are promising. “The Telegraph” describes it as a “biting, blackly comic drama” with “an elegiac feel.” It might not be a feel-good series, but given the past successes of Rowling and Phelps, as well as BBC One and HBO in the production of mini-series, “The Casual Vacancy” will undoubtedly be an excellent production.

The series was released in the United Kingdom on BBC One on February 15. Just in case you wanted to do some pre-reading days procrastination, the first two parts will be released on HBO on April 29, and the third part is due April 30.

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On Tidal, streaming services and the value of music

Matthew Munhall
Scene Writer

On Monday afternoon, Jay-Z assembled a cabal of A-list musicians in New York to announce the relaunch of Tidal, the Swedish streaming service he bought for \$56 million earlier this year. The press conference and the accompanying promotional video had the star power of an Illuminati meeting framed with the significance of a historical event. Alicia Keys delivered a speech filled with the vague platitudes of a high school valedictory address, calling the day “a moment that will forever change the course of music history.” Then, all of the artists present went up one-by-one to sign a document commemorating the launch, as if they were the Founding Fathers signing the Declaration of Independence.

Tidal is being touted as the first “artist-owned” music platform and represents a growing pushback against the low payouts to artists from streaming services like Spotify. Jay-Z, Keys, Beyoncé, Madonna, Arcade Fire’s Win Butler and Regine Chassagne, Kanye West, Nicki Minaj, Daft Punk’s Thomas Bangalter and Guy-Manuel de Homem-Christo, Rihanna and Jack White are among Tidal’s founding owners, who all have an equal stake in the company’s equity.

“The challenge is to get everyone to respect music again, to recognize its value,” Jay-Z said in an interview

with the New York Times. “Everyone knows that the pay system is unfair to artists.”

In one sense, Jay-Z is correct in his assessment that the Internet has conditioned listeners to expect music for free and that streaming services do not fairly compensate artists. Last year, Taylor Swift’s decision to pull her catalog from Spotify, which she classified an “experiment,” was well publicized. Scott Borchetta, the CEO of Swift’s label Big Machine, alleged the label received less than \$500,000 from streams of Swift’s music on Spotify over a 12-month period.

Yet, it’s not Swift, or the artists onstage at the Tidal launch event, who are ultimately hurt the most by streaming services. Even with Spotify’s payout range — which the company states is between \$0.006 to \$0.0084 per stream — Swift was still receiving six-figure sums. It is the independent artists who receive nowhere near the number of streams as major-label acts who are hurt the most by streaming services’ devaluation of their music.

In addition to the involvement of artists, Tidal is attempting to carve out a niche for itself with a Neil Young-like obsession with high-fidelity audio and exclusive content. At its launch, these exclusives included Daft Punk’s 2006 film “Electroma,” a video of the White Stripes’ first TV performance and curated playlists by Jay-Z and Beyoncé. Unlike Spotify, however, Tidal does not offer a free option — a “Premium” subscription starts at \$9.99 per month, with a \$19.99 per month tier offering higher sound quality.

Tidal foreshadows a splintering of content among different streaming services. It’s not difficult to image that Rihanna and West, who are both due to release new music this year, might make their albums available to stream exclusively on Tidal. Apple plans to launch a subscription service this summer and reportedly hopes to have a similar focus on procuring exclusive content. The idea of a single service that offers listeners access to nearly every artist’s discography on demand is likely to be threatened as these multimillion-dollar companies compete over the next few years.

For me, the act of buying and owning music, both physically and digitally, holds more appeal than ever. Even if an artist pulls their music from a service, you can still play vinyl on a turntable or an MP3 on your computer. Owning music is also an ideological act of supporting artists whose music enriches your life; it signals a conscious decision to recognize the work of artists whose music resonates with you on some level. Despite the ridiculously grandiose rhetoric surrounding Tidal, it nonetheless brings attention to the necessity of reimbursing artists for their work. Whether the service succeeds or not, it will hopefully continue conversations about fairly compensating musicians, especially independent artists, and what value music should have in the digital age.

*The views expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.
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Sufjan Stevens coming of age in ‘Carrie & Lowell’

By KELLY McGARRY
Scene Writer

We could have guessed from the title, “Carrie & Lowell,” that Sufjan Stevens’s new album would be something deeply personal. The names Carrie and Lowell refer to Sufjan’s mother and stepfather, respectively, though the album focuses mainly on Sufjan’s mother, who was sporadically present in his life, and his complicated experience with her death in 2012. In the opening track “Death with Dignity,” he repeatedly warns us “I don’t know where to begin,” and thus begins a confused exploration through a dark tangle of emotions.

In a sort of coming-of-age work, he abandons the clutter of fantastical lyrics and electronic experimentalism of his recent albums to embrace a raw autobiographical expression of his own experience. Returning to his guitar-based

folk roots, Stevens’s resulting music is bare to the point of being criticized as boring. The consistent lightness and ease of the melodies and vocals are sharply contrasted with the unease of the lyrics. The album is certainly not fun to listen to, but it is definitely worthwhile as it captures a deep and painful journey. With a title that refers so explicitly to Sufjan’s mother, no part of the album can be disentangled from her memory, so by necessity it maintains a serious, genuine tone.

In modern music, we’ve come to expect most religious references to have a mocking attitude, but Sufjan is known for having a strong connection with his religion. The references in “Carrie & Lowell” can be interpreted as sincere and deeply personal. He includes religion as an influence in the discussion of suicide, expressing that it is “the only thing that keeps me from driving this car, half-light, jack knife into the canyon at night.” He also references a

dependence on his religion, pleading “Jesus, be near me, come shield me,” and an experience with doubt, asking, “How, God of Elijah?”

The entire album showcases a hushed battle with grief. The music itself is slow, almost hesitant. It doesn’t attempt any grand claims. It proceeds steadily throughout, with no definitive climax. In the album’s fifth track “Eugene,” Sufjan himself wonders, “What’s the point of singing songs if you know they’ll never hear you?” He identifies the whole album as an exercise in futility, acknowledging there really is no purpose. Faced with grief, there is no definitive response. This album is instead an honest account of the maturity caused by loss. Though it may not necessarily be the album we want to listen to on every occasion, it’s the kind that we sometimes need to hear.

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SPORTS AUTHORITY

MLB navigating rule changes



Samantha Zuba
Senior Sports Writer

When it comes to tradition in baseball, change is tricky.

The sport needs changes to keep tradition alive in a new era. But too much change can push away the folks who've been watching for ages and liked the game the way it was, thank you. And if the changes don't bring in new viewers, well, then Major League Baseball loses everybody.

This season, MLB will introduce the pace of play rules it experimented with during the Arizona Fall League and spring training. A play clock of sorts will give teams 2 minutes 25 seconds, or 2:45 in games on national television, between each half inning and pitching change. Fines could punish those who violate the clock.

Players also won't be allowed to leave the batter's box if they didn't swing at the previous pitch unless the umpire gives them permission.

Thank goodness.

Baseball is all about finding a groove, but batters can groove in the batter's box and not waste an inordinate amount of time. The quirks of players' between-pitch routines will live on, although perhaps with less velcroing and un-velcroing of batting gloves.

MLB.com reports these measures took an average of over 10 minutes off Arizona Fall League games, and it should be a success in the majors this upcoming season.

For those who don't want to meddle with baseball's sluggish traditions, have no fear. In 1960, the average baseball game lasted just under 160 minutes. In 2013, the average game took over three hours, according to statistics compiled on FOXSports.com

The average game length hasn't been on a continuous upward trend; there have been peaks and valleys. But since around 1978, the average game length generally has climbed and has never dipped back below that year's average.

The point is, there's a good deal of baseball history before 1978 featuring shorter games.

Now, the MLB should be

careful here and not get carried away with introducing clocks and time limits. Much of what makes baseball interesting are the mind games between pitchers and batters. (Am I going to pitch now? How about now? Or now!)

Micromanaging the game would take away players' individual styles and also the relaxed dimension of the game.

The key is to remember what baseball is not. It is not football, driven by high-octane physicality. Really, baseball is weird.

On one hand, baseball provides October drama, the suspense of the bases-loaded-two-outs-bottom-of-the-ninth situation and New York Yankees fans who just excused themselves to run over their Red Sox fan neighbor's flowers. But baseball also provides the opportunity for lazy Sunday outings in July and the "I just came here for a hotdog, a sunburn and some Americana" attitude.

Baseball fans tend to enjoy both the intense and laid-back elements of baseball, believing each type of game-watching experience has its place.

Because of this, I mean it when I say good luck to the executives trying to run baseball. It's an odd, finicky sport that's difficult to manage to everyone's satisfaction because it means a lot to a variety of people at different times.

Hopefully, the new pace of play rules work. Some fans won't like it, and shaving time off games won't instantly draw in more fans, but it should push baseball in a positive direction.

Baseball games will always take a while, and that's part of their charm. But that doesn't mean players should have the liberty to waste tons of time for the fun of it or because of sluggish habits. The new rules are geared to cutting down on unnecessary delays, not the game's character.

The changes are tricky, but they should pay off.

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

ND WOMEN'S GOLF

Irish head to Greensboro for Bryan National

By SEAN KILMER
Sports Writer

After an eighth-place finish at the LSU Tiger Classic, Notre Dame looks to rebound over Easter weekend at the Bryan National Collegiate in Greensboro, North Carolina.

Irish head coach Susan Holt said the team did not adjust well to the conditions in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, but also gained valuable experience through the struggles.

"We really weren't pleased with our results at LSU," Holt said. "We should have played better; we're a better team. We have good players, and we just didn't get it done. We shouldn't have finished any worse than fifth, which is where we were after the second day. Day two was a great round of golf, but the wind wasn't blowing. We managed it really well. But it really blew in round one, and it really blew in round three, and that took its toll on us. We just didn't manage it very well.

"We had a few kids lose their composure a little bit, which is going to stick with you for a few more holes than it should, and you make some more bogeys than you should, and the conditions were so difficult that it was really hard to

make birdies."

However, Holt said she was confident the team would move on and learn from its mistakes this weekend and beyond.

"We've talked about it, and the girls know it," Holt said. "I hope they all learned from it. I think they did, because moving forward we just have to respond better to conditions and situations like that, and I'm pretty confident that they will."

As for the Bryan National Collegiate, Holt said she was excited for the program's return to the event after a five-year absence. The tournament gives the team a chance to adjust to a new type of grass and scout some ACC foes before the conference championship, she said.

"We played in [Bryan National Collegiate] I believe five years ago, and we did not play well," Holt said. "It's a very challenging golf course, very difficult. We were fortunate enough that Wake Forest extended us an invitation, and actually that pretty much coincided with us getting into the ACC last year, which we're very appreciative of them for including us in the field, and for our program it's going to be really good for us to go down there and play in Greensboro a

week and a half before the ACC tournament because it's going to be the same kind of grass. They have different grass down there, and the greens are different, so I think it's great.

"It's going to be really good preparation for ACC. It's a really good field, and we'll have a great opportunity. If we show up and play the way we're capable of, I think we'll be very competitive."

The program is ready to take the next step into becoming a top-25 team, Holt said, and she believes they have the talent to be one.

"[This tournament] really works well with our schedule for finishing up the end of the regular season and getting ready for the NCAA tournament," Holt said. "I think it's great whenever you can put yourself against top-25 competition because that's who we want to be, and if we can put ourselves in those positions and we compete as a team, we're going to be able to get there."

Notre Dame travels to Greensboro for the Bryan National Collegiate this weekend. Play is scheduled to begin Friday and continue through Sunday.

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SMC SOFTBALL | SMC 5, ADRIAN 4; ADRIAN 9, SMC 5

Belles split conference doubleheader with Adrian

By DOMINIC BUSH
Sports Writer

Saint Mary's began MIAA play Tuesday with a trip to Adrian, Michigan, to square off with the host Bulldogs for a weekday doubleheader that saw both games reach extra innings.

The two squads split the games with the Belles (10-6, 1-1 MIAA) claiming the first in eight innings, 5-4, while Adrian (11-5, 1-3) emerged victorious in the second eight-inning game, 9-5.

Junior Sarah Burke took the hill for the Belles in the first game and went five innings, giving up four runs. Freshman Jessica Alberts replaced Burke in the sixth, with the game knotted at four.

The game remained in stalemate until the eighth inning, when Belles freshman Morgan Raymer, who entered the game as a pinch runner, belted a liner to right field and drove in fellow freshman Jamie Young.

Belles head coach Kelli Zache said she was not surprised at all

Raymer provided the game-winning hit.

"She is a competitor and a good hitter," Zache said.

Raymer, along with freshman Cassie Young — who went 2-for-4 with a double and an RBI — provided a much-needed offensive spark in the absence of junior catcher/first baseman Jillian Busfield, who leads the team in home runs and RBIs. Alberts pitched a scoreless eighth to record her second victory, improving her mark to 2-1 on the season.

In game two, Alberts did not enjoy the same success as she did in her previous outing. She was tagged for three homers for a total of four earned runs in the first inning. Raymer, the game one hero, quickly replaced Alberts in the first and settled things down for the Belles.

Despite spotting the Bulldogs an early four runs, the Belles took the lead with a five-run fifth, capped off by a two-run double courtesy of freshman infielder Kayla Raymer. The Bulldogs struck back in the

seventh with an RBI single by senior Brooke Stewart, sending the game to extra innings again.

The Bulldogs exploded for another four-run inning in the top of the eighth. With Saint Mary's unable to get anything going in the bottom of the eighth, Morgan Raymer was credited with the loss, dropping her to 2-3 on the year.

The Belles now turn their attention to Wednesday's home doubleheader against non-conference opponent Defiance. While the Lady Jackets (4-12, 0-4) are currently last in the Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference, Zache said her team is not taking any foes lightly.

"I don't like to take anyone lighter because the moment you do, is the moment it can hurt you," Zache said.

Saint Mary's and Defiance will play their doubleheader at Saint Mary's College softball field, with first pitch scheduled for 3:30 p.m.

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MEN'S TENNIS

Irish set to take on Blue Devils

By **RYAN KLAUS**
Sports Writer

Notre Dame continues its final road trip of the season Friday in Durham, North Carolina, against No. 5 Duke.

The Irish (12-7, 4-3 ACC) picked up two road victories last week in close matches against Miami (Fla.) and Florida State. Against the Hurricanes (7-10, 1-5), Notre Dame pulled out a 4-3 win that was capped by a victory by sophomore Josh Hagar at the third singles spot. The Irish also beat the Seminoles (16-6, 4-3), 4-3, after junior Alex Lawson clinched a comeback victory at the fifth singles spots. Following the two victories, Notre Dame's conference record is above .500 for the first time this season.

"We were really proud of the effort of our guys last weekend," Irish head coach Ryan Sachire said. "To be able to come out of that weekend with two wins was really significant for our team. Particularly against Florida State, we faced a lot of adversity, and we were really able to overcome that adversity."

Despite four consecutive victories and two conference wins last week, the Irish face a daunting challenge ahead of them when they take on the Blue Devils (17-3, 5-2), who have yet to lose at home this season and are led by the 11th-ranked singles player in the nation, junior Nicholas Alvarez.

"Duke is a very talented team, obviously," Sachire said. "They have a number of players that have been nationally ranked throughout their careers. We know it's going to be a great challenge, but we

also believe in ourselves a lot and know that if we play a good match and compete the way we're capable of competing, we're going to have a chance to win."

Notre Dame is no stranger to facing highly ranked opponents this season. In addition to its matches in the ACC, Notre Dame played a nonconference schedule that included matches against current No. 3 Illinois, No. 11 Ohio State, No. 21 Texas Tech and No. 24 Northwestern.

The matchup between the Irish and the Blue Devils will be highlighted by an individual battle between Alvarez and Notre Dame's Quentin Monaghan — ranked 17th nationally — at the top singles spot. Monaghan was named ACC Player of the Week last week and won both of his matches at singles against Miami (Fla.) and Florida State.

"Everybody that Quentin has played recently has been really good, and that comes with the territory of playing number one at a program like Notre Dame," Sachire said. "For Quentin, it will be business as usual. He's used to playing really high-level opponents. He's going to have to be at or near his best to be successful, and he's done a masterful job this season of performing well in every match he's played for the most part. We really believe in him a lot and are confident that he can do well on Friday."

The Irish and Blue Devils are set to square off 2 p.m. Friday at Ambler Tennis Stadium in Durham, North Carolina.

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MEN'S GOLF

Underclassmen look to step up at invitational

By **HUNTER McDANIEL**
Sports Writer

Notre Dame heads to Nashville, Tennessee, over Easter break for the Mason Rudolph Invitational, its final tournament of the regular season.

Irish head coach Jim Kubinski said he was excited about his team's chances this weekend when it travels to the Legends Club in Nashville for Vanderbilt's annual spring tournament.

"There's a lot of strong competition at Vanderbilt, which is what we'll face at ACCs," Kubinski said. "This week offers us another chance to get out and compete, which is part of the development process with a young group. Our guys are hungry for success, so every time out is exciting for us."

Once they get to Nashville, Kubinski said the Irish have a plan of how to finish the season strong.

"We're a team that needs to keep building confidence and trust. That's our No. 1 goal now," Kubinski said. "Whether in Nashville or here on campus, we're excited about every opportunity to compete. It's competition that offers young players the most. It looks like one starter, [junior] Cory [Scupider], will be out this week with an injury, but that should also provide an opportunity for another young guy to step

up."

Kubinski, while approaching the end of the long regular season, also took the time to look back on the progress this team has made over the course of the year thus far.

"This has been a transitional season for us, playing so many young and developing players. Even players who had played some in the past were in new roles this year, so we had some bumps in the road early on," Kubinski said. "It's exciting, though, to see the evidence of our players improving in recent weeks. We didn't have a senior in the lineup over the two-tournament spring break."

"We had a sophomore [Blake Barens] and freshman [Thomas Steve] lead us last time out in Naples. In fact, Blake had an opportunity going to his last hole of the tournament to set his career best score three days in a row over break [a 71 in San Diego, a 70 day 1 in Naples and needed a par for 69 to finish on Day 2]. I don't think we've ever had a player set his personal best on three straight days. The development of Blake and Thomas, with [sophomore] Matt Rushton's strong play over our fall season and bookending break with a 69 to start in San Diego and finish in Naples shows the progress of our young guys. Their development will give us an opportunity for

success at Vanderbilt but, more importantly, with our long-term goals as well."

Kubinski even compared his squad to the same development the men's basketball team went through last year before finding such tremendous success this season.

"We all look at how exciting and successful our men's basketball team was this year — such a great ride for our whole campus," Kubinski said. "Lost in all that excitement was the development time players like [Zach] Auguste, [Demetrius] Jackson, [Steve] Vasturia, et cetera, went through last year. They all improved a great deal through their hard work and competitive opportunities. Our boys are in that process now. It's fun to come to work each day and watch young players improving."

The young and improving Irish will try to cap off their transitional regular season with a strong showing in Tennessee in anticipation of both the ACC championships at the end of the month and a new season in the fall.

The Mason Rudolph Invitational will tee off Friday morning and last through Sunday afternoon at the Legends Club in Nashville.

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ND WOMEN'S TENNIS

ND prepares to face Demon Deacons, Hokies

By **BEN PADANILAM**
Sports Writer

Notre Dame hits the road this weekend for a pair of conference matches, first heading to meet up with Wake Forest on Friday followed by a Sunday matchup with Virginia Tech.

The Irish (12-6, 6-3 ACC) are coming off a pair of wins at Eck Tennis Pavilion this past weekend, when they cruised to a 6-1 victory over ACC foe North Carolina State on Friday before sweeping their individual matches against Marquette on Sunday en route to a 7-0 victory.

Given that both matches ended in decisive wins for his team, Irish head coach Jay Louderback said he was very pleased with his team's

performance, particularly in the singles matches.

"The thing that was really good was to see our singles play really well," Louderback said. "I mean, our doubles have been good all year, and we've had a lot of matches where we win the doubles point and then win just three singles [points] to win those types of matches. It was good to see the singles play well. We thought we could win both matches, but it was nice to see us win easier than we thought it would be."

Now, as the Irish prepare to take to the road for their next two conference matchups, Louderback said he expects both teams to present a challenge, especially on the road. First, the team will travel to Winston-Salem,

North Carolina, on Friday to take on the Demon Deacons (12-9, 2-7). Wake Forest has lost each of its last three conference matches by the score of 7-0 but also holds a record of 9-4 in home matches. Louderback said he believes the Demon Deacons will present yet another tough conference match for the Irish on Friday.

"Wake [Forest] has struggled [in conference play], but they're good," Louderback said. "They're good enough to beat a lot of teams. Especially with us on the road, I feel like they'll be tough."

Notre Dame will then play its second match of the weekend Sunday when it travel to Blacksburg, Virginia, to battle the Hokies (12-5, 4-4). The Hokies are strong on

their courts, boasting a 10-0 home record on the year and are coming off a 4-3 victory over No. 16 Miami this past Sunday. Louderback said he and the team expect a tough match Sunday.

"Virginia Tech has been up and down [this season]," Louderback said. "They just had a great win over Miami, and Miami had beaten Virginia two days earlier, and Virginia was top 10. For Virginia Tech to get that win was big for them, so we got to be ready for them. The thing for Virginia Tech against Miami was that they won four singles matches and one at the top [of the singles lineup], so we know they're going to be tough."

One advantage Louderback said he believes the team will have this weekend is

both matches are expected to be outdoors, weather permitting. He said his team excels when playing outdoor tennis.

"We're hoping we'll get to play both teams outdoors," Louderback said. "I feel like we're better when we're outdoors, so we're hoping we get good weather. [Virginia Tech] is especially good indoors at their place, so we're hoping we can get them outside."

The Irish will take to the courts Friday at 12 p.m. when they take on Wake Forest at Wake Forest Tennis Center, followed by the matchup with Virginia Tech at Burrows-Burleson Tennis Center on Sunday at 12 p.m.

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TRACKAND FIELD

Irish look to improve at Stanford Invite

By **ANDREW ROBINSON**
Sports Writer

After kicking off their outdoor season at the Texas Relays and Bobcat Invitational last weekend, more than 50 Irish athletes will travel to Palo Alto, California, to take on a large field at the Stanford Invitational, beginning Friday.

Coming off its opening meets of the outdoor season in Texas, Notre Dame had a combination of positive and negative take-aways, Irish head coach Alan Turner said.

“[Last weekend] was a little bit mixed,” he said. “Some people performed extremely well, and there were other performances that it just looked like we were out to lunch a little bit.”

Among the standout performances was senior Jade Barber, who topped her own school record of 12.93 seconds in the 100-meter hurdles, finishing second at 12.81.

Turner also noted how senior All-American Chris Giesting ran impressive splits in the 4x400- and 4x200-meter relays, just as junior Margaret Bamgbose ran a strong split in the 4x400. Turner said he feels like Barber, Giesting and Bamgbose are all coming into top form as the outdoor season gets underway.

“My really, really good kids are ready to run fast this weekend at Stanford,” he said.

Turner said he was also impressed by senior Carly Loeffel, who finished seventh out of 18 in her return to the track in a heptathlon field Turner described as “stacked.” Adding to the list of promising outcomes from the first weekend was freshman Greg Bombara, who finished second in the javelin throw (59.61).

Turner said he was disappointed, however, by the final scores of some of the relay teams.

“I’m looking for much better performances [this upcoming weekend],” he said.

In the upcoming Stanford Invitational, there will be roughly 100 colleges represented, though many teams

will only be bringing a few athletes. Those bringing full squads includes Texas A&M, ranked first on both the men’s and women’s sides, as well as No. 6/7 Arkansas, No. 14/12 Stanford, Ohio State, Minnesota, Wisconsin and a mixture of smaller California schools.

“Competition is going to be very good this weekend,” Turner said. “It’s not quite as deep as other meets, but in almost every event, there’s probably going to be someone who’s already an All-American in it.”

After taking a week of rest while teammates were in Texas, the distance runners will return this weekend at the Stanford Invitational, and Turner said he expects to see some good times.

Junior Molly Seidel, who earned indoor All-American honors, will compete in the 5,000-meter race on the women’s side; meanwhile, juniors Michael Clevenger and a returning Timothy Ball will compete in the 5,000 meters on the men’s side.

Junior Danielle Aragon will represent the Irish in the 1,500 meter race.

“This should be a good meet for our athletes,” Turner said. “Everyone will get a good chance to [compete in] their main events, in good weather against good competition.”

The Stanford Invitational will take place Friday and Saturday at the Cobb Track and Angell Field in Palo Alto.

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MICHAEL YU | The Observer

Irish senior sprinter Chris Giesting runs in the 4x400-meter relay at Loftus Sports Center on Jan. 24.

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The Observer.

Softball

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

been and will continue to be successful if the Irish focus on beating opponets in two out of three categories: pitching, hitting and fielding.

“Usually, when we do two of those things better, we’ll win ball games, and that’s what we have done recently,” Gumpf said.

Seven out of the past nine victories have come against ACC opponents, something Gumpf said will help the Irish as they advance toward post-season play.

“Every game is important, [but] obviously we want to put ourselves in a good position for the ACC tournament and get a good seed, so that’s something we’ve been focused on,” Gumpf said.

And although the Irish have won nine straight, Gumpf said there are always things she believes the team can improve upon: better at-bats offensively and exploiting

opposing hitters’ weaknesses defensively.

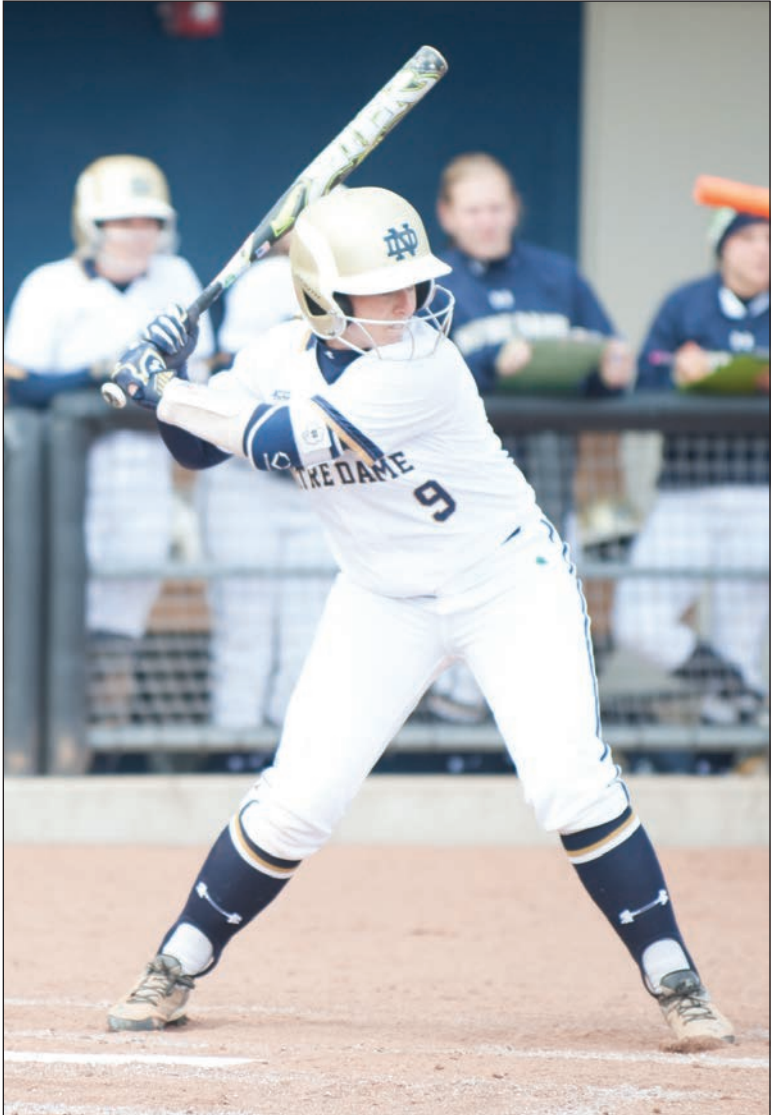
“I think we need to make sure we’re hitting the ball in good counts, not allowing too many strikes to go by,” Gumpf said. “I think pitching-wise, we need to be sure that we’re forcing their hitters to hit the ball where we want them to hit it.”

If the Irish are to complete the perfect home stand — and extend their overall win streak to 10 — they will have to contain Eastern Michigan’s strong offense, Gumpf said.

“Eastern Michigan can hit the ball well — they’re a live-hitting team and they score a lot of runs,” Gumpf said. “We need to control their hitters and be certain that we’re taking care of the ball on the pitching end.”

Notre Dame will face off against Eastern Michigan on Wednesday at Melissa Cook Stadium. First pitch is scheduled for 4 p.m.

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CHRIS COLLINS | The Observer

Irish senior infielder Katey Haus gets ready to swing in Notre Dame’s 13-0 win over Georgia Tech on March 21 at Melissa Cook Stadium.



JODI LO | The Observer

Irish junior attack Rachel Sexton takes a shot against Syracuse on April 19 in an 18-10 loss at Arlotta Stadium. Sexton has recorded 23 goals and three assists this year.

W Lacrosse

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

last Saturday against the Tar Heels at Arlotta Stadium.

Halfpenny said after this loss her team emerged with a renewed sense of fight and determination.

“All 32 kids come away going, if we can [play like against North Carolina] every time out, we have the confidence now to understand that we’re positioning ourselves to continue to earn a spot in the NCAA tournament by winning these games,” Halfpenny said. “By closing these out, by making a couple more plays, that’s all we’ve got to do.”

“There was some serious spirit out there. There was another level of speed that I hadn’t seen yet.”

Against the Tar Heels, the Irish not only managed to overcome a six-goal deficit, but they also won many of what Halfpenny called the “hustle stats.” Notre Dame outshot UNC 31-18 in the game, including a 14-6 edge in the second half — as well as winning the ground ball and turnover battles.

Notre Dame also rang five shots of the post over the course of the game, and opposing Tar Heel sophomore goalkeeper Caylee Waters stopped 13 Irish

shots to match a career high. The Irish will face another goalkeeper coming off a strong performance in Virginia’s Rachel Vander Kolk. The freshman earned ACC Defensive Player of the Week honors yesterday in large part due to her 18-save performance in Virginia’s 15-13 upset over previously-unbeaten Boston College on Saturday. The Cavaliers were outshot 41-26 in the game, but rode Vander Kolk to victory, a talented back-stop Halfpenny said the Irish are well aware of.

“[Vander Kolk] was a great goalie in high school,” Halfpenny said. “I remember recruiting her ... and now she’s getting her opportunity at Virginia. ... You’ve got to make this goalie move though, because she does really good holding, she’s got great hand-eye coordination, and so we’re definitely going to have to move her and get this ball around her.”

Halfpenny said this weekend will be important for the Irish to keep their postseason hopes alive because the NCAA mandates a team be over .500 before it will even be considered for the NCAA tournament. Notre Dame currently sits at 6-5, and with a schedule 16 games long, the Irish will need to win three of their remaining five games

to qualify. In addition to Virginia, Notre Dame also has No. 7 Syracuse, No. 6 Northwestern and No. 10 Louisville among its final five games, meaning the Irish need to beat at least two teams ranked in the top 10 and unranked Michigan to qualify.

“Here we find ourselves now in April,” Halfpenny said. “We got our legs under us in February, we learned a lot about ourselves in March, and now it’s time to really just grab this identity we have ... and find sixty minutes of that against another No. 4 team in the country.”

While the Irish are desperate for a win this weekend, there is also a chance at history in Charlottesville. Neither Halfpenny — including her time at William & Mary and Notre Dame — nor the Notre Dame program have ever beaten Virginia on the road. Don’t try to tell Halfpenny though.

“I know it’s going to sound boring, but [a win] just means we’re 7-5,” Halfpenny said. “ ... We’re just focused on getting that seventh win right now.”

Notre Dame looks for its seventh win against Virginia at 1 p.m. Saturday afternoon at Klockner Stadium in Charlottesville, Virginia.

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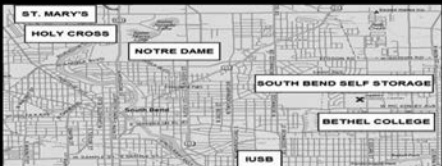
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Football

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

but returned to South Bend for one more workout, which he said he would do at the NFL Combine in February.

"I feel like [today] went good," Daniels said. "I did better than I did at the combine, which was my goal. Everything went well."

Daniels ran the 40-yard dash in 4.57 seconds, leapt 11 feet and 1 inch in the broad jump and posted a 39.5 inch vertical. He was also one of several players to run routes for former Irish quarterback Andrew Hendrix.

Daniels is projected as a late-round pick in the NFL Draft, with analysts praising his physical abilities but critiquing his academic trouble.

"I just want to be put in a good situation," Daniels said. "Anywhere I go, I know what I can do, and I'm just going to give that team my all."

"Regardless of what happened and stuff, I think we all handled it the right way and moved on and made good decisions to turn our lives around and took something positive out of it. I came out here today and took another step in that direction."

Linebacker Kendall Moore, who also lost his 2014 season due to the academic investigation, worked out as well, posting an unofficial 40 time of 4.57 and bench pressing 24 reps of 225 pounds.

"Mentally, I'm pretty solid," Moore said. "Right now, I'm just ready to get on to this next step, and we'll see what

happens from here. Hopefully, I'll get an opportunity, and I'll do my best with it."

The top 40 time of the day, however, belonged to cornerback Cody Riggs, who was not invited to the Combine. In two attempts, he ran 4.45 and 4.46 seconds. After the second run, however, he pulled up with a leg injury and skipped the three-cone drill.

Another Irish player not invited to the combine, running back Cam McDaniel, participated in every drill. His three-cone time of 6.78 was faster than any mark by a running back at the combine, but McDaniel said his focus on the day was more on demonstrating skills he did not always display in the Notre Dame backfield.

"I really want to show people my elusiveness," McDaniel said. "I really think I'm a versatile guy who can catch the ball out of the backfield, do things out of the backfield, can run smooth routes."

"... Scouts watching the tape see that I can run the ball between the tackles fine. ... And so I really wanted to show people today that I can run routes out of the backfield, catch the ball, make plays on the perimeter and give linebackers nightmares."

McDaniel and Daniels were part of a group of five players to catch passes from Hendrix on Tuesday. Tight ends Jake Golic and Alex Welch last played for the Irish in 2012 and 2013, respectively, while Ben Koyack started for the Irish in 2014 and hauled in 30 receptions for 317 yards and two touchdowns in his senior season.

Koyack, who is projected to be a mid- to late-round draft pick, caught every pass during his position drills and ran a 4.72 40-yard dash.

"I'm just trying to show [the scouts] my name should be called sooner, not later," Koyack said. "I'm trying the cement myself as a guy they see as talented, see as versatile, see as someone they could put into any situation."

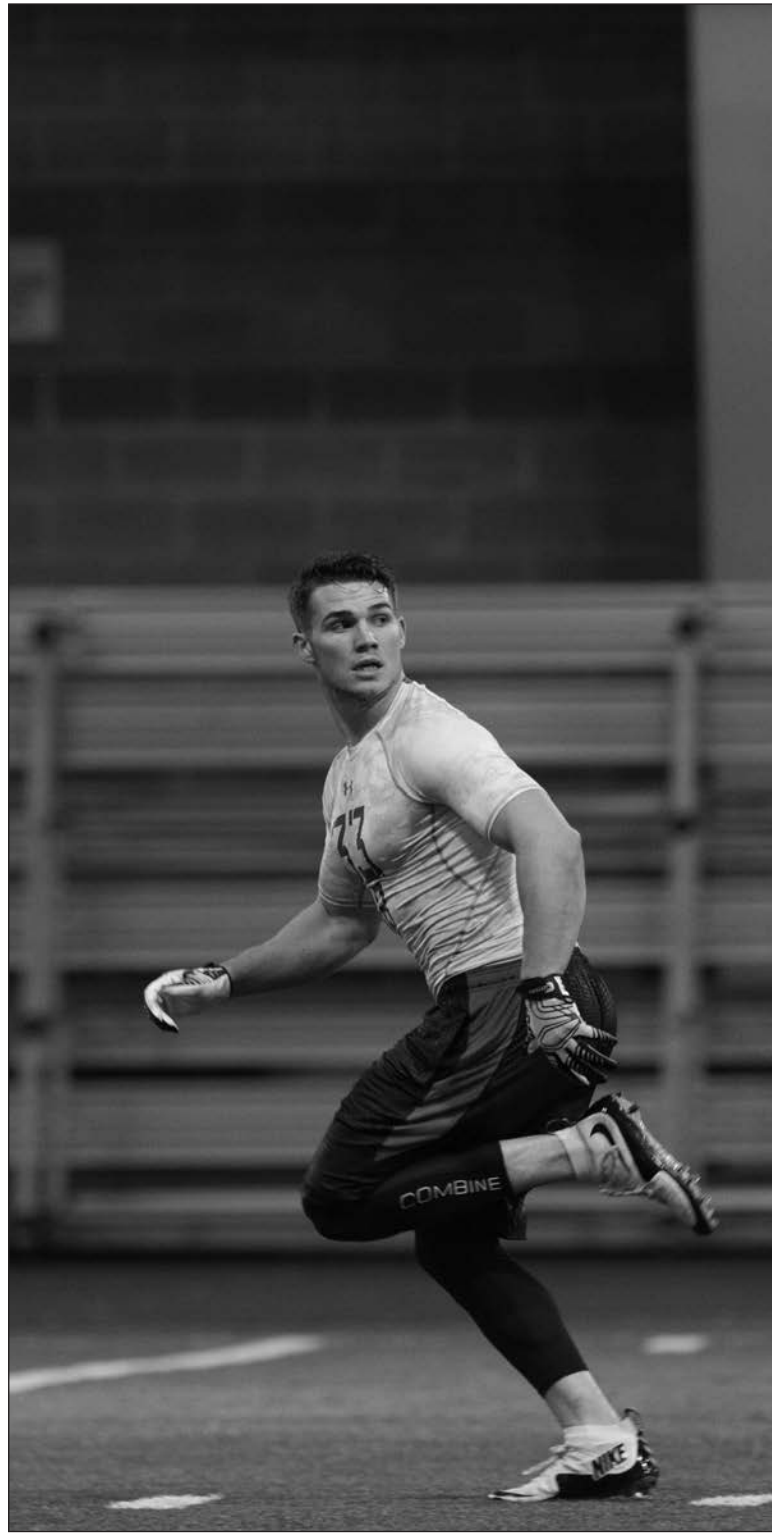
The lone player to venture outside on the day was kicker Kyle Brindza, who worked out at LaBar Practice Complex. Brindza kicked both field goals and kickoffs, connecting on 10 of 12 attempts from 33 yards or longer and missing a touchback just once on his kickoffs.

While it is usually difficult for kickers to get drafted at all, Brindza said he had met with several teams who were interested in his ability to both kick and punt and said he was "draftable."

"I have worked my butt off so hard this offseason to prepare not only for the combine but for Pro Day and just continue to elevate my game," Brindza said. "I'm not too worried about being drafted, being undrafted, being a free agent. The biggest thing I'm worried about is being able to prove that I'm able to go into camp and compete my butt off and win that job."

Defensive linemen Justin Utupo and Ethan Johnson also participated in the Pro Day, with Utupo working out at every drill and Johnson missing only the 60-yard shuttle.

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CAROLINE GENCO | The Observer

Former Irish running back Cam McDaniel looks for a pass at Notre Dame's Pro Day at Loftus Sports Center on Tuesday.

Baseball

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

baseman Zak Kutsulis.

"It felt like those were situations where we need to do it; we just need to be able to go up there with the proper approach and execute," Aoki said. "It doesn't always end up with the appeal of a hit, but those things are just as important. The name of the game is not trying to get a great batting average; the name of the game is trying to cross home plate more times than they do."

Notre Dame was aggressive on the base paths early, recording four steals in the first three innings. A stolen base in the second inning set up Notre Dame's first run, as senior right fielder Robert Youngdahl stole second and then made it home on sophomore catcher Ryan Lidge's bloop single to right field.

Aoki said the Irish were able to get good jumps against Eastern Michigan freshman left-hander Adam Hornstra, who was making his first collegiate start. Hornstra was removed with no outs in the fourth inning after surrendering four runs on five hits.

"If the numbers add up right, [Hornstra] was pretty slow to the plate," Aoki said.

"... I thought that his move was pretty readable, so we were able to put some pressure on him that way. We just looked at it as an opportunity that presented itself, so we tried to take advantage of it."

Smoyer, Notre Dame's usual midweek starter, outlasted his former career-high of 5 1/3 innings pitched in Tuesday's complete-game performance. Smoyer allowed hits in all nine innings — 10 hits for the game — but repeatedly pitched out of trouble, something Aoki said is one of his strengths.

"That's kind of who and what Ryan is," Aoki said. "Ryan's a kid who throws a lot of strikes — he relies on his ability to command pitches, whether it's a curveball, slider, fastball, that sort of thing."

"He gives up a hit, but he manages it. He does a good job inducing some groundballs."

Notre Dame recorded its only two extra-base hits in a two-run eighth inning. Youngdahl drove in senior left fielder Ryan Bull with a double, and two batters later,

Kutsulis slammed a triple to score Youngdahl.

Notre Dame will look to rebound from its last two conference series — sweeps at the hands of No. 7 Louisville and No. 9 Virginia, respectively — when it travels to Pittsburgh this weekend to face the Panthers (11-16, 4-8).

Despite their recent conference struggles, this weekend's series isn't any more important or crucial for the Irish, Aoki said.

"I think we just continue to sort of stay the course," he said. "We went through a stretch with two elite pitching staffs. In one of those series, we didn't have two of our better offensive players."

"I think we just continue to concentrate on having quality at-bats and making quality pitches and playing defense, and I think when it's all said and done, we'll be fine."

Notre Dame and Pittsburgh will meet in a three-game series at Charles L. Cost Field in Pittsburgh starting Friday at 3 p.m. Saturday's game is also scheduled for 3 p.m., while Sunday's series finale is set for 1 p.m.

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M Lacrosse

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

is on both sides of the ball.

"We look to play both ways," Near said. "We have offensive guys who can play defense, and I think that's going to be important as we go down and make a playoff run. It puts a lot of pressure on the other teams."

Sophomore goalkeeper Shane Doss, who made 12 saves against the Orange on Saturday, said the plan for the rest of the season is for the team to continue to maximize the abilities of everyone on the team.

"It's incredibly hard on other teams to game plan against [us]," Doss said. "There's no way for other teams to really predict what's going to happen, so that makes us a really dangerous team, and that'll be good for us going down the road for the rest of the season."

The Blue Devils can be just as dangerous of an offensive team Saturday. The defending national champions already

have four players who have notched 20 goals or more on the season — freshman attack Justin Guterding (33), junior midfielder Myles Jones (26), junior midfielder Deemer Class (23) and sophomore midfielder Jack Bruckner (21). Jones has also tallied a team-leading 22 assists so far.

Although Duke is coming off two straight losses to Syracuse and No. 8 North Carolina, Irish head coach Kevin Corrigan said the Irish are very aware of Duke's abilities as a top-tier ACC team.

"We compete like hell Monday through Friday," Corrigan said. "I love this conference because every game is a big game. Every game is meaningful, and that's the challenge of it, but it's also the joy of it."

In the battle between two potent offenses, Notre Dame will travel to Durham to take on Duke in a rematch of last year's national championship game at 5 p.m. at Koskinen Stadium.

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HOROSCOPE | EUGENIA LAST

A black and white line drawing of a small owl perched on a large, open suitcase. The owl is looking up and to the right, where a larger owl is flying. A speech bubble from the small owl contains the text: "Care to come to Florida with me for Easter?". The larger owl is also looking back at the small one. The drawing is signed "Quasman 4/1/2015" in the bottom right corner.

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Yesterday's Jumbies: BLURB SLANT TRAUMA EXEMPT
 Answer: When William Seward Burroughs patented his adding machine on August 21, 1888, it was this — SUMMER

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FOOTBALL

Eleven former players return for Pro Day

By GREG HADLEY
Editor-in-Chief

As Sheldon Day looked on Tuesday, the group of 11 former Irish players he considered joining this winter went through the paces of Notre Dame's Pro Day at Loftus Sports Center.

Scouts from 28 NFL teams were present, but the absence of Day and senior offensive lineman Ronnie Stanley, who both decided to return for their final season, from the drills meant two of Notre Dame's top potential prospects were not on the field.

Five of the 11 players who did participate suited up for the Irish in 2014, but perhaps the biggest name present was someone Notre Dame missed all season: DaVaris Daniels. The receiver spent the entire year under investigation for suspected academic dishonesty



CAROLINE GENCO | The Observer

Former Irish receiver DaVaris Daniels jogs at Notre Dame's Pro Day at Loftus Sports Center on Tuesday.

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BASEBALL | ND 6, EASTERN MICHIGAN 0

Notre Dame shuts out Eagles

By BRIAN HARTNETT
Senior Sports Writer

Small ball was the name of the game for Notre Dame on Tuesday night at Frank Eck Stadium, as the team utilized walks, stolen bases and sacrifices to open up an early lead en route to a 6-0 victory over Eastern Michigan.

Sophomore right-hander Ryan Smoyer also continued his success as a midweek starter with his first collegiate complete game and shutout.

"I think situational hitting is a big part of what you need to do to win ballgames," Notre Dame head coach Mik Aoki said. "You're not going to go out there and roll out 15 hits every game and put up big numbers, so when you have the opportunity to convert with runners on third base and less than two outs, just moving guys over

[is important]."

Notre Dame (17-10, 3-9 ACC) broke open the game with three runs in a fourth inning during which it only hit two balls out of the infield against the Eagles (9-17, 2-4 MAC).

Leading 1-0, the Irish loaded the bases in the bottom of the fourth on a hit by pitch, walk and bunt single down the third-base line. Irish junior centerfielder Kyle Richardson laced a single up the middle to put Notre Dame up by two runs.

Junior designated hitter Ricky Sanchez then drew a bases-loaded walk, one of the four free passes the Irish had on the night. Sophomore third baseman Kyle Fiala ended the scoring in the inning by hitting a sacrifice fly to left field, driving in junior first baseman Zak Kutsulis.

see BASEBALL **PAGE 14**

MEN'S LACROSSE

ND seeks revenge in Durham

By MANNY DE JESUS
Sports Writer

After defeating Syracuse in double overtime Saturday, newly christened No. 1 Notre Dame will take on No. 6 Duke on Saturday in Durham, North Carolina, in a rematch of last year's national championship game.

In four of the last five years, the Irish (6-1, 2-0 ACC) have had their championship goals have been cut short by the rival Blue Devils (7-3, 0-2 ACC). Two of those losses include a 6-5 loss in the 2010 national championship and last year's 11-9 defeat in the title game.

Despite the shortcomings in the playoffs, Notre Dame has started off its season strong with wins over No. 7 Virginia and No. 2 Syracuse already under its belt. A big part of the team's success so far has been a small change in its offensive philosophy. Last season, the Irish were led by All-American junior attack Matt Kavanagh, who carried the load offensively, scoring 42 goals. However, this season, Kavanagh has contributed 14 goals while

leading the team in assists with 17.

"It's something I'm doing different," Kavanagh said of his changing offensive mentality. "We're running a really good team offense. When everyone's out there, we have confidence that anyone can put the ball in the back of the net, and that makes my job easier. I don't have to go out there and just shoot it every time."

Against Duke in last season's championship game, Notre Dame struggled to find the back of the net, scoring just nine goals on 32 shots. It wasn't until the fourth quarter that the Irish offense broke through, scoring five goals to close the gap against the Blue Devils. This season, Duke's defense is allowing 12 goals per game, while Notre Dame stacks up with the ninth-best offense in the country.

Senior midfielder Jack Near, who scored the game winner in last week's double-overtime victory against the Orange, said the key to this team is how balanced it

see M LACROSSE **PAGE 14**

ND WOMEN'S LACROSSE

Irish ready to battle UVA

By ZACH KLONSINSKI
Sports Editor

A week after its comeback bid fell short against No. 2 North Carolina, No. 17 Notre Dame gets another shot at knocking off a top-five opponent when it travels to Charlottesville, Virginia, on Saturday to square off with fourth-ranked Virginia.

The Irish (6-5, 1-3 ACC) trailed the Tar Heels (10-2, 3-1) 7-1 with 8:30 remaining in the first half when head coach Christine Halfpenny called a timeout. From there the Notre Dame

comeback was on. With 5:08 left in the game, a goal by junior attack Rachel Sexton finally drew the Irish even at eight. However, Tar Heel fifth-year senior midfielder Brittany Coppa responded just over a minute later with what ended up being the deciding goal, forcing the Irish to settle for a 9-8 loss.

"I think they built a lot of confidence off that one," Halfpenny said of the North Carolina game. "I'm not going to lie, it still feels like — waking up the next day — did that really happen? We didn't win that one?"

We got so close, and we knew we were right there, and we totally felt like we were going to win, 'We got this game.'"

Saturday against the Cavaliers (8-4, 2-2) will mark the fourth game Notre Dame has played against an opponent currently in the top five this season. The Irish are 0-3 in those games so far, falling 17-3 on March 1 to No. 5 Duke in Durham, North Carolina; to Boston College 15-6 on March 7 in Chestnut Hill, Massachusetts, and

see W LACROSSE **PAGE 13**

ND SOFTBALL

ND wraps up homestand

By BENJAMIN HORVATH
Sports Writer

Notre Dame will conclude its nine-game homestand this afternoon when it takes on Eastern Michigan at Melissa Cook Stadium.

The Irish (23-11 overall, 7-5 ACC) have won nine straight contests and have the chance to complete a perfect homestand if they come away with a victory against Eastern Michigan (8-18).

Irish head coach Deanna Gumpf acknowledged it would be impressive to complete the stretch undefeated, but said it is more important to her that her team is playing well right now.

"Every game is important, and obviously it's nice to win at home, but I think we've just been focused on playing well during this last stretch, and we've done a good job of winning ball games," Gumpf said.

The Irish are averaging

eight runs per game over the length of the streak, outscoring their opponents 72-7 in that span and out-hitting them 89-30.

Notre Dame opponents have tallied just one hit in two of the past nine victories, as well as one no-hit performance by sophomore pitcher Rachel Nasland. Five of the wins have also been shutouts.

Gumpf said her team has

see SOFTBALL **PAGE 13**