Special Olympian discussed identity

Chapter of the Society of Women

Mary's and a very active Student

some of our colleagues at Saint

Assistant Dean Cathy Pieronek,

next year.

engineering groups on campus

will lead the four most prominent

Tuesday, but female presidents

Dean Peter Kilpatrick said

cent of the College of Engineering,

well.

during the half-hour outage as

academic buildings lost power

A number of residence halls and

ties reported near South Quad

Memorial were among the facili-

3:10 p.m., Brown said.

feeders to be dropped.”

load of two campus distribution

power plant, which required the

result of a boiler problem at the

area on the north end of campus,”

Brown said. “The outage was a

women in engineering, while

are close to 50 percent [of]

Engineers, Notre Dame has man-

aged to increase the percentage of

women in engineering close to 30

percent, which is real progress,”

Kilpatrick said. “There are complex, multi-disciplinary

questions implicated by this

topic, and Notre Dame should eagerly embrace the opportu-

nity to be a forum for thought-

ful dialogue on this crucial issue.

The panel will include four stars in education reform —

Michelle Rhee, Howard Fuller,

John DiUlio and Sara Martínez

Tucker. Michelle Rhee is the founder

and CEO of StudentsFirst, founder of The New Teacher

Project and former Chancellor

of D.C. Public Schools. Howard

Fuller currently directs Marquette

University’s Institute for the

Transformation of Learning.

They will be joined by John

DiUlio, professor at the University

of Pennsylvania and the inaugural
director of the White House Office of Faith-

Based and Community

Initiatives. Sara Martínez

Tucker will also sit on the

panel as the current

Undersecretary of Education

at the United States

Department of Education.

“This panel promises to be a great prelude to the 2011-

2012 Notre Dame Forum, which will examine topics

related to K-12 schooling,”

Kilpatrick said. “We are delight-
ed to have such an impressive

lineup of leaders in the move-

ment leading the conversation

on April 13.”

see FORUM/page 5

‘The System’ to begin Forum conversations

By MEGAN DOYLE

News Editor

The 2011-2012 Notre Dame Forum will bring in four heavyweight names to discuss reform in K-12 schools today at “The System” panel discussion.

“We have before us a set of unprecedented challenges and opportunities in K-12 education,” University President Fr. John Jenkins said. “There are complex, multi-disciplinary questions implicated by this topic, and Notre Dame should eagerly embrace the opportunity to be a forum for thoughtful dialogue on this crucial issue.

The panel will include four stars in education reform — Michelle Rhee, Howard Fuller, John DiUlio and Sara Martínez Tucker.

Michelle Rhee is the founder and CEO of StudentsFirst, founder of The New Teacher Project and former Chancellor of D.C. Public Schools. Howard Fuller currently directs Marquette University’s Institute for the Transformation of Learning.

They will be joined by John DiUlio, professor at the University of Pennsylvania and the inaugural director of the White House Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives. Sara Martínez Tucker will also sit on the panel as the current Undersecretary of Education at the United States Department of Education.

“..."
Today from 4 to 6 p.m. watch the Fighting Irish Softball Team take on Loyola of Chicago at Melissa Cook Stadium.

Join in the fight against cancer with The Red and the Beautiful fundraiser today beginning at 4 and ending at 11 p.m. in the LaFortune Student Center.

Eduardo Morales from Southern Methodist University will be speaking today from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. on American Catholic Studies. The lecture is titled “Praying Like the Middle Class: Ethnic Mexicans Make Church in Twentieth-Century Indiana” and will be held in Geddes Hall in the Center for Social Concerns.

Professor Terry Eagleton will be giving a public lecture today from 4:30 to 6 p.m. His fourth public lecture at Notre Dame is entitled “On Violence” and will be held in the Hesburgh Center for International Studies.

Author of the bestselling novel “The Time Traveler’s Wife,” Audrey Niffenegger, will speak about her novel as part of the Notre Dame Literary Festival at 7 p.m. in room 105 of the Jordan Hall of Science. Book signing will follow, and books will be available for purchase.

Today at 7:30 p.m. panelists will explore broad issues of education- al innovation and the role that higher education in general must play in effecting systemic and sustainable reform in the United States. Come listen to “The System, Opportunity, Crisis, and Obligation in K-12 Education” at the Leighton Concert Hall in The Debartolo Performing Arts Center.

To submit information to be included in this section of The Observer, email detailed information about an event to obsnews.nd@gmail.com.
Fall 2011 registration begins

By EMILY SHRANK
News Writer

Class registration for the fall 2011 semester begins today, and the Office of the Registrar is fully prepared to handle any ‘DARTing’ issues that may come its way.

Assistant registrar Lora Spaulding said the office is already busy dealing with registration "emergencies," such as student classification changes.

Spaulding said student athletes, as well as those registered with the Office of Students with Disabilities, are the two groups on campus that are given registration privileges.

Student athletes have the opportunity to register within the first hour of the first day based upon their classifications as seniors, juniors or sophomores, Spaulding said.

"Currently, athletes are a little less than half of the students registering within those parameters," she said.

"The other half that have the first day and within the first hour are from the general student population.

Spaulding said classification, class schedule and the number of students that can begin registering determine DART times for the general student population.

Despite recent problems with overcrowding in the Mendoza College of Business, Spaulding said the College accurately reports to the registrar’s office which business classes will be offered and how many spaces are available in each class.

"I know they are keenly aware of the demand for classes and are working out the best schedule possible," she said.

Lora Spaulding
assistant registrar

Spaulding said the office noticed that more of the courses being offered during the fall are spread out during the day.

"Instead of being bunched around mid-morning through early afternoon, they are spreading to earlier in the morning and later in the afternoon," she said.

Class registration is taking place earlier than usual this year in order to accommodate the Easter break, Spaulding said.

Rising seniors register today and Thursday. Rising juniors choose classes on April 18 and 19, and rising sophomores DART on April 26 and 27.

Contact Emily Shrank at eshrank@nd.edu

College celebrates communications week

By ABIGAIL FORNEY
News Writer

Fifty-eight students from the graduating Class of 2011 at Saint Mary’s will receive a degree in Communications, according to senior and communications major Sara Zwolski. The College will celebrate "COMM Week" this week to honor these women.

Senior communications major Casey Larson will attend film school at the University of Southern California after graduation. She said her dream job would be to edit movies or TV and movie trailers.

"Yes, like Cameron Diaz from ‘The Holiday,’" she said.

Marketing, public relations and advertising are the main career draws for communications graduates, but Larson said the jobs within these fields are diverse.

"Hospitals need human resource departments, schools need to be advertised, celebrities need public relations," she said. "The options are endless."

COMM week includes a range of activities, Zwolski said. The department hosted a panel of seniors Monday to discuss senior projects, internships and after-graduation job opportunities.

Zwolski said one of the students at the panel switched her major from business to communications and was excited to learn she would have just as many career opportunities, if not more, in her new field.

"Any business will need someone like a COMM major," Zwolski said.

A workshop promoting the creation of professional portfolios was held Tuesday. Other events during the week include decorating the Department of Communications hallway and hosting a discussion titled "Stop & Listen: Autism Sings at Main Street Grille." Wednesday evening at 7 p.m.

A pizza lunch on Thursday will focus on job and internship opportunities for COMM majors. Professionals such as professor Susan Guibert, who works for Notre Dame Magazine, and WSBT reporter Colleen Ferriera will speak with students. A free breakfast will be offered in the communications department for students Friday morning.

Zwolski said senior majors were excited to talk to underclassmen about their experiences with communications.

"People need to promote their Business as is, but now even more so as the economy remains in recovery," she said.

Contact Abigail Forney at aforney01@saintmarys.edu

Cities and the Common Good
April 13 / 5 pm
104 Bond Hall

School of Architecture
Reception to follow in Bond Hall Gallery

John Norquist, President and CEO of the Congress of the New Urbanism (CNU) and former mayor of Milwaukee

Can modern, well-designed cities contribute to the common good?

Suburban sprawl, highways, the segregation of building types and of economic classes, vast tracts of land used for single purposes: these facts of modern life waste resources and isolate individuals from an active communal life. It does not have to be this way.

A different vision based on insights derived from cities we love is now taking hold. New Urbanism promotes the development of neighborhoods that make most of life’s needs accessible by foot from residences that are affordable for a wide range of socioeconomic groups. It restores civility and beauty to cities and promotes the common good. That vision is being implemented through the Congress for New Urbanism (CNU), headquartered in Chicago with John Norquist as its president.

— PROF. W. WESTALL
THE FRANCESCO MONTAHA CHAIR IN ARCHITECTURE

Join the discussion.
forum.nd.edu

Innovations in luxury watches
On the market now.

the GLOBAL MARKET PLACE
and the COMMON GOOD
THE NOTRE DAME FORUM
A YEARLONG DISCUSSION
Council of Representatives

Judicial Council vice president approved

By JOHN CAMERON
News Writer

The Council of Representatives (COR) approved the new Judicial Council vice president of elections at its Tuesday meeting.

Judicial Council president Susanna Sullivan presented freshman Caitlin Ogren, an American Studies and Spanish major from Pasquerilla West, as her choice for vice president of elections. Sullivan said Ogren would be responsible for ensuring smooth operations during next year’s student government elections.

“Two years ago, it started ramping up,” he said. “We found 1,300 empty beer cans in the library then.”

The Challenge caused more problems this year than last year, Ferguson said. This year, library security, monitors and housekeeping staff found more than 400 empty beer cans as well as 40 full beer cans.

“Putting up the signs is a way to respect privacy and ensure safety,” she said.

Librarians have a duty to look after the library’s property, Sullivan said. “We didn’t want to have a situation where people are drinking excessively in the library,” she said.

Ross Ferguson, facilities manager, said the signs are a visible deterrent for bad behavior.

“The vice president of elections is charged with the duties of oversight and administration of the election, including but not limited to approving campaign materials, dealing with allegations and overseeing the election committee,” Sullivan said. “She’s also charged with guiding the hall election commissioners through the residence hall election process.”

Ogren said she did not see any significant problems in the way the committee operated under the leadership of previous vice president of elections Michael Thomas.

“I feel [Thomas] led the election committee well last year,” she said. “I don’t plan to make any changes. I liked the way the committee was set up with the seven members.”

Following an election season marked by a number of campaign allegations, Ogren said she understands her role in handling such allegations, but hopes for a less problematic campaign season next year.

The Election Committee delayed results during the student body elections due to violations of campaign rules. During the delay, the committee met to discuss the allegations and decide sanctions for the candidates in question.

As part of her new position, Ogren will be responsible for assembling next year’s election committee. She said she would look for a group that can both debate and cooperate well.

“I think it’s really important people are willing to say what they think and be okay with disagreeing with each other,” she said. “It’s really important they are willing to cooperate because it is a small group that has to come to a consensus in the end.”

Contact John Cameron at jcameron22@nd.edu

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**THE SYSTEM:**

Opportunity, Crisis, and Obligation in K-12 Education

Michele Rhee
Howard Fuller
Sara Martinnez Tucker
John DiNello

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**THE NANOVIC INSTITUTE FILM SERIES**

**AUGUST 16**

A theatre company from Prague, directed by Petr Zelenka, will present a stage adaptation of Dostoevsky’s novel, *The Brothers Karamazov*.

Contact Amanda Gray at agray3@nd.edu

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**NANOVIC INSTITUTE**

**DEBARTOLO PERFORMING ARTS CENTER**

**UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME**

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**IT’S TIME TO TALK ABOUT THIS**

7:00 PM | THE BROWNING CINEMA
TICKETS 53-61 | 574-631-2800
performingarts.nd.edu

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**APRIL 14**

**DIRECTOR PETR ZLENEKA**

will introduce the film.
Special Olympian speaks about discrimination

By ANNA BOARINI

Special Olympian Loretta Claiborne encouraged an appreciation of every person’s identity, and especially those of the disabled, Tuesday evening in DeBartolo Hall.

“It doesn’t matter to me what you identify me,” Claiborne said. “It matters to me how the man above identifies me. When I go out into my community, I just want him to be my best.”

Claiborne was born partially blind and could not walk or talk until age four. Today, she is a recipient of the Arthur Ashe Courage Award presented at the Excellence in Sports Performance Yearly (ESPY) awards ceremony, and is also the subject of a Disney movie titled, “The Loretta Claiborne Story.”

Before she was an athlete and public speaker, Claiborne said she overcame adversity in school. She dealt with prejudice, even from teachers, because she is mildly intellectually disabled. “People teacher called me a retard, and that is a word that should never be used,” Claiborne said.

Claiborne said her mother’s encouragement helped her get through hardships in school. “She always wanted me to be my best,” Claiborne said.

Even when Claiborne’s school district decided not to be a part of a mental health facility and school, Claiborne said her mother insisted. “She said her mother insisted that as long there was a special education class it would not be pulled from the school district. Her mother’s goal was that all of her children would graduate from high school.

To help bring her the rid of her extra energy, Claiborne began to run at night with her mother. She would run through Special Olympics in school, and she said her mother motivated her to compete.

“[At that time, Special Olympics helped to] change kids’ attitudes,” Claiborne said. “I thought I was worthless, not worth one cent. Here was some event that was changing my life, something plain and simple called sport.”

With the help of the discipline and positive attitude Claiborne gained from the Special Olympics, she graduated from high school.

Yearly, Claiborne has run 26 marathons and competes in three different Special Olympics sports.

She was inducted into both the Special Olympics Hall of Fame and the Women’s Sports Hall of Fame.

After her mother’s death in 1994, Claiborne said she turned to her friends from the Special Olympics to help her.

“When my mother died, I was lonely,” Claiborne said. “I had God, who is my strength, and I had Special Olympics, which is my joy.”

Despite extensive preparation, Warchol said she worries about employers rejecting her because of her disability.

Others may believe she received a job or internship offer because an employer wants to increase its number of women.

“I’ve avoided this by trying to have a strong enough work ethic so that even if they find out I have a disability because of what I do, not who I am labeled as,” Warchol said. “Obviously there are very few women in that profession, so it would be possible to say that any advances I make are due to profiling, but that just pushes me to work harder.”

Kilpatrick said women still face difficulties after they gain a position. Women who want to have families, he said, are often put into complicated situations. At Notre Dame, faculty policy for junior faculty is one year off the “tenure clock” for each maternity leave.

“I think this is good, although I suspect there is much more that can be done. Women need support in their roles, and women need to work harder,” he said.

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INSIDE COLUMN

Bleeding blue and gold from the start

I’ve got a little secret. It’s something I don’t divulge too readily, even to close friends. But I’m worried other people can see it. Especially the people who don’t know me well—how I’m convinced they can penetrate right through the veil of secrecy and see what’s going on. The way I walk, the way I talk, the way I eat my dinner all point to one thing. I am a True Gentleman. Let me clear something up for everyone out there who’s wondering: Being a True Gentleman has nothing to do with good manners, thoughtfulness, affectionate conduct towards others, fashion sense or demeanor. Rather—and this is something I’ve only learned recently—being a True Gentleman is all about sexual inhibitions. When I see a girl in leggings, my heart stops, then begins to pound. How dare that ignorant hussy wear such clothing outside the confines of her dorm room! Because leggings, and by extension other form-fitting articles of clothing, may appear to satisfy girls’ innocent desire to wear form-fitting clothing, I will never go near those girls. I would never respect them by dressing so sexy. I mean, it’s not like I have a choice in the matter of whether or not to disrespect someone. Too often, the way other people dress forces me into regrettable patterns of behavior over which I exercise little or no control. That would require self-awareness and maturity—neither of which I naturally possess, both of which take time and effort to cultivate. And temptation—don’t get me started on temptation—I can resist anything but that. The only thing holding me back is my inhibitions—and what happens if those ever give way? Especially if I feel like I’m being looked at. Being a True Gentleman has nothing to do with good manners, thoughtful affectionate conduct towards others, fashion sense or demeanor. Rather—and this is something I’ve only learned recently—being a True Gentleman is all about sexual inhibitions. When I see a girl in leggings, my heart stops, then begins to pound. How dare that ignorant hussy wear such clothing outside the confines of her dorm room! Because leggings, and by extension other form-fitting articles of clothing, may appear to satisfy girls’ innocent desire to wear something comfortable that looks good. But I know better. It’s meant to provoke me, to set my teeth on edge and by extension other form-fitting clothing, may appear to satisfy girls’ innocent desire to wear form-fitting clothing, I will never go near those girls. I would never respect them by dressing so sexy. I mean, it’s not like I have a choice in the matter of whether or not to disrespect someone. Too often, the way other people dress forces me into regrettable patterns of behavior over which I exercise little or no control. That would require self-awareness and maturity—neither of which I naturally possess, both of which take time and effort to cultivate. And temptation—don’t get me started on temptation—I can resist anything but that. The only thing holding me back is my inhibitions—and what happens if those ever give way? Especially if I feel like I’m being looked at. Being a True Gentleman has nothing to do with good manners, thoughtful affectionate conduct towards others, fashion sense or demeanor. Rather—and this is something I’ve only learned recently—being a True Gentleman is all about sexual inhibitions. When I see a girl in leggings, my heart stops, then begins to pound. How dare that ignorant hussy wear such clothing outside the confines of her dorm room! Because leggings, and by extension other form-fitting articles of clothing, may appear to satisfy girls’ innocent desire to wear something comfortable that looks good. But I know better. It’s meant to provoke me, to set my teeth on edge and by extension other form-fitting clothing, may appear to satisfy girls’ innocent desire to wear form-fitting clothing. If I see you wearing leggings or any other revealing, form-fitting clothing, I will never pursue you romantically. I will never show any interest in you, as a friend or otherwise. You will never have me in your life. I hope you’re suitably frightened and abashed by this prospect. And finally, to all the haters who gonna hate: I was born this way.

Brooks Smith is a senior honors mathematics major and can be reached at brosmith2@nd.edu

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

Suzanna Pratt
Interim Photo Editor

Wednesday, April 13, 2011
Dear Adam,

I guess it’s hard to defy your upbringing, but your overall poor taste in college football teams necessitates a response. In reply to “Trojan Love” (April 13), I intend to expose USC football for what it really is.

Notre Dame and USC have been playing since 1925. It has become the greatest rivalry in college football with both teams capturing their share of glory and championships. But while Notre Dame has maintained a tradition of excellence and class extending from its Catholic character, USC has taken a different path extending from O.J. Simpson to O.J. Mayo.

To be honest, it’s hard to respect an athletic institution that has allowed the Heisman trophy of a double murderer in its trophy case. An institution that truly deserves a place limits on the amount jurors can award patients for “pain and suffering” at $250,000 and lost economic productivity at $500,000.

Medical malpractice reform is very important for the above reasons. However, Republicans falsely cite medical malpractice lawsuits and defensive medicine as a major driver of health care cost increases. According to the non-partisan Congressional Budget Office (CBO), the direct costs of medical malpractice are two percent of total health care spending and between zero and two percent of all health care cost increases. The CBO found the Republican medical malpractice plan would reduce national health care spending by only one half of one percent.

The second Republican health care idea is “allowing individuals to buy insurance across state lines,” also known as “interstate competition.” In the individual insurance market, states regulate the amount of coverage that insurance companies must provide. Since the mandates in every state are unique, individuals in this insurance market cannot buy insurance from a provider based outside their home state. It is important to note these rules only apply to the five percent of Americans who receive coverage through the individual market, not the vast majority of Americans who are insured through an employer or the government.

The Republicans want insurance companies to have the ability to offer coverage for an individual in any state while more competition is needed in insurance markets. The Republican’s “interstate competition” plan is poorly crafted. The Republican plan would allow health insurance companies to choose any state as their “primary” state and be subject to the regulations of that state only. This would incentivize insurance companies to make states with relatively few health care mandates and consumer protections as their primary state. Insurance companies would then offer skimpy health insurance plans that do not cover all essential services. Insurance companies would then work to “cherry pick” younger people from other states while ignoring older people.

Providers prefer to insure younger people because they are healthier and need less coverage than older people.

The CBO scored a Republican bill in 2005 that allowed individuals to buy insurance across state lines. The CBO found that the Republican plan would raise premiums for older people while lowering premiums for younger people. The CBO also found that “interstate competition” would not affect many people with the plan and any decrease in costs would mostly result from health care plans that contain less coverage and are more attractive to younger people and fewer older people.

Health care reform is needed in America’s fiscal future. Health care costs have grown faster than the economy almost every year for the past 40 years, and we will continue to do so. This will lead the health care sector to increase as a share of the American economy (16 percent in 2007, 25 percent in 2010, 27 percent in 2014 and 29 percent in 2028 according to the CBO). As health care costs continue to rise, the federal and state governments will face bankruptcy due to Medicare and Medicaid. Employers will increasingly struggle to provide health care to their employees and families will face higher premiums.

The PPACA will make two major reforms to America’s health care system that the Republican plan lacks: It will cover 31 million uninsured Americans by 2019 and reform Medicare to make the program less costly and more efficient. According to the CBO, the PPACA will reduce deficits by $11 billion over this decade, $1 trillion over the next decade and by 2036 the federal government will be spending less for health care than if the PPACA had not passed.

While the PPACA makes landmark reforms to the U.S. health care system, it does not go far enough in reducing costs. Regardless, the PPACA is a good first step toward real health care reform and far superior to a Republican “Repeal and Replace” plan that simply rearranges the status quo.

Adam Newman is a sophomore. He can be contacted at aneunan@nd.edu.

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

How do you like those sanctions?

Dear Students of Notre Dame, Saint Mary’s and Holy Cross,

As many of you may know, and some of you may not, today is the kickoff day for the annual St. Baldrick’s Day event. St. Baldrick’s is a charity that helps to raise money and awareness for children’s cancer, by collecting money and shaving heads as a sign of solidarity with kids going through greater struggles than we can imagine.

Cancer has touched each of us in different ways, so this event was very personal to me. We were more than eager to get involved with. We both knew that it involved giving money and shaving our heads, which was easy enough. What we didn’t know is that we would be face to face with some of the very kids whose lives we were trying to help save. We met 4 and 5 year old boys and their families, and we talked about chemotherapy, radiation treatments and long hospital stays. What amazed us both was how in the midst of all of this turmoil, these kids smiled, posed for pictures and stared in awe at the students who had come out to support the cause.

These kids admire the students here. We are what they want to be like and they truly want to succeed in the future. We are what they want to be like and they truly want to succeed in the future.

Dayne Crist
O’Neill Hall
Mike Galic
Stegfried Hall

The Bald and the Beautiful

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Dayne Crist
O’Neill Hall
Mike Galic
Stegfried Hall

* For everyone that is looking to help, here is all the info you need:
  * Please come support the kids, your classmates and your friends!
  * Our website is www.nd.edu/~class12. Pre-registration is not required, just suggested!
  * Wednesday, Thursday and Friday 4 p.m. in Fortune Student Center
  * Free dinners each night at 5-4.5 p.m. sponsored by Fiddler’s Hearth and Maury’s Pub.
  * Raise money and Fundraise for the St. Baldrick’s Foundation
  * Donate a Inch of Hair to Pantene Beautiful Lengths
  * Purchase a Colored Hair Extension to Benefit Memorial Hospital of South Bend

A little thing can go a long way. Thanks so much for your support!

Lish Elliott
Cavanaugh Hall
April 12

A Final Four thank you

Dear Coach McGraw,

The thanks truly belongs to you and your team for providing those countless fans the chance to cheer for you during the Final Four games. The reason that we as students and fans felt the need to start the “We are ND” cheer was not because we saw the clock wind down, but because of the team’s dedication and amazing performance throughout the tournament, including the amazing victory over UConn. To many of us, you are the true champions for your performance both on and off the court throughout the tournament. So I thank you to both you and your team, and Go Irish!

Bill Shields
Senior
Stanford Hall
April 12

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A little thing can go a long way. Thanks so much for your support!

Lish Elliott
Junior
Cavanaugh Hall
April 12
As many of you are well aware, my weekly tantrums tend to focus on quips about the music industry and qualms about television. Few may know, however, that my first geek title — before music geek or TV geek — is that of Lord of the Rings geek. Which if you are a Colbert Report fan who caught the James Franco episode last week, you will understand why my roomate walked in on me yelling, “Nenya! Nenya! Galadriel’s Ring of Power is Nenya, you idiot!” at my laptop in the middle of Colbert’s rapid-fire questions to challenge Franco’s Tolkien trivia superiority (btw, Colbert owned Franco. Fearnor and the Silmarils can get pretty tricky, if you know what I mean). So when I got the chance to interview Ethan Gilsdorf, who has quite possibly written the definitive book on fantasy geek culture, I was about as pleased as Pippen at elevenses.

Have you ever played Dungeons and Dragons? (No). Do you have a World of Warcraft account? (Lost too many friends to it). Have you fantasized about taking off to New Zealand to be an extra in The Hobbit? (Uhh…every day). But more importantly, would you ever admit any of this to your roommate? These are the questions asked by Gilsdorf, journalist, columnist, critic and author of “Fantasy Freaks and Gaming Geeks: An Epic Quest for Reality Among Role Players, Online Gamers and Other Dwellers of Imaginary Realms.” He was kind enough this week talking to American Studies classes and speaking with students about his extended ruminations on geek culture. So I was lucky enough to get an interview with him.

Many of the “fan studies” books and articles are somewhat self-serving because they’re written by fans, for fans. Your book comes from the point of view of someone who seems at first to be an outsider, looking in. What kind of freedom did that give you to evaluate freaks and geeks?

“My perspective is a funny one. I was into gaming, but not into fandom. I [long ago had] stopped playing and reading and putting on my double-edged sword, but not into fandom. I was very suspicious, and reluctant to admit even if I was into it [as a teenager]. Gaming was associated with a negative time in my life. The activity allowed me to escape.

I have a vague sense of who else outside of town was into this. I knew ‘Lord of the Rings,’ watched ‘V’ and ‘Star Trek’, but it was hard to reach out. I was pleased to enter as a forty-something and see geeks be a much more vibrant, healthy, open and non-apologetic community, from Harry Potter to anime. I think it has changed, your generation versus my generation, because of the internet. Opportunity for exchanges between fan communities is easier.”

Did anyone ever distrust you because you came from outside of their geek identity?

“I had to gain trust of people and allow them to open up. I had to communicate with people who are ‘normal’ — into online gaming, low entry, low-risk and no costume — and also people LARPing (Live Action Role Playing), who get a sword and run round around the woods beating the crap out of each other. There’s a certain risk on their part so you won’t make fun of it.

“The media has become very shallow. They’ve been made fun of, and haven’t been given proper respect and appreciation. I said, ‘I’m looking to tell stories about why you’re into this stuff.’ I gave myself permission to embrace this. It helps that I had a book contract and a reason to finish the quest.”

What was the most surprising thing you discovered on your quest?

“In the end, the most surprising thing was my own personal journey. I went into the project with my own personal demons to fight with fantasy. I had not really changed as much as I thought I had. I thought ‘Dungeons and Dragons’, fantasy, novels and interest in the auxiliary gaming community were always inside me. For the wrong reasons, I suppressed fear that people would make fun of it. But people don’t care. We’re more alike than we think, whether you’re interested in baseball stats or collecting books. Fantasy gaming is not much different from fantasy football. We all have a fantasy to bring us together and make us feel a part of something bigger, not as alone.

“I thought ‘Dungeons and Dragons’ would prevent me from becoming cool [when I was in high school]. But there is a clear path between fantasy as a kid and what I’m doing now. The imaginative space opened up in ‘Lord of the Rings.’ ‘Dungeons and Dragons’ and ‘Harry Potter’ are a kind of gift. You tell stories and imagine what it’s like to be someone else. That’s gotta be good for humanity.

Who are the least or most welcoming geek subcultures?

Trying to break into the SCA (Society for Creative Anachronism) was pretty bureaucratic. They have press liaisons. It’s very hierarchical, [it is] organized around kingdoms and [has] a kind of political system. They are doing something that seems to most people to be the weirdest. They appear to do something completely outlandish. To gain official access was a complicated process.

“I went to the Tolkien Society in Chester. They had an attitude more like, ‘Wow, someone’s interested in what I’m doing!’ They were thrilled I was taking what they were doing seriously.”

Who are you writing for?

“There are two groups who will find this book interesting: people into this stuff, who can gain perspective to why it exists, and people who might have a spouse or a friend who plays World of Warcraft, but don’t understand it. My goal is to bring down barriers for someone who knows nothing about gamers. Don’t be afraid of it. Don’t dismiss it. Don’t make fun of it.

“Your generation grew up hearing old stories in Harry Potter. So much of this stuff is based on a very specific time period, infused with magic and heroic deeds. Today, gaming allows for mutual achievement, like sports, except you’re not on the football field, but on a battlefield. There were civil rights, then gay rights, and now we have geek rights.”

So there you have it, folks. The boy who swore to abandon fantasy gaming in order to grow up became a fantasy gamer. Ethan Gilsdorf will be speaking today at 7:00 p.m. in DeBartolo Hall, room 138. His lecture is titled, “Hobbits, Heroes, Gamers, Geeks.” See you there (I’ll be in the cape).

The views expressed in this column are those of the authors and not necessarily those of The Observer. Stephanie DePrez can be contacted at sdeprez@nd.edu.

On campus

What: “Hobbits, Heroes, Gamers, Geeks,” Lecture by Ethan Gilsdorf
Where: 138 DeBartolo Hall
When: Wednesday, April 13, at 7:00 p.m.
How much: free
Learn more: ethan@nd.edu/pressroom/
Chris Brown’s new album “F.A.M.E.,” released mid-March, follows his Grammy-nominated album of 2009, “Graffiti.” This is his first album since the domestic violence controversy involving Rihanna in February of the same year. The acronym “F.A.M.E.” has two meanings: “Forgiving All My Enemies” and “Fans Are My Everything.”

Brown’s incorporation of R&B, pop and hip-hop gives the album a variety of slower songs, upbeat dance songs and hip-hop gives the album a variety of slower songs, upbeat dance songs and Top 40 potentials similar to “Run It” and “I Can Transform Ya.” The lyrics of the slower-paced R&B sounds can be grouped into two categories: emotional, romantic ballad and slow grind, in the mood music. Some of these songs are surprisingly mature and convincing lyrics of the more romantic songs like “Up 2 You” and “She Ain’t You” have a close listening to the words reveal some of these songs are surprisingly mature and convincing lyrics of the more romantic and sensual, effectively using both physical and emotional imagery together. “Wet the Bed,” as the title implies, takes a much more blatantly sexual tone in the lyrics. The song features the rapping talents of Ludacris, who eliminates any doubt about the song’s meaning.

Most of “F.A.M.E.” follows pop influences, as well as foray into the R&B genre. “Up 2 You” and “She Ain’t You” have a ’90s boy-band pop sound to them. The electronic, upbeat dance element popular in Top 40 hits today is very prominent in the already-hit single “Yeah 3x,” as well as “Say It With Me” and “Oh My Love.” Any of these tracks could easily become popular club favorites. “Wet the Bed” enhances the electronic, upbeat dance element popular in Top 40 hits today is very prominent in the already-hit single “Yeah 3x,” as well as “Say It With Me” and “Oh My Love.” Any of these tracks could easily become popular club favorites. “Look at Me Now” effectively layers the vocal skills of the artists and the music. One of the best songs on the album, its heavy, slow bass beats and claps mix with electronic effects to create an ear-catching single. Chris Brown’s self-assured rapping is reminiscent of the single that made him famous, “Run It,” with lyrics taunting doubters to see how far he’s come. The presence of guest artists greatly enhances many of Brown’s songs without taking too much attention away from his impressive singing and rapping. Busta Rhymes’s mile-a-minute rapping with Lil Wayne’s distinct and instantly recognizable voice gives “Look at Me Now” a more diverse and powerful boasting of success. Ludacris’ small spotlight and background vocals scattered throughout “Wet the Bed” enhances the unashamedly graphic themes of the song. Kevin McCall and Tyga are also heard in the album’s mediocre opening song “Deuces.”

Brown also follows Usher’s and Ludacris’ example by collaborating with Justin Bieber in “Next 2 You.” Both Brown and Bieber’s vocals are impressive individually and also blend and harmonize well together. The subject matter of the lyrics is unexpectedly touching considering the young age of both performers.

“Some of the songs are more grown-up,” Brown said. “There are songs from all genres. Collectively, “F.A.M.E.” is me giving fans every aspect of who I am as far as my art, my culture and my concepts.” “F.A.M.E.” is a strong album musically and improves Brown’s image after the domestic abuse controversy. The success of “Yeah 3x” seems to suggest audiences have already forgotten or forgiven Brown’s past mistakes. “F.A.M.E.” gives Brown the chance to show off his vocal and dancing abilities while allowing him to leave his negative celebrity status of 2009 behind and move on as a singer, songwriter and dancer.

Contact Claire Stephens at cstephe4@nd.edu

**'Your Highness’**

**BRANDON KEELEAN | Observer Graphic**

By ANKUR CHAWLA

Scene Writer

From the opening frames, “Your Highness” presents a crude, humor-ridden mix between “Lord of the Rings” and “Harold and Kumar go to White Castle.” With the talent of Oscar nominee James Franco and winner Natalie Portman, it wouldn’t be much of a stretch to ask for a decent movie, but the little redeeming value deemed “Your Highness” to the likes of “American Pie 6: Beta House.”

The movie begins with Thadeous (McBride) set for trial for fornicating with the dwarf king’s maiden. After returning to his kingdom in shame, his older brother Fabious (Franco) comes to the castle with the head of a slain Cyclops and a fiancée, Belladonna (Deschenel). Festivities and honor seem to fail Fabious, while Thadeous is plagued by obesity and disappointment.

Amidst the celebration of Fabious’ engagement to the evil wizard Leezar (Justin Theroux) kidnaps Belladonna so that he may fulfill a prophecy, granting him a dragon if he were to sleep with her. In order to save his fiancée, Fabious embarks on yet another quest. This time, at the king’s urging, Fabious brings Thadeous to help. Thadeous must be a hero in order to help his brother and save Belladonna from the wizard.

While on the quest, the two brothers encounter the likes of a perverted wizard, “boobie traps” and an aroused Minotaur. These all serve as cheap laughs at humor, as the sheer distastefulness becomes the main source of comedy. While admittedly funny at parts, the vehicle of cheesy medieval themes and clichés just doesn’t provide enough situational humor to make the movie great.

While in a gladiator-like arena after falling for the “boobie trap,” the brothers are saved by the elegant and cunning warrior Isabel (Natalie Portman). Isabel provides the muscle and wit to help Thadeous and Fabious on their quest. And it doesn’t hurt that the director insisted on including a completely hollow scene of the brothers watching Isabel bathe in a river.

The few bright moments of “Your Highness” come from the always-amazing Natalie Portman and a surprisingly funny Rasmus Hardiker as Courtney, Thadeous’ squier who eliminates any doubt about the movie’s static characters, atypical of the actors’ past. Overall, “Your Highness” is exactly what the previews show — a very crude comedy set in the middle ages, and if that’s your thing, enjoy.

Contact Ankur Chawla at achawla@nd.edu

**'Your Highness’**

**UNIVERSAL STUDIOS**

Director: David Gordon Green

Starring: James Franco, Natalie Portman, Danny McBride

**Your ‘Highness’ offers cheap laughs**
Rangers lose both game and Josh Hamilton

Associated Press

DETROIT — Now that Miguel Cabrera’s back in Michigan with his teammates, he’s performing just as they want him to on the field.

His spring training problems were forgotten, and his game-winning hit Tuesday was a reminder of why he’s so important to the Detroit Tigers.

Cabrera’s bases-loaded single in the bottom of the ninth gave the Tigers a 5-4 win over Houston. Less than two months after being arrested in Florida on suspicion of drunken driving, he’s off to a fine start hitting in the middle of Detroit’s order.

“He does it every year. He comes to play. He’s been working hard. He’s in the weight room every day,” teammate Brad Penny said. “He’s a professional. When he comes in this clubhouse, he’s a baseball player, and he handles himself how he should.”

The news was less encouraging for Texas, which is 9-2 but could now be without slugger Josh Hamilton for two months. Hamilton is expected to miss six to eight weeks after breaking his upper right arm.

Cabrera, whose legal issues are still pending, is hitting .385 so far this season and leads the team with four home runs and 10 RBIs. He’s picked up right where he left off when he finished second to Hamilton in last year’s MVP race.

Brandon Inge led off with a single in the ninth off Darren O’Day (0-1) and moved to sec- ond on Alex Avila’s sacrifice bunt. After two walks sand- witched around a strikeout, Cabrera ended the game with a single through the left side of the infield.

“You’ve got to focus for that and prepare and try and make a good swing and try to work the count,” Cabrera said. “If you walk or something like that — make something good happen.”

Detroit led 4-3 before Texas tied it in the eighth with a run off reliever Joaquin Benoit. Jose Valverde (1-0) worked a scoreless top of the ninth for the Tigers.

Ryan Raburn had two hits for the Tigers and made a jumping catch against the left field wall. Detroit snapped a three-game losing streak and held the lossless Rangers to one hit in the bottom of the season.

Detroit starter Brad Penny rebounded from two unim- pressive starts, allowing three runs on seven hits in 6 2-3 innings. Texas starter C.J. Wilson went 6 2-3 innings as the Rangers took their fourth runs on seven hits. He struck out four and walked three.

Hamilton left after the first inning. He slid headfirst into third when he hit a run scor- ing triple, then tried to tag up on a foul pop-up near the Detroit dugout. Inge, the third baseman, and catcher Victor Martinez both ran after the ball, leaving the gate unpro- tected when Inge made the catch. But Martinez was able to take a throw from Inge while scampering back in to tag out a diving Hamilton.

After the game, the Rangers manager said Hamilton has a non-dis- placed fracture of the humerus bone at the top of his arm, just below the shoul- der. Hamilton isn’t expected to swing a bat for a month.

The Tigers scored in the bottom of the first — the first run allowed by the Rangers in three games — when Austin Jackson hit a leadoff triple and scored on Ramon Santiago’s groundout. Michael Young gave Texas 2-1 lead when he hit a sacrifice fly in the top of the fourth and scored at the top of the fence, pre- venting further damage.

“I was just trying to get a good read on it,” Raburn said. “I think the wind held it up more than anything. Luckily I found my glove at the last minute.”

Tigers tied it in the bot- tom of the fourth on a sacri- fice fly by Martinez, and

something to be happy about. I am and my team- mates are really excited to be a part of this game.”

This will be a season like no other in Japan. Games are usually played at night, but the league is scheduling more during daytime to accommodate power cuts.

Rakuten manager Senich Hoshino has said he wants to win the championship this season for the people of Sendai and Miyagi Prefecture. His team made an encouraging start.

Mototaro Shimizu hit a tiebreaking, three-run home run in the seventh inning for the Eagles. Hisashi Iwakuma gave up three runs in 3-1 innings. Kazuya Fukukura brought the Marines close with a three-run homer in the bottom of the ninth but the rally stopped there.

Iwakuma was replaced by Michael Speier, who closed it out. The Eagles and Marines were playing a preseason game in Akashi when the earthquake and tsunami struck. The teams have been moving from city to city for preseason games since, and gathering support.

Hisaiko Aoyama, a 47-year- old trainer with the Eagles in the Tokyo area but now is behind Rakuten all the way.

“I want to go to as many games as possible that the Eagles will play in the Tokyo area,” Aoyama said. “And I am wearing this (Rakuten colors) to show my support for the team and to cheer up people in the north.”

BASEBALL

Game signals start of Japan’s return to normalcy

Associated Press

CHIBA, Japan — Players sat in an empty stadium and watched a baseball game yesterday, hoping to lift the spirits of people who no longer have homes, watched the games on television.

It was time to play baseball again in Japan — opening day. It was also a time for hope and a remembrance in a country convulsed by a dead- ly earthquake and tsunami and worsening radiation leak.

Despite the difficult conditions, we are able to open the season because everybody helped us to do it,” said

Rakuten Eagles infielder Kazuo Matsui, an infielder who has played in the U.S. major leagues with both the New York Mets, Colorado Rockies and Houston Astros.

A crowd of 22,525 attended the Pacific League opener at QVC Marine Field. The Eagles lost 4-3 after a shutout, a 3-3 magni- tude quake struck early Tuesday, and another could be felt in the stadium during the game.

“I want to carry this feel- ing of appreciation for the whole year by playing base- ball,” Matsui said. “During training camp, I went to a shelter and I saw people there with energy in their faces. I went there expecting to cheer them up, but instead they cheered me up. That’s why I want to play hard.”

Matsui’s Eagles beat the defending champion Chiba Lotte Marines 4-3. The Eagles’ home of Sendai has been one of the hardest hit by last month’s catastrophe. The team is unable to use its stadium until April.

Rakuten pitcher Darrell Rasner, who has played with the Washington Nationals and New York Yankees, thought the fans in Japan were glad to see the season start.

“It is a sense of normalcy for them,” he said. “It’s something that’s ingrained in them and, you know, I think this is going to be a healing process. This is going to be a great thing for them. Just for them to have something to cheer about.

Texas went back on an 8th inning walk by Adrian Beltre in the sixth. Raburn doubled home a run in the sixth and scored on Brennan Boesch’s single to make it 4-3.

In the seventh, Detroit reliever Brayan Villarreal pitched a third of an inning — without actually throwing a pitch. Villarreal came on with a man on first and two out. Before making a single deliv- er to the plate, he picked up Julio Borbon at first to end the threat. He was replaced by Benoit to start the eighth.

“I actually think that’s what they wanted to happen. I think (manager Jay Leyland) pulled me out of the game so he could pick him off. Penny said. “That guy’s got an unbe- lievable pickoff move.”
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Stephanie Nguyen (snguyen4@nd.edu)
Notre Dame takes first in home tournament

By CORY BERNARD
Sports Writer

With the sour taste of two disappointing tournament finishes lingering, the Irish returned to familiar grounds for Tuesday’s Battle at the Warren on the Warren Golf Course. Notre Dame played well on its home course, finishing in first place by 11 strokes.

The 18-hole tournament, played as a par 71, consisted only of Notre Dame and Detroit last year. This year saw the addition of Oakland, Bradley and Jackson State.

The Golden Grizzlies finished in second with an eight-over-par 292, well behind the Irish score of three-under-par 281.

Leading the way for Notre Dame was junior Max Scodro, who carded a 69, followed by fellow junior Chris Walker’s 70. Sophomore Paul McNamara III and freshman Niall Platt both finished at even par. The low score of the day came from Oakland junior Michael Carissi, who fired an impressive 67.

Without junior Tom Usher, Notre Dame’s number one golfer who is out for over a month with a hand injury, senior Connor Alan-Lee assumed the fifth starting spot. Kubinski said he shot well on Tuesday.

“Connor played well for us,” he said. “He shot a 73, which is very solid. We actually ended up throwing his score out but that was due to how well we played overall.”

The impressive overall performance reflects the results Kubinski has seen from his team in practice recently.

Kubinski said Scodro’s tournament score of 69 matched his effort from the team’s practice round at Warren Saturday.

Notre Dame is playing well at the right time, as the Big East championships in Palm Harbor, Fla., begin Sunday. Kubinski said the win at Warren served as a good tune-up for the tournament and assured his team the league’s top spot.

“It was good to get some momentum going for the Big East Championship,” Kubinski said. “We’ll be the No. 1 seed for sure. That said, seeding doesn’t really matter that much. You still have to play good golf.”

Kubinski said his veteran team is familiar with the course in Palm Harbor. “I’ve been in six Big East championships since I’ve been here,” Kubinski said. “Plus, we’ve played it before and we’re pretty comfortable there. I think the course down there suits us really well. The guys are very confident.”

Contact Cory Bernard at cbernard@nd.edu

Belles continued from page 16

Kate Mitchell said, “After Franklin took the lead, I think we got really down on ourselves and lost our confidence, and that was a big part of why we could not really come back.”

The Belles rebounded, as their powerful bats came alive for the day’s nightcap. Mitchell said the biggest reason for Saint Mary’s double-digit scoring in the day’s finale was its ability to get hits on a consistent basis.

“We just started to string hits together,” she said. “In between games, that is what we talked about — playing the way we usually do, focusing on getting singles and just stringing hits together in order to produce runs, and that is exactly what we did.”

Junior Angela Gillis led the Saint Mary’s offense on the day and also turned in a standout performance at second base, but top honors for the day went to junior Monica Palicki. The pitcher relieved freshman Calie Selhor in game one before pitching all five innings of the mercy rule-short- ened game two.

“She really stepped up for us, especially in the second game,” Mitchell said of Palicki. “She kind of led the way for us in terms of bringing our confidence back.”

The Belles’ inability to earn the sweep has been a concern for Belles coach Erin Sullivan, who described her team’s weakness as its inability to play four innings in one day. However, the Saint Mary’s players have not reverted to panic mode yet, as Mitchell pinpointed her team’s ability to maintain its confidence as key.

“It was a nice turnaround,” she said. “I think we just lost our confidence in our first game. It is a confidence game, so we need to bring our focus on staying confident throughout the whole two games and knowing that we have the talent to win these games.”

The Belles will have the opportunity to add both victories and confidence as they prepare to host Olivet on Saturday for the first of four consecutive home doubleheaders. With only 10 games remaining before the MIAA tournament, Saint Mary’s enters the season’s final month of play before the playoffs begin.

“I think that we are going to [prepare by] just doing what we have been doing with our hitting — practicing our hitting, practicing our fielding and fine tuning the little things, and then we will go from there,” Mitchell said.

Contact Joseph Monardo at jmonardo@nd.edu

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The Observer ◆ SPORTS
Wednesday, April 13, 2011

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Big Ten
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play beginning in the 2013-14 season. The conference will con-
sist of 2011 national runner-up Michigan, Michigan State and Ohio State from the Central
Collegiate Hockey Association (CCHA), Minnesota and Wisconsin from the Western
Collegiate Hockey Association (WCHA) and Penn State, who will begin competing in Division
I during the 2012-13 campaign.

Really, since Penn State came on board and said they’re going to have Division I hockey, I
would think most people concluded that given the dynamics and how it was all evolving,
there would be a Big Ten conference at some point,” then-
CHA commissioner Tom Anastos said March 19 in
Detroit, two days before the Big Ten officially made its plans
known. “My hope was that it would have been maybe five to
seven years from now, but that’s not reality.”

With the CCHA losing three of its 11 members to the historically
elite Wolverines and Spartans along with the big-budgeted
Buckeyes, the fate of Irish hockey
conference affiliation is uncertain. Remaining in the
CCHA is a possibility, but it might be too difficult for Notre
Dame and Miami (OH), the other
CCHA juggernaut, to carry the conference alone.

Another possible option is the formation of a “super conference” between the Irish, the
RedHawks and some WCHA members, including North Dakota and Denver, who have a
combined 14 national champi-
onships, and 2011 national
champion Minnesota-Duluth,
among others. But there are
imperfections with this plan
given the vast geography cov-
ered and potentially devastating
impact on other CCHA and
WCHA teams.

Whatever the decision, much
planning will need to occur, and
discussions could take years.

“As a commissioner, I’ve
talked to my other commission-
er colleagues [and] we don’t feel
we can just move members like
checkers,” Anastos said. “It’s a
very personal thing for a school
to who they feel they associ-
ate with, what traditions they
have in place [and] what level of
resources they’re able to put
into their program. Sometimes
people have this tendency to
simplify an issue like this. —
‘These guys are located by these
guys, so this makes sense.’ I
wish it was that simple. It’s real-
ly not.”

In what could be viewed as a
sign of dissolution for the con-
ference, Anastos left his post as
CCHA commissioner to become
Michigan State’s head coach two
days after the Big Ten made its
official announcement.

Whether the CCHA disbands or not, Notre Dame, which has remained relatively quiet up to
this point, will approach the matter carefully but with confi-
dence. Athletic Director Jack
Swarbrick said in a press
release March 20.

“We had anticipated the hockey
decision by the Big Ten
Conference since the time that
Penn State announced it would
add hockey and build a hockey
facility,” Swarbrick said. “We
will continue to monitor the
landscape to determine what
the Big Ten move will mean for
college hockey nationally, but
given the recent success of [Irish
coach] Jeff Jackson’s teams here
at Notre Dame, plus the new
hockey facility that will come
online here next fall, I’m confi-
dent we will have every ability
to continue competing at the
highest level in the years to
come.”

Contact Jack Yousko at
jyouisko@nd.edu

Falcons
continued from page 16

best performance.”

While the Irish performance
may have been streaky and good
plays came in spurts, a number of
players notched impressive
sects. Senior outfielder
Brianna Jorgensborg hit
her first home run of the
season. Clay and senior
infelder Katie Florey each
tallied home runs and sen-
ior utility player Sadie
Pitzinger hit a two-RBI
triple.

The team is focused on
these positive aspects and
will not allow a slow start
to the series affect their
chemistry.

“Our team spirit is great,”
Maldonado said. “We are on
the right track and are con-
tinuing to roll with the
wins. We need to keep the
momentum moving forward
and play our best game.”

With another game
tomorrow, the Irish will not
have much time to make
improvements during prac-
tice. They are facing
Loyola-Chicago, who they
have had trouble with in
the past. Clay said they lost
to Loyola twice in the last
two years in games they
shouldn’t have, so tomor-
row’s game is especially
important to the team.

“We can’t stop down to
their level,” Maldonado
said. “We just need to play
Notre Dame softball and we
will win.”

Maldonado and Clay men-
tioned playoff aspirations
as their motivator to play
well in every game.

“We continued to have
great at-bats for most of
the [second] game, which
will be very important for
us as we get deeper into
the season,” Maldonado
said.

The Irish have won 28 of
their last 29 home games
and look to improve as they
host Loyola-Chicago on
Wednesday at 5 p.m.

Contact Jack Yousko at
jyouisko@nd.edu

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dessert reception.

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Aoki believes 90 to 95 percent of the team has responded positively to the changes Aoki and his staff have brought to the team. Doyle added that Aoki’s intensity is one of the main differences in practice from past years.

“Coach Aoki brings a lot of energy first and foremost,” Doyle said. “He goes 100 miles an hour. He always talks about 100 percent every day. There’s no such thing as 110 percent. I want 100 percent every single day. I think that’s a huge deal. He brings a little more focus, a little more energy. I think the guys like it.”

Echoing the thoughts of his teammate, senior infielder Greg Sherry believes Aoki has instilled a new confidence in his players that didn’t exist before.

“One of the biggest things I’ve noticed about coach Aoki is he brings a lot of energy, which translates to the rest of the team,” Sherry said. “He expects a lot of energy from everyone and preaches a competitive attitude. Something about coach Aoki that’s great is he shows confidence in us, which helps us play confidently on the field.”

With 22 games remaining in the regular season, Aoki said that much work still needs to be done before the postseason, where the coach believes his team could be particularly dangerous.

Nevertheless, a new attitude could bring Notre Dame back to college baseball’s elite sooner than later.

“The best teams are the teams where the players themselves are policing one another, are holding each other accountable for the way that they work, for the way that they conduct themselves, for the way that they take care of business on and off the field,” Aoki said. “I don’t that we’re quite there yet, but I think we’re getting closer in it.”

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SMC TENNIS

Belles rebound from loss to defeat Alma

By MATTHEW DEFRAKNS Sports Writer

With a loss against Hope Saturday, the Belles’ four-match win streak came to an abrupt end. With a 7-2 win Tuesday against Alma, they started another win streak.

Saint Mary’s (10-6, 3-2 MIAA) turned in strong singles play, winning all six of its matches including a 6-4, 6-0 win by senior captain Jillian Hurley over Alma’s Jen Meloche en route to an 8-0 win. Kosinski also won her No. 2 singles match easily, 6-1, 6-1.

With the victory over the Scots (6-8, 2-2), the Belles notched their third conference win and are once again over .500 in MIAA play.

“We’re in a decent position, but we still have to face a couple strong conference foes in Kalamazoo and Calvin,” Campbell said. “We hope that we have built some confidence going into those games but we still have work to do.”

Saint Mary’s has now won five of its last six matches, as the player have won 38 out of 51 possible individual match-ups over the span.

“We feel like we’re playing good tennis,” Campbell said. “We still have things we’re trying to do in doubles games. We don’t view this as a stretch of wins and losses, but we’re trying to get better.”

Alma salvaged two wins in doubles play, as each match went the full three sets. The loss snaps the Scots’ brief two-match conference winning streak and drops them to .500 in the MIAA.

The Belles return to action Saturday when they host MIAA rival Adrian (5-8, 2-3) in their second-to-last home match of the season.

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HOROSCOPE

EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Claire Danes, Judd, Nellie Bly, Brad, David Letterman, John, 17, James, 47

Happy Birthday! Put on a happy face and make this the last year ever. Use your imagination to find a way to uplift and cheer your own mood. Do not question another. You will gain great acceptance with people who will encourage you and your goals. Your numbers are 2, 17, 22, 37, 43, 58.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) You want a little more excitement in your life. Plan a trip or get new friends. Take part in an activity that challenges you continually and allows you to share your new talents and new skills. ***

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) Do what you can and don’t feel guilty about what you cannot do. Spending a little more money and time on family and friends will lower some of the tension you are experiencing. Money in a gift will come from a distant source. ***

GEMINI (May 21-June 21) You will make a good impression if you offer your assistance to someone in need. A good friendship will open up a number of opportunities. Take care of any inherited business that has to do with ties to your family. Business contacts. ***

CANCER (June 22-July 22) Let others take on the burden you are carrying. You need a break. Don’t get into any new problems on your own. Try to deal with it yourself. You will like to meet someone with a similar interest. ***

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) Your knowledge, expertise and high energy will put you on an equal footing. You can perform with someone otherwise and will make a big impact on people around you. Your energy, communications skills and positive attitude will lead to success. ***

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) You are on the right track and all the ways you are making your work more efficient is in your hands. And so you will use what you know. Your friends and family will support you in your endeavors.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) You can make a strategic, professional move if you line up any one of these factors: whom you trust your future to and whom you know will back you with warmth and dedication. A partnership you enter into now will be very successful and personally you will find that your energy and energy will hold you in high esteem.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) Let your emotions lead you to the truth. Not everyone will be honest with you especially those who have to offer.***

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) Once someone is thinking of you—thinking of your own personal demons, your own perfection or your own isolation. You will find the opportunity to make a direct approach, to speak your mind and in the medium of social media, relations of your own. This success will result in you if it can be taken or not.***

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Take a new, new and more fun part of your work. You know how you want to make your work more efficient. You will make your work more efficient. You will make your work more efficient. You will make your work more efficient. You will make your work more efficient. You will make your work more efficient. You will make your work more efficient. You will make your work more efficient. You will make your work more efficient. You will make your work more efficient. You will make your work more efficient. You will make your work more efficient. You will make your work more efficient. You will make your work more efficient. You will make your work more efficient.
HOCKEY

Big (Ten) change

Irish could feel effect from conference switch

By SAM GANS

The lights have dimmed and the curtain has closed on the 2010-11 Irish hockey season. It was a successful one, as Notre Dame advanced to the Frozen Four for just the second time in program history. With twelve rising sophomores expected to return, a brand new arena opening for the 2011-2012 season and just four seniors departing, much talk has already moved to next year and the season to come.

But as Notre Dame continues to establish itself as one of the top programs in the country, its future will be most affected by something they have no control over.

Out March 21, the Big Ten conference announced its intention to add a hockey league, with


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BASEBALL

Aoki changes team culture

By CHRIS MASoud

Amid free agency, steroids allegations and commercial breaks between pitching changes, often times the business of winning takes a backseat for a professional baseball manager. While first-year Irish coach Mik Aoki deals with a different set of distractions as a collegiate coach, a professional attitude and a new focus instilled by Notre Dame's skipper has the program headed back in a winning direction.

"It's much more of a business approach I would say," senior pitcher Brian Dupra said. "We've all enjoyed coach Aoki a lot this year. He's done a great job. You get in there; it's time to work, it's time that stretch. Notre Dame earned a 5-2 win over then-No. 6 Illinois.

"We've had an eight or nine day break and we've taken the opportunity to get our legs under us," Irish associate head coach Ryan Sachire said. "We had a really good week of practice and were able to address personal needs and clean up some things before this match."

Ohio State (22-2) enters the conference with an unblemished 13-0 record in conference play and has not dropped a match up against junior Chase Buchanan, the No. 1 singles player, is also a solid doubles team. Despite the accolades of the Buckeyes, Sachire said his players will not be fazed when they take the court this afternoon.

Junior Casey Watt, the No. 1 singles player, is also a solid doubles contributor and looks to lead Notre Dame against the Buckeyes. He will match up against junior Chase Buchanan, the No. 14 overall player in the nation. In his last contest, Buchanan won a hard fought three-set decision against Michigan's Ivan King, the No. 21 ranked player in the country.

Following today's match, the Irish will have only one match remaining on their regular season docket in 2011 — a trip to Louisville April 23.

The Irish and the Buckeyes face off in a battle of college tennis heavyweights today at 4 p.m. in Columbus, Ohio.

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ND SOFTBALL

Doubleheader leads to Notre Dame sweep

By JACK YUSKO

Despite what some team members called "mediocre play" during Tuesday's doubleheader, the No. 24 Irish managed to soundly defeat Bowling Green 10-2 and 8-5. These two wins contributed to the 11-game winning streak the Irish (28-7) have maintained since their home opener.

"The score kind of tells a different story than how we actually felt," senior catcher Alexia Clay said. "The team was a little bit dead. We did well enough to win but just really didn't play our 'A' game tonight."

This might sound surprising coming from a team who ended the first game of the series by the eight-run mercy rule, but the Irish know they can play better. Junior outfielder Alexa Maldonado said the second game was a "true statement game."

"We were more happy with the second win than the first," Maldonado said. "Although we scored a lot of runs in the first game, it was out of character for us. We really only had great at-bats in the very beginning and very end — the middle of the game was not our