Students see justice in end of al-Qaida terrorist leader’s life

By MEGAN DOYLE
News Editor

On September 11, 2001, freshman Beau Dolan’s father was among the Pentagon employees responding to the World Trade Center attacks in New York when Flight 77 flew into his office window.

Nearly 10 years later, Dolan held an American flag in front of a crowd at LaFortune Student Center and led a student celebration through campus after hearing the news about Osama bin Laden’s death Sunday evening.

“It’s never going to be gone, but I felt really relieved yesterday — a weird kind of peace,” Dolan said. “This guy murdered my dad, and he has been on the run for 10 years. I never got that sense of justice. After 10 years, I think I deserved to be ecstatic about this.”

Dolan first heard the news when his mother called him from their home in Washington, D.C. Dolan said he was unsure how to react initially.

“When I found out from [my mom], I didn’t know what to make of it,” he said. “Then I told my friend, and he got really excited, and then I realized that...”

Hundreds of Notre Dame students spread across campus celebrating with fireworks, flags and “U.S.A.” chants after learning of Osama bin Laden’s death Sunday night.

Students intern with politicians

By MARISA IATI
News Writer

Notre Dame students will work on both sides of the aisle and learn the nuances of American government as political interns around the country this summer.

Junior Paige Becker, a political science and English double major, will work for Republican Ohio Sen. Keith Faber at the statehouse in Columbus, Ohio.

“I actually worked for him last summer as a campaign worker in his district,” she said. “He’s also the President Pro Tempore of the Ohio State Senate, so it will be exciting to be in the office.”

Becker said last summer she worked in Celina, Ohio, which is the largest town in Faber’s district. She helped Faber campaign for reelection in 2012 by organizing fundraisers and volunteers to walk in parades, pass out stickers with his name and distribute pamphlets outlining his platform.

She also helped Faber support the campaigns of other local Republican politicians.

“This summer will be different because I won’t be in the district office,” she said. “I’ll be working on constituent services, helping people that call in. I’ll also be doing some administrative duties. [Faber’s office is] doing the budget this summer, and I’ll be picking up some of the workload that the administrative assistants can’t do at that time.”

Becker said when she first contacted Faber last year, she had applied to various public relations internships but was looking for a job that more directly related to politics.

Hesburgh undergoes surgery

University President Emeritus Fr. Theodore Hesburgh underwent a successful kidney surgery Monday, according to a University press release.

Hesburgh is now resting comfortably after his surgery, the release stated.

The operation, which was performed at St. Joseph Regional Medical Center in Mishawaka, Ind., has been scheduled for several weeks.

Hesburgh, 93, served as the president of Notre Dame from 1952 to 1987.
QUESTION OF THE DAY: WHERE ARE YOU GOING THIS SUMMER?

Kyle Buckley

Johnny Romano

Claire Bourbonnais

Gabriella Hernandez

Briana Cameron

sophomore

sophomore

McGillon

McGillon

Dillon

Dillon

Dillon

"Dominican Republic for a week, then back to Georgia."

"The dirty 847.

"Home in ATL, then the ND Vision Program."

"Texas."

"Jacksonville, Florida."

Students walk to class on South Quad after a night of celebrating the capture of prominent al-Qaeda terrorist Osama bin Laden.

IN BRIEF

Pedro Rames Pinto from the University of Manchester will be giving a talk titled “Crisis, Anxiety and the Colonial Origins of the Welfare State in Portugal, 1928-1944” from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. today in the Hesburgh Center.

Professor Nicolas Water from the University of Bonn (Germany) and Visiting Oldfather Scholar in Classics at The University of Illinois will be giving a lecture titled “A Men’s World? Violence and the Female in the Iliad” from 5 to 6:30 p.m. today in O’Shaughnessy Hall.

There will be a Jazz Band concert tonight in the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center at 7 p.m. This program features Notre Dame’s Jazz Bands and the New Orleans Brass Band in their final concert of the semester.

The weekly Catholic Charismatic prayer meeting will be held tonight in the Alumni Hall Chapel from 7:30 to 8:45 p.m. Rev. Edward O’Connor will preside over the meeting.

FTT’s spring 2011 playwriting course will hold an event titled “ ND Playouts Now!” tonight from 7:30 to 9 p.m. in the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center. The event is free but ticketed. Guests can pick up tickets at the Performing Arts Center box office.

Student Ben Stone will be having an organ recital tonight from 8 to 9 p.m. 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 observers.nd@gmail.com

OFFBEAT

Lawnmower thief pays the price

EAST LYM E, Conn. – Authorities say a man who was drunk and looking for a place to sleep broke into a trailer behind a Connecticut high school, then instead stole keys to a lawnmower and went for a joyride during which he mowed his parents’ lawn.

Police in East Lyme say 22-year-old Nikolaus Trombley was caught on tape early Wednesday stealing the lawnmower from East Lyme High School.

Police say Trombley told them he was looking for the keys to the school when he found the keys to the lawnmower. He rode it three miles to his parents’ house, moved the lawn and started to head back to the school but abandoned the mower on the way.

He’s charged with third-degree larceny and burglary.

New Jersey chickens and roosters regulated

HOPEWELL TOWNSHIP, N.J. - A New Jersey town has adopted an ordinance that regulates when chickens and roosters can hook up in backyard henhouses.

Roosters must show they’re disease-free and they better not crow about their conquests.

H opewell Township residents can have up to a half-dozen hens on half-acre lots. Roosters would be allowed only 10 days a year for fertilization purposes.

Mature roosters are not allowed because they’re too noisy. Any roosters that crow too long can be banned from the property for 2 years.

Mayor Jim Burd told The Times of Trenton the ordinance is a compromise between today’s lifestyle and the township’s agricultural history.

Information compiled from the Associated Press.

POST OFFICE INFORMATION

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Corrections

The Observer regrets infall as a professional publication and reserves for the highest standards of journalism at all times. We do, however, recognize that we will make mistakes. If we have made a mistake, please contact us at 631-4540 so we can correct our error.
Candidate for the Senate

By MELISSA FLANAGAN
News Writer

The graduating senior class will honor a deceased classmate and assist future students in emergency situations by supporting the Kevin Healey Emergency Assistance Fund with its 2011 Senior Legacy gift.

The Fund will assist students who require financial aid to travel in an emergency situation. “For example, if a student has a family member sick and they need to get home, this fund will help provide funds for them to buy a flight home.” Assistant Director for the Annual Fund Tim Ponisciak said.

The Kevin Healey Emergency Assistance Fund will also reach out to families living far from the Notre Dame campus, Ponisciak said. If a student becomes ill or hospitalized while at Notre Dame, the Fund will assist family members traveling to South Bend.

The Fund will also honor the memory of Kevin Healey, who would have graduated this month with the Class of 2011. He fell to cancer in April 2009 during his sophomore year at Notre Dame.

Ann Healey, Kevin’s mother, said the legacy gift fit for her son’s experience at Notre Dame.

“When he started ND as a freshman, he had already been through nearly a year of cancer treatment,” she said. “Our family went back and forth between ND and Cleveland Clinic where Kevin was being treated hundreds of times.

Fundraising for the Legacy is off to a great start, Student Development Services (SDS) co-chair Maggie Nettesheim said.

Nettesheim said SDS raises funds for the Legacy in a number of ways. Members of the committee, faculty and leaders to seniors and their parents, and the University Phone Center calls graduating students and their families for donations as well.

This year, SDS also hosted a trivia night at Legends on May 30 that raised the admission fees to the fund.

“We were completely hooked to capacity, and everyone seemed to have a lot of fun,” Nettesheim said. “It was at the beginning of the campaign, so it was a really good way to get things jumpstarted and get the word out.”

Members of Kevin Healey’s family held a day of fundraising to the fund. St. Bernardette’s, an elementary school in Harvey, will host a day of fundraising May 18. Ann Healey teaches kindergarten at St. Bernardette’s and said her students’ parents requested to hold the fundraiser.

In exchange for a small fee, students can choose to “dress down” and wear clothes other than their school uniforms. The school will also raffle gift baskets and sell baked goods. All proceeds from the day will go directly to the Emergency Fund.

Ann Healey said she and her family plan to present the funds they raise to Notre Dame when they travel to South Bend to receive Kevin’s diploma at graduation.

“The parents are rallying behind our family as they have all along,” she said. “They want to make a contribution to the Kevin Healey Senior Legacy Fund and this is the way they chose to support it.”

Earlier this year, Nettesheim and the SDS selected five sug gested names for the Senior Legacy 2011 gift. The seniors then voted online for one of the five.

“This fund definitely got a lot of support,” Nettesheim said. “I think people were really enthusiastic about it.”

Ponisciak said approximately 570 seniors have already made donations, up from the 550 members of the Class of 2010 who donated before their graduation. He said while the Emergency Assistance Fund is the sponsored fund of the class, sophomore and junior students also choose to donate to other areas of the University as well.

As Kevin’s mom, she feels her family’s touch Kevin has not been forgotten and grateful to know this fund will also raise the funds to assist future Notre Dame families through their situations as hers once did.

“As Kevin’s mom, I would never ask my child’s parents and their parents to support this fund if for no other reason than being grateful for their four years at Notre Dame,” she said. “It really is an amazing place in the world.”

Contact Melissa Flanagan at mflanagan@nd.edu
COMM professors to leave Saint Mary’s

By JILLIAN BARWICK
News Writer

Vince and Linda Berdayes, married professors in the Communication Studies, Dance and Theatre Department at Saint Mary’s, will say their final farewells to the College at the end of this semester.

“The most difficult aspect of leaving Saint Mary’s for us is leaving the students. We know how fortunate we have been to work with such bright, focused and kind people as are our students.” Vince and Linda Berdayes said in a joint statement. “We also really appreciate the value of single-sex education and will miss teaching at a college for women.”

Vince Berdayes accepted a position as department chair of the Communication Studies Department at Barry University in Miami Shores, FL. Linda Berdayes retired from Saint Mary’s and subsequently accepted a position at Barry University as the director of the Masters Program in Liberal Studies.

During their 16 years at Saint Mary’s, both Vince and Linda Berdayes said they accomplished many goals they hoped to complete.

“We feel good about both our contributions to the Communication Studies, as well as the larger Saint Mary’s community.” Linda Berdayes said.

Students around the College said the pair will be missed in the department and around campus.

“Vince is my advisor and Linda is the advisor for film studies, which is my minor, making me feel lost a tiny bit. I just hope that they can find professors to pick up where they left off, especially because the curriculum has been changed this year. I wish them the best in their new ventures, and they will be missed greatly,” Sara Gray, a Communication Studies major, said.

Vince Berdayes served as chair of the Department of Communication Studies, Dance and Theatre the last four years and provided leadership to faculty in each of the three disciplines. He played a key role in overseeing the revision of the Communication Studies curriculum.

Vince Berdayes also helped establish the student-run campus television station SMC-TV and served on the advisory board for the interdisciplinary minor in Intercultural Studies for more than 10 years.

As an influential member of the Communication Studies program, Linda Berdayes taught the senior qualitative research sequence of courses the past four years, and her students presented their research at multiple conferences. Linda Berdayes also helped establish the Film Studies minor and served as a past chair for the Faculty Assembly and as a member of the General Education Curriculum Committee, among other positions.

“It will be a sad loss to the Communication Studies Department when the Berdayes’ depart. However, I know that they will have success in the future wherever they go.” Terri Russ, assistant professor of Communication Studies, said. “I wish the best of luck to both Linda and Vince as they venture to Miami.”

Contact Jillian Barwick at jbarwick3@ saintmarys.edu

CAMPUS LIFE COUNCIL

Group discusses safety issues

By JOHN CAMERON
News Writer

As Campus Life Council (CLC) held its final meeting Monday after a school year that began with a number of highly publicized student arrests, its members discussed the progress made regarding on- and off-campus safety.

Student body president emeritus Catherine Soler recapped a recent presentation she made to the Board of Trustees along with vice president emeritus Andrew Bell and former chief of staff Nick Russ.

“We presented on-off campus relations and the two resolutions that we passed in here, as well as our agreement with the Police,” she said. “We also talked about sexual assault to bring it to their attention that more needs to be done in that area. Obviously with what happened last week it’s still a very prominent problem on our campus.”

Soler read University Vice President for Student Affairs Fr. Tom Doyle’s response letter to a CLC recommendation for Freshman Orientation reform. The letter stated the fall arrests highlighted a need for action regarding student safety education, and the suggestions made by CLC would be considered accordingly.

“The off-campus incidents between our students and local law enforcement during the summer and fall of 2010 brought into high relief the importance of our being proactive regarding off-campus safety of all of our students.” Doyle said in the letter.

“Based on your observations and resolution, leadership from the Division of Student Affairs, together with Mike Seamens and the Department of Campus Safety, will undertake a review of the various resolutions of student safety that are currently part of orientation and Hall staff training.”

Soler also offered an update on the latest meeting with local and state law enforcement. She said the meeting was the first to include both the former and current student body president and vice presidents.

“We had our first meeting with our local law enforcement heads and our new leadership for next year, and we discussed that we want to do to be proactive this fall and just have better communication off-campus,” Soler said.

“Everyone was really excited to be working on the same page.”

Soler said feedback from law enforcement representatives reaffirmed the success of her administration’s work with community and police relations.

“One of the heads from the Indiana State Excise Police commented that they’d like to use this model of meeting with students at other universities in Indiana,” she said. “I think that’s just really a sign of how much our willingness to work with the police will hopefully pay off for us in the future.”

Contact John Cameron at jcamer2@nd.edu
Students continued from page 1

This was something that was worth getting really, really excited about. Dolan said he called his older sister and was surprised when he became emotional. It's finally over, he said to his sister. Growing up with the full weight of September 11th in his back, Dolan did not want to talk about the events. They were not motivated by Al-Qaeda, "It's really hard finding yourself, especially when something that big happens to American and then you are part of it, you really just want to know how to deal with it," he said. Now, Dolan said he found a sense of peace. "Just the fact that Obama bin Laden's death means that we can't work against the people that are Muslims — that's a chapter of your life that finally closes," he said.

Dolan said bin Laden's death has meant that only basic public policy work for the government, and I'm majoring in Arabic and political science," Dolan said. "I want to work in the Middle East," he added.

Kevin Garcia, a 2009 graduate said the success of bin Laden's death was a big plus for President Obama, "I think his approval rating will go up," he said. "They will stay up for the rest of his term, and the budget will still be a pretty fierce partisan fight. But I think we [as Americans] will not motivate some of the nastier personal attacks on the president," he added. In addition to bipartisan relations, Colwell said Obama might personally be helping the president. "It's certainly a big plus for President Obama. I think his approval rating will go up," he said. "Whether they will stay up for the rest of his term, and the budget will still be a pretty fierce partisan fight. But I think it is a big plus for right now." This political boost will aid Obama as he faces challenges for reelection in 2012, Colwell said. "It makes it harder for Republicans to attack him because we are potentially getting ready to run for president. Obama's team attack Obama as weak and indecisive on national security and foreign policy," he said.

"The war on terror is very difficult to do now because he was not weak in this at all, and clearly not indecisive," Colwell said. "It made bin Laden's death of the attacks of September 11th motivated Dolan toward his future career. It definitely has inspired me for the future," he said. "It was work for the government, and I'm majoring in Arabic and political science," Dolan said. "I want to work in the Middle East," he added. Dolan said he wanted the world to understand that Islam is not the face of terrorism. "I want to go and work against the people that are actually bad people and at the same time show them that the majority of the 1.5 billion Muslims are good people, he said. "We want to work towards that goal." Kevin Garcia, a 2009 graduate attended a 15-day leave from his tour in Iraq when he learned of bin Laden's death. He was visiting his brother, senior Mike Garcia, on campus when he heard the news. "It's a win for justice," Kevin Garcia said. "It's a win for America," he added. Kevin Garcia said it's a network. "He built positive relations with the Iraqi community near his base, and he anticipated the local people would have a positive reaction to bin Laden's death. "Most of the people in Iraq, I would say 90 percent, are good people," he said. "There are maybe 10 percent who are malicious … but overall I'm sure their reaction will be good," he said. "I'm not targeted as much as we are." Kevin Garcia said the success of bin Laden's death might take some violent action against United States and al-Qaida. "That's a chapter of your life that finally closes," he said.

Mike Garcia said he worries about bin Laden's death might renew the war against the American people. "I guarantee the morale is pretty high," he said. "We have a lot of people searching for this prey for 10 years." Mike Garcia said he immediately thought of his brother when he heard the news about bin Laden's death. "That's my brother," he said. "He's an American hero." Mike Garcia said while he was initially uncertain about celebrating a death, he did celebrate a victory for justice. "We are celebrating a victory, and when we do that I feel that it is good," he said. "It's good to celebrate something … that will save a lot of kids." Mike Garcia said he worries about an escalation of violence as a result of the terrorist leader's death, but he supports Mike Bloomberg in his military career. "It's been tough. You never know what's going to happen there and [Kevin] can talk only to us every other week," Mike Garcia said. "We just keep praying for him … We know that Our Lady is watching over him and all the troops," Mike Bennett, a native of Powl, N.Y., remembered his fellow town of smoke rising from nearby New York City when the World Trade Centers were attacked in 2001. "Retrribution and revenge were not the motivating factors that came out of that day for me," Bennett said. "Rather, I remember the world can be dangerous. There is a need for people to step up and be the world for the greater awareness of our surroundings in the increasing globalized world."

Bennett joined the Army ROTC program as a freshman at Notre Dame. He will be commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the Tennessee National Guard after graduation and will eventually serve as a platoon leader for the Tennessee National Guard. "Personally, I joined the military hoping to prevent horrible attacks like the one that happened from happening again and to assist those in need if a disaster was to strike," Bennett said.

Mike Bennett learned of bin Laden's death through a friend's Twitter feed and major news networks. As he prepares for a future in the military, Bennett echoed Obama's message from his address on the war on terror. "There are a lot of negative feelings from people from all over the world," Bennett said. "Rather, they will continue on as they are." Mike Bennett added he is excited to learn how the criminal justice system truly works. "There are a lot of misconceptions that are influenced by media," he said. "You don't get to see how the justice system really works. I've always been interested in law enforcement. I've always been excited to meet some of the service members deployed abroad, far from friends and family. They will not be coming home any time soon," Bennett said. Mike Bennett will be commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the Tennessee National Guard. "We have to step up and be the world for the greater awareness of our surroundings in the increasing globalized world."
INSIDE COLUMN

**My wonder cure**

We all have weird tips and tricks that we wholeheartedly believe have healed us, and while I was not the huge Motrin, a hot bath and an early bed- time regimen every morning from a cold to a broken bone. My dad loves to tell me to ‘relax,’ but even if “it” is a spained ankle. And because there is no cure for these solutions do work.

I’ve heard other

home cures, too. Some people drink juice at alarm-
ing time. Others exer-
cise in the restorative powers of Brie. Whatever your treatment, no matter how easy, it helps. Believe me just because you’re convinced it does.

My wonder cure is a little unorigi-
nal, pretty much taken from the pages of an old wives’ tale. To me, though, this gives it more credence and medical power and makes me believe more in the magical powers I associate with food. The one cure for my ailing spirit is Ginger Ale.

There are the people who drink the coffee, right? — this solution was not ideal. So, if possible, I’ve been on a steady caf-
ed beverage among my favorites is a a big deal. I’ve been on a steady caf-
ed beverage among my favorites is a Canada Dry Ginger Ale, even if I can’t

ease than a cold bottle or can of vending machine bottles mean so

couch with a 24-hour bug. Even now, any day spent on the cure is ginger ale.

Most people associate ginger ale with childhood sickness. It was the drink that was accompanied by crackers, for any day spent on the couch with a 24-hour bug. Even now, for me, that is what ginger ale represents. But straight-out-of-the-
vending machine bottles mean so much more.

From sore throats to caffeine headaches, chills to dehydration, ginger ale has cured many ailments for me throughout the years, both by placebo effect and the natural qual-
ities of ginger root. There’s nothing better to put my mind and stomach at ease than the taste of Canada Dry Ginger Ale, even if I can’t use the benefits of the solution to cure anything that ails me.

And coming from a confessed caf-
feine addiction to count any unaffinitat-
ed beverage among my favorites is a big deal. I’ve been on a steady caf-
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For me, the idea may repulse you. We

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For me, the idea may repulse you. We

**Andy Ziccarelli**

**Moment of Inertia**

Full disclaimer: this is one of those

sugg, oh my god-I can’t believe I’m gradu-
ating columns. Feel free to stop reading

now if you’re not into that.

So … here we are. Soon, I’m going to be

graduating and … I made it. Here we are. I

have mixed feelings about graduating. Part of

me is over it (I’ve been for quite some

time) to move on to the real world, while the other part wants to stay in the relative-
ly shielded Notre Dame bubble forever.

But, whether I was supposed to make it here or not, I am living this dream, simply because I was sup-

posed to be here in the first place. You know those lit-
tle kids whose parents dress them up in their alma mater’s cheerleading outfits and football jerseys? Yeah, that was me and my sisters. Except we weren’t wear-

ing Notre Dame outfits.

And coming from a confessed caf-
feine addiction to count any unaffinitat-
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For me, the idea may repulse you. We

**Mary Claire O’Donnell**

**Interim Scene Editor**

This tragedy has forced Beau to be above and beyond whatever an ordinary son or brother could be. He has held his father’s num-
er as the only man of the house for

the campus was the most patriotic that I have seen it. Exploding in revelry and the campus was

God, Country, Notre Dame”

Gandhi

**QUOTE OF THE DAY**

"I object to violence because when it appears to do good, the good it does is temporary; the evil it does is permanent." — Gandhi

**QUOTE OF THE DAY**

"All truth passes through three stages: first, it is violently opposed, second, it is ridiculed, third, it is accepted as self-evident." — Arthur Schopenhauer

"God, Country, Notre Dame”

Osama is in God’s hands now. Beau has found at least a degree of peace in the death of the most infamous mass murderer that America has known per-
sonally. For one night, I saw my room-
ate laugh with joy knowing that the man who tore his life apart on 9/11/01 could never again harm another human being.

Now that Osama is dead, I worry about my sister and the retaliation she may face in Afghanistan in the next few months, but I trust in God to do His will — nothing more and nothing less. God bless the Dolan family. God bless the troops fighting terror for the sake of freedom. God bless the Catholic hub of Notre Dame. And lastly, of course, God bless the light of freedom in the world.

The United States of America.

Johnny Whicahd

Tedoman

Souza College

May 2

"God, Country, Notre Dame”

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The United States of America.
The Observer

Tuesday, May 3, 2011

page 7

The purpose of my first Letter to the Editor ever as a senior here at Notre Dame pertains to the recent and successful assassination of Osama bin Laden. It was an event which caused a lot of American reactions. It made me think of the 10 Commandments, in particular the 6th Commandment, which states, “You shall not kill.” The question I wanted to ask is this: Is that the reason for celebration or should we instead reflect on the actions that brought us to this moment? What should we do next? How do we love our enemies? What is the New Testament teaching us about this issue? Is it really mean to be Christian? Should we retaliate against our enemies or forgive them as we have been forgiven? On the contrary, Our Lord cried, “Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do” (Luke 23:34). Until his last breath, Jesus forgave; he showed mercy. It is for this reason that I was saddened to see Notre Dame students celebrating the death of Osama bin Laden, an assassination, regardless of how “bad” someone is, reason for celebration? As a Catholic, the very act of killing is a grave sin. For a Christian “never to revenge, but to do good to everyone” (Mt. 5:44). Is this our “pro-life” position? Unfortunately, it appears pro-life only means anti-abortion. A true pro-life position values all lives, not just the innocent. We as Christians should never praise death. Death is something that is always regrettable, regardless of the circumstances. We are called to imitate Christ’s words to Peter in the Garden of Gethsemane. Jesus said to Peter, “Let your sword stay in its sheath.”

Gerard T. Orozco
Guest Columnist

A day to reflect and give thanks for God’s mercy.

Timothy Brontager
St. Edward’s Hall

By: Gerard T. Orozco

I read the news this morning that Osama bin Laden was killed. Was I supposed to be happy? Am I supposed to be thrilled or relieved? As a Christian, how should I feel? Is it a cause for celebration or for mourning? While it brought to justice one of the most恶名昭彰的 terrorists, it was at the same time the death of another human being — doing so reduces us to barbarians. Instead, the death of Osama bin Laden should be an opportunity to demonstate how we are different from the terrorists, in that we do not exult in the deaths of our enemies. The images of us celebrating the street strongly remind me of the images of the terrorists exulting in the deaths of our armed men and women. When we view these images, we typically reason that these are the images of us as they were exulting a death. It appears that we are different from them. The celebration, taunting and Facebook posting, do nothing more than give us some false comfort. Our unity, our “pro-life” stance, our administration and students alike pride themselves in their “pro-life” position. Unfortunately, it appears pro-life only means anti-abortion. A true pro-life position values all lives, not just the innocent. We as Christians should never praise death. Death is something that is always regrettable, regardless of the circumstances. We are called to imitate Christ’s words to Peter in the Garden of Gethsemane. Jesus said to Peter, “Put your sword back into its sheath, for all who take the sword will perish by the sword” (Mt. 26:52). Christ’s words here are telling of what abiding in His Spirit means.

My position here is not that bin Laden was not a man who committed heinous evil actions. Nor am I saying he did not deserve to be killed. My argument is that we should think before we act. Would Jesus Christ have planned a party celebrating someone’s death? I think not. Therefore, I cannot in good conscience do the same. If celebrating in another manner, I believe bin Laden was an assassin, a carrier of hatred and responsible for a lot of Americans thinking it is perfectly okay for the president of the United States to “give the order” to kill another man. There should be more to this, but it saddens me that such lack of realization of this reality and more so, support, could ever happen on the campus of Our Lady.

Gerard T. Orozco is a senior studying aerospace engineering. He can be reached at gerorozco@nd.edu

Robert McKeon
South Communication

Re: Osama bin Laden’s death justified?

This past Sunday was Divine Mercy Sunday. It was a day to reflect and give thanks for God’s mercy. It was a day to remember his love for all mankind, as he, while nailed to the cross, did not curse his oppressors. On the contrary, Our Lord cried, “Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do” (Luke 23:34). Until his last breath, Jesus forgave; he showed mercy. It is for this reason that I was saddened to see Notre Dame students celebrating the death of Osama bin Laden, an assassination, regardless of how “bad” someone is, reason for celebration? As a Catholic, the very act of killing is a grave sin. For a Christian “never to revenge, but to do good to everyone” (Mt. 5:44). Is this our “pro-life” position? Unfortunately, it appears pro-life only means anti-abortion. A true pro-life position values all lives, not just the innocent. We as Christians should never praise death. Death is something that is always regrettable, regardless of the circumstances. We are called to imitate Christ’s words to Peter in the Garden of Gethsemane. Jesus said to Peter, “Put your sword away at the last critical moment. If ever there was a justifiable reason to resort to violence it was to save the lives of those of The Observer.

Robert McKeon is a senior studying aerospace engineering. He can be reached at gerorozco@nd.edu

An article released Monday May 2, 2011 reporting The Vatican’s view of such reactions stated, “… the killing of leader Osama bin Laden, a man who sowed division and hatred and who caused ‘unspeakable’ deaths, could prompt seri-

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Letters to the Editor

Gerard T. Orozco
Guest Columnist

I read the news this morning that Osama bin Laden was killed. Was I supposed to be happy? Am I supposed to be thrilled or relieved? As a Christian, how should I feel? Killing is prohibited in the 10 Commandments, and it is some-
“Sucker Punch,” Zack Snyder’s latest green-screen extravaganza and his first attempt at original material, should have been enjoyable. It has everything that should make a movie appealing to a college-aged male. Yet, amazingly, the combination of explosive action, loud music, attractive actresses and colorful graphics completely fails to entertain. Instead, it is a two-hour exercise in tedium and redundancy.

A young woman (Emily Browning), nicknamed “Baby Doll,” is sent to a mental institution after her mother’s death. She retreats into a fantasy world — a brothel, of all places — in the days preceding her lobotomy. In this alternate reality, she plans her escape. The plan involves dancing, which somehow sends her and four companions into yet another alternate reality (several of them, actually), where they battle clockwork Nazi zombies, giant demon samurai and other such enemies. This will facilitate their escape from the brothel, and, in turn, from the institution. It’s as if Snyder retrofitted “Inception” into a comic book he was planning and decided it would be fun to make a movie out of it instead.

There are five items the girls must recover if they are to escape, and each item is accompanied by a dance (which we see as a battle in a cathedral, on a train, in trenches, etc.). This quickly becomes repetitive and the interludes, which mainly consist of the girls discussing the urgency of their situation, do little to recapture our interest. Other characters from the “real world” institution are present, with some changes, in the brothel-world: a psychologist becomes a dance instructor, an orderly becomes a pimp, a lobotomist becomes a client. The parallels are hardly subtle, but then, no one expected them to be.

Baby Doll’s plan follows its course rather predictably, with predictable setbacks and predictable turning points. All of this happens without actually allowing a story to develop. Likewise, despite the valiant efforts of a few of the actors, the characters remain resolutely flat.

Snyder’s previous films include “300” and “Watchmen.” Both were based on graphic novels, and the material was well served by Snyder’s distinctive visual style. “Sucker Punch” reveals that, left to his own devices, he doesn’t have much else to offer.
Set in the visually stimulating context of a circus traveling by rail, “Water for Elephants” is a sweeping romantic tale that invites audiences into a time of simple entertainment. Based on the novel of the same name by Sara Gruen, the film is a slow but beautiful testament to the pain of forbidden love.

The film begins with an older Jacob Jankowski visiting the director of a modern-day circus. Hal Holbrook, the quintessential cute old man, plays Jacob and could not be more perfect in a bow tie with a quiet enthusiasm for everything circus-related. The director asks Jacob to talk about his experience at the Benzini Brother’s circus. Thus starts the retrospective into Jacob’s youth.

Robert Pattinson plays the role of Jacob in his early 20s. He is the only son of Polish immigrants and a student at Cornell University, studying veterinary medicine. This, of course, comes to a halt following the tragic death of both of his parents. He leaves behind everything he knows for the adventure of a lifetime. He hops on a moving train, in effect becoming a member of the circus. Pattinson proves a much more reserved and pensive actor than the “Twilight” films would lead one to believe. Though the film is full of drama, Pattinson’s performance never borders on melodrama. It is the first film in which he appears to be a tragic actor as opposed to simply an attractive face.

Perhaps Pattinson stepped up his game because he was surrounded by incredibly accomplished actors in this project. Christoph Waltz being one of them. Best known for his Academy Award winning portrayal of the twisted Nazi general in “Inglorious Basterds,” Waltz proves even more sinister in the role of August, the director of the circus.

August is cruel to all involved in the show, animals and humans alike. He forces everyone to work until they cannot go on. This is seen most clearly when he punishes the newest member of the circus, an elephant named Rosie, for running away during a show. His brutality crosses over into his personal life and affects his relationship with his wife.

Academy Award winning actress Reese Witherspoon plays Marlena, the star attraction of Benzini Brother’s Circus and August’s wife. Her gentle mannerisms are a stark contrast to her husband’s and from the moment she arrives on-screen, she escalates the sheer nudity of the film. Through their time working with Rosie, Marlena and Jacob fall in love, but it is a feeling the two hesitate to act upon. Jacob’s journey to protect and fight for the woman he loves sets the stage for the rest of the plot.

The best moments of the film are ones in which the audience is overwhelmed with the elegance of the image in front of them. The costume design is simplistic for all the characters except Marlena. She is truly the perfect mannequin for a wardrobe that consists of dated styles in modern silhouettes. She is often seen in racer-back dresses, high-waisted shorts, even judhpurs. Her perfect 1920’s finger-wave curls enhance the movie’s periodic setting.

The landscapes captured as the circus travels are also incredible. The train serves as a means to truly see the country. It is not, as it is today, just a way to commute from suburban sprawl to the city. It brings back the true romanticism trains invoked during this time period.

The film captures a touching story of love and the struggle to achieve it, and it does so with an eye for the beauty that can be manifested in something as simple as a circus.

Contact Courtney Cox at cccox3@nd.edu

“Water for Elephants”

Director: Francis Lawrence
Starring: Robert Pattinson, Reese Witherspoon and Christoph Waltz

On campus

What: ‘Bridesmaids’ Prescreening
Where: Browning Cinema in the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center
When: Thursday, May 5 at 7 p.m.
How much: Free for students. Tickets are available an hour before the show at the DPAC ticket office
See the trailer and more: bridesmaidsmovie.com

BLAIR CHEMOLIN / Observer Graphic
Kings to remain in Sacramento for another season

The Kings are expected to remain in Sacramento for another season, despite efforts by the NBA to relocate the team to Anaheim, Calif.

The Sacramento Kings, who have been the subject of relocation efforts for years, are expected to continue playing in the city of their birth for at least one more season, according to reports. The team has been in Sacramento since 1988, but has faced financial struggles and low attendance, leading to rumors of relocation.

Despite the team's struggles, the Kings have a strong following in the city and have been a staple of Sacramento's sports landscape for decades. The team's owner, Vivek Ranadive, has been vocal about his desire to keep the team in Sacramento, and has made efforts to improve the team's performance on the court.

The NBA has tried to lure the Kings to other cities, including Los Angeles and Toronto, but Sacramento has managed to keep the team in the city. The Kings have made the playoffs just once in the past decade, but have fans who are devoted to the team and continue to support them through thick and thin.

The decision to keep the Kings in Sacramento is a relief for fans who have been waiting for a resolution to the team's relocation saga. The team's future in the city remains uncertain, but for now, they are expected to continue playing in Sacramento.

The Sacramento Kings are one of the oldest franchises in the NBA, having been in the league since 1980. They have a long and storied history, and have been a part of the fabric of Sacramento's sports culture for many years.

For more information on the Kings and their future in Sacramento, please visit the team's official website at sacramento kings.com.

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NHL

Lightning remain cautious despite 2-0 series lead over Caps

The Tampa Bay Lightning remain cautious despite their 2-0 series lead over the Washington Capitals. While they have taken a commanding lead in the Eastern Conference semifinals, the Lightning are aware of the dangers of complacency.

"We're not going to take the Caps lightly," said Lightning coach Jon Cooper. "They've got a good team, and we need to be focused every night." The Lightning lead the series 2-0 after a 3-1 win in Game 2.

Despite their lead, the Lightning know that anything can happen in the playoffs. "We've been there before — this is a best-of-seven series," said Lightning center Steven Stamkos. "We can't afford to let our guard down." The Lightning are aware that they need to stay focused and avoid getting complacent if they want to advance in the playoffs.

The Capitals, meanwhile, are determined to stay competitive. "We're not going to give up," said Capitals center Nicklas Backstrom. "We've got a lot of fight in this team, and we're not going to go down without a fight." The Capitals have won a lot of games this season, and they know that they have the talent to upset the Lightning at any time.

Despite their caution, the Lightning are confident that they can win the series. "We've got a good team," said Lightning left wing Nikita Kucherov. "We're playing well together, and we're going to make sure we keep our focus." The Lightning are looking to advance to the Eastern Conference finals, where they would face either the New York Rangers or the Boston Bruins.

The series continues with Game 3 on Tuesday night. The Lightning are favored to win, but the Capitals are determined to stay competitive and give the Lightning a tough challenge. The Lightning will need to be on their game if they want to avoid a comeback from the Capitals.

For more information on the Lightning and their playoff run, please visit the team's official website at tampabaylightning.com.

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Associated Press

The Tampa Bay Lightning aren't impressed with their surprising 2-0 series lead over the Washington Capitals. The Lightning lead the series 2-0 after a 3-1 win in Game 2.

"We're not going to take the Caps lightly," said Lightning coach Jon Cooper. "They've got a good team, and we need to be focused every night." The Lightning have won the first two games of the series, and they are aware of the dangers of complacency.

"You've just got to keep plug- ing," said Lightning forward Tyler Johnson. "We've got a lot of fight in this team, and we're not going to go down without a fight." The Lightning are aware that they need to stay focused and avoid getting complacent if they want to advance in the playoffs.

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Associated Press

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Study of brain sheds light on Duerson suicide

Associated Press

BOSTON — Dave Duerson, a former NFL player who committed suicide in February, had "moderately advanced" brain damage related to blows to the head, according to a researcher who made the diagnosis.

"It's indisputable" that Duerson had chronic traumatic encephalopathy, a disorder linked to repeated brain trauma, Dr. Ann McKee said Monday.

The findings were announced as part of an effort conducted by the Center for the Study of Traumatic Encephalopathy at Boston University's School of Medicine. The center has the brains of more than 70 athletes and military veterans, with football players comprising more than half of the athletes.

Duerson played safety in the NFL for 11 seasons, seven with the Chicago Bears, and was chosen for four Pro Bowls before retiring in 1993.

"Dave Duerson had classic pathology of CTE and no evidence of any other disease," McKee said, "and he has severe symptoms that affect things like judgment, inhibition, impulse control, mood and memory."

The body of Duerson, who was 50, was found in Sunny Isles Beach, Fla., on Feb. 17. He left a note asking that his brain be given to the NFL's Brain Bank. He shot himself in the head, according to the researcher who made the diagnosis.

"The 6-year-olds are playing football so that a kid doesn't cause concussions. For the 10,000 hits to their head, that's one. For the 20,000 to 30,000 hits, that's another. For the 40,000 to 50,000 hits, that's another," McKee said. "By the time you get to the NFL, you've got thousands of them."

McKee compared the condition of Duerson's brain to those of other NFL players studied by the CSTE.

The damage wasn't as severe as that seen in the brains of Wally Hilgenberg, a Minnesota Vikings linebacker who died at 66 of amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, or Lou Creekmur, a Detroit Lions lineman who died at 82 of dementia, she said. The damage was about the same as that in the brain of former Houston and Miami linebacker John Grimsley, who died at 45 of an accidental gunshot wound.

Nowinski said "the latest version of the NFL's guidelines [on concussions] are well thought out. And, I think, with the state of the science today, it's about the best we can do."

But he said the problem starts much earlier, in youth football.

"The 6-year-olds are playing the same games as the pros when we know that their brains are far more susceptible to this damage," he said. "My next focus is how do we change youth football so that a kid doesn't show up in the NFL with 10,000 hits to their head already?"

The NFL said it will "advocate for the passage of Lystedt laws in all states" to protect athletes from concussions. The Lystedt law was adopted by the state of Washington, effective in July 2009, and 15 states have passed similar legislation since then, the league said.

The Washington law requires school districts and leagues using school property to remove from games or practice players that are suspected of having sustained a concussion. It also prohibits them from returning until authorized by a doctor trained in concussions, and mandates that parents and athletes sign concussion information sheets.

McKee, Dr. Robert Cantu and Dr. Robert Stern. Duerson's case was "moderately advanced," McKee said.

"The likelihood is that if he hadn't had the CTE, he wouldn't have developed those symptoms that he was experiencing at the end of his life and perhaps he wouldn't have been compelled to end his life," Cantu said that such results normally are published first, but the Duerson family wanted them released earlier. Duerson's former wife, daughter and three sons attended the news conference.

"We have been given the gift of closure," said his son, Tregg. "We accept this gift with great sadness, but I'm not going to look in the mirror and see David. We're going to miss him."

"Obviously it's happened continuously for a couple years now, but I'm not going to look in the past. I'm going to keep going, keep plugging away," Craig said.

Freese, who can play all four corner positions, was activated back in the lineup before the start of a four-game series against the Florida Marlins. General manager John Mozeliak said Craig would likely have been activated in any case, but he's down the list of potential third base fill-ins because he hasn't gotten that much work at third.

Daniel Descalso started at third Monday night and La Russa can also use Nick Punto and Tyler Greene, although Punto was hobbled by tightness in his left hamstring after getting removed in the fourth inning Sunday. Albert Pujols played third base for the first time since 2002 after Freese's injury on Sunday but is unlikely to see any more action there.

Probably not something we would like to do," Mozeliak said. "But clearly it's always an option."

Freese was limited to 70 games last season by injuries to both ankles, and didn't play after June 26. He underwent surgery on the right ankle on Aug. 5 after being injured running the bases during a rehab assignment, and had arthroscopic surgery to remove a bone spur from his left ankle on Sept. 8.

MLB

Cards send Freese to DL after wrist surgery

Associated Press

ST. LOUIS — Cardinals third baseman David Freese will have surgery on his broken left hand and is expected to miss nine to 12 weeks, his latest extended setback.

Freese was hit in the hand by a pitch from Atlanta reliever Scott Linebrink in the sixth inning Sunday. Freese was batting .356 with two homers and 14 RBIs in 25 games.

Freese was put on the 15-day disabled list Monday and infielder-outfielder Allen Craig was activated from the DL.

"We'll make do," St. Louis manager Tony La Russa said. "It's just a tough break for David. We're going to miss him, Brut." Freese's surgery Tuesday will likely require a metal plate to speed the healing. The Cardinals hope Freese will be back in the lineup before August.

"Things happen. That's all I can say," Freese said. "Obviously it's happened continuously for a couple years now, but I'm not going to look in the past. I'm going to keep going, keep plugging away."

Craig, who can play all four
**Floyd**

Floyd: 'Before making any decisions, Stanley said, but the attorney expects an eventual guilty plea.

In accordance with court-house procedures, the court documents for Floyd's case currently list a "not guilty" plea because he hasn't yet entered an official plea on his charge.

Floyd was arrested March 20 on campus after he was pulled over by the Notre Dame Security Police at the intersection of Angela Boulevard and Notre Dame Avenue for running a stop sign. Floyd failed three drug sobriety tests and was then administered a breathalyzer test, which recorded a .19 BAC.

*Contact Megan Doyle at mdoyle11@nd.edu*

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**NBA**

**Rose named youngest MVP in league history**

Associated Press

CHICAGO — Chicago Bulls star Derrick Rose has been named the NBA's 2009-10 Most Valuable Player, becoming the youngest player in league history to win the award. The 22-year-old Rose is the first player in league history to win the MVP award in his third season.

Rose led the Bulls to an NBA-best 62-20 record in his third season, setting many NBA records along the way.

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**MLB**

**Jones, Snyder fuel Pirates win**

Associated Press

Pirates catcher Chris Snyder tags out Padres first baseman Will Venable during Pittsburgh’s 4-3 win Monday in San Diego. Brad Hawpe during Pittsburgh’s 4-3 win Monday in San Diego.

Associated Press

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Associated Press

**Floyd**

continued from page 16

Floyd remained tax evasion from football but he did agree to a plea bargain, which included an agreement to fully cooperate with the government's investigation.

The 2010 Football Most Valuable Player became Notre Dame's all-time leader in touchdown receptions (28) and receiving yards (2,391) in his two seasons with the Blue and Gold.

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**MINNEAPOLIS — With its players again barred from work, the NFL told a federal appeals court Monday that the lockout this year is legal and whether the lockout is legal won't get in the way of the 2011 season.

The rest of the labor fight? That's up to anyone’s interpretation.

The league filed an 18-page brief Monday with the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals in St. Louis, arguing that the lockout should remain in effect permanently while appeals play out.

The appeals court U.S. District Judge Richard Leon issued an order lifting the 45-day lockout Monday afternoon. The league has until Tuesday to appeal Leon's order.

Still, the St. Louis Rams announced via Twitter they 'plan to continue playing' while the appeals of the NFL's refusal to reinstate the players begins.

Other teams have previously been given a temporary respite by the appeals court but it must be reinscribed before every court filing since the collective bargaining agreement fell apart.

Leon has already determined the lockout is damaging the players.

The players have agreed there is no guarantee appeals can be written into the new collective bargaining agreement this year, but the NFL said the process — thanks to a request for an expedited hearing — is more of a matter of weeks than months.

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WOMEN’S WATER POLO

Irish to host championships

By JOSEPH MONARDO

The Observer  ◆  SPORTS

As the No. 5 Irish prepare to host the Women’s National Collegiate Club Championships, the Midwest division champions are hopeful they can pull their way into the title game.

Notre Dame (16-4) has experienced sustained success throughout the season, recording eight straight victories at one point and never suffering consecutive losses. Teamwork has helped the Irish consistently perform well, senior goalie Eileen Flanagan said.

“We’re definitely a team-oriented team,” Flanagan said. “Some teams have one strong player who they center their entire strategy around and that’s how they try and win games, where one player tries to be the all-star. Six people who are working together will always beat a team where one person is trying to beat all of us.”

Notre Dame’s teamwork is especially important on defense, where the Irish have allowed an average of 6.2 goals per game.

“Our defense is what makes us successful,” senior 2-meter Liz Casazza said. “We’ve been working hard all season and I think that’s really going to show.

The Irish will face No. 12 Texas for the first time in program history in their first-round match up.

“We’ve never played Texas before, so we have no idea how good they are or what to expect,” Flanagan said. “All we know is that we’re focused on beating them right now. We treat every team that we play like they are the best team in the entire country.”

No. 10 Cal Poly defends the field after capturing the last three national titles, but the Irish are confident they are prepared for the level of competition they will face in the tournament.

“Every year we take a Spring Break trip out to California, and that’s because the best teams are from California, so we’ve seen this level of competition before,” Flanagan said. “That being said, we haven’t seen them since March, and all sides have gotten better, so this should be a really good test of our abilities and how much we’ve improved over the season.”

Still, Notre Dame will have to get past Texas before shifting its focus to the other teams in the field.

“We’re kind of just trying to take it one game at a time, so right now we’re thinking about our first game on Cal Poly’s home turf,” Durkin said. “We’re trying not really think beyond that, because if we can’t get past Texas, then we won’t get very far at all.”

For Flanagan, Durkin, Casazza and fellow senior Lizzy Gormley, the privilege of hosting the national tournament is a special finale to their water polo careers. The Irish hope their position as the home team will provide them with a significant advantage.

“There is definitely the comfort of playing in your home pool with all the support from your teammates, who have converted on many scoring opportunities, for Flanagan. “I think that that’s really going to show. The Irish will face No. 12 Texas for the first time in program history in their first-round match up.

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“We’re kind of just trying to take it one game at a time, so right now we’re thinking about our first game on Cal Poly’s home turf,” Durkin said. “We’re trying not really think beyond that, because if we can’t get past Texas, then we won’t get very far at all.”

For Flanagan, Durkin, Casazza and fellow senior Lizzy Gormley, the privilege of hosting the national tournament is a special finale to their water polo careers. The Irish hope their position as the home team will provide them with a significant advantage.

“There is definitely the comfort of playing in your home pool with all the support from your teammates, who have converted on many scoring opportunities, for Flanagan. “I think that that’s really going to show. The Irish will face No. 12 Texas for the first time in program history in their first-round match up.

“We’ve never played Texas before, so we have no idea how good they are or what to expect,” Flanagan said. “All we know is that we’re focused on beating them right now. We treat every team that we play like they are the best team in the entire country.”

No. 10 Cal Poly defends the field after capturing the last three national titles, but the Irish are confident they are prepared for the level of competition they will face in the tournament.

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Rivalry
continued from page 16

Irish in a similar home-and-home series last season. This season, however, the Wolverines have fallen well short of program standards, struggling to a .246 team average at the plate. Irish senior infielder Katie Fleury takes a swing during Notre Dame's 10-3 victory over St. John's April 30.

Men and women throwers establish unique chemistry
By Jack Hefferon

When one pictures the recent season for Notre Dame on the track, images of sub-four-minute miles, record-breaking jumps and Big East championship trophies all come to mind. There is another part of the squad that often goes unnoticed.

They do the dirty work and heavy lifting, literally, behind the scenes. They are hurling a hammer, discuss or shot, the Irish throwers are a dynamic force in competition and a tight-knit group outside of it.

While most of the team hits the track every day, the throwers are often on their own, doing their own specialized practices. Under the guidance of assistant coach Adam Beltran, the athletes practice every day in the fall, winter and spring.

“We go down to the rings and throw almost every day,” junior thrower Andy Hills said. “We’ve got a different practice routine depending on where we are that week, and in addition to that, we’re in the weight room three days a week.”

With all that time spent together, the men and women of the throwing team form a unique bond as a small, dedicated group of athletes. Between practice, meets and travel, the members have gotten to know each other very well and have built a unique chemistry between them.

“We’re probably one of the closer teams on campus,” Hills said. “In the past, (Irish coach Joe) Piane has called us (a) cult. We have our own inside joke, able we always eat together on trips.”

That unity has also helped the throwers in competition, and they have made a significant impact on the overall track and field team this year.

On the women’s side, Rudy Atang, a st and out hurler, has been a leader for the squad in more ways than one. “Rudy has had a really great year,” Hills said. “She set school records in the indoor and outdoor seasons in the shot put, but she still works as hard as anybody in practice and the weight room. She also really tries to help the underclassmen improve, especially the freshmen.”

The throwers have also been a huge piece in the recent successes of the men’s team, winning two of the past three Big East men’s regular season titles. In their outdoor conference victory last year, the throwers put Notre Dame, which sat in fourth heading into the final day, over the top.

Senior Denes Veres won the shot put with a throw of 18.57 meters, and Irish throwers took five of the top eight spots in the hammer throw to help lead the charge.

“We had a huge impact on the men’s team at the Big East meet last year, and we had a large number of guys step up for us there,” Hills said. “We like to think we’ve been a pretty big part of our team’s success over the past couple of years.”

Heading into this year’s edition of the outdoor Big East championships, which will take place this weekend in Villanova, Penn., the Irish throwers once again seem primed to make a difference. After a series of strong performances, the group is peaking at the right time, and they may need another elite performance.

After losing to Connecticut by less than five points at the indoor championships, the outdoor Big East title may come down to a single throw.

“Everyone is practicing pretty well,” Hills said.

“It’s been an up-and-down season for us, but we seem to be riding a high right now, and that’s what you want heading into these big championship meets.”

Contact Jack Hefferon at whefferon@nd.edu

Big East
continued from page 16

ing Maldonado and senior captain Heather Johnson.

“We are in a great position now to make some impressions on teams not only in the Big East, but all across the board,” Winter said.

“We are the most ready (for the postseason) we’ve been since I’ve been here at school,” Maldonado said. “We’re ready to make history and take this program to the next level.”

The Irish will play Valparaiso at home in Melissa Cook Stadium today at 5 p.m.

Contact Jack Visko at jvisko@nd.edu

The Irish offense will face a Michigan pitching staff that has been inconsistent, garnering a 5.16 staff ERA on the season compared to the 2.92 ERA for the experienced Irish staff. Wolverine sophomore starting pitcher Bobby Brossahan has particularly struggled, posting a 1-8 record with a 7.71 ERA in 11 starts.

An aggressive attack for Notre Dame came to life late in its series with Seton Hall this past weekend. After scoring three runs in the first 27 innings of the match-up with the Pirates (20-21, 7-11), the Irish erupted for five runs in the final three innings of the series on two home runs, stealing the rubber game of the series in the process.

Aoki said the offense will try to turn the corner permanently in the mid-week series with Michigan, though he said the pitching and defense will continue to be crucial.

“I think it’s the same recipe all the time (in preparing for opponents). We need to make sure we pitch and defend well and get some timely hitting,” Aoki said. “[Last game] we were a little mental at the game went on, which is something we have not been able to do all year long, so it was definitely encouraging.”

The series begins tonight at 6:35 p.m. in Ann Arbor, Mich., and concludes Wednesday at Frank Eck Stadium with a scheduled 5:35 p.m. first pitch.

Contact Chris Allen at allen10@nd.edu

Irish senior pitcher Brian Dupra delivers a pitch during Notre Dame’s 2-1 loss to Seton Hall April 29.

Track and Field

Men and women throwers establish unique chemistry
By Jack Hefferon Sports Writer

When one pictures the recent season for Notre Dame on the track, images of sub-four-minute miles, record-breaking jumps and Big East championship trophies all come to mind.

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THE MATING RITUAL

DAVID MOMONT

HOROSCOPE

CELEBRATING BIRTHDAYS TODAY:

Nina Anderson, 47; Tim McNeir, 46; Rich Coakley, 67; Andy Collins, 77;

HAPPY BIRTHDAY: Moderation and simplicity are the keys to achieving your goals. Now is your time to focus on your goals or to expand your horizons. You like to maintain some everyday things smoothly by taking care of your own hands. Balancing your personal and professional needs will make your day extra nice. Your colors are red, white, and blue.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

Don’t ever be too strong. Physical activity will help define any anxiety you feel. Exaggerated encounters should be planned for the evening hours. You will attract someone who will complement your outgoing and constant nature.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

Your stress level will be significant if you are adding everything into one big expression. If you feel that you are no longer in your comfort zone, indulge in little things that can calm you down, like music or physical activity.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21)

Social events or parties in a public setting will lead to an easy conversation. A new family member in your orbit will rule the show. Try not to do too much for the moment. Enjoy your money in proper financial, personal, and professional ways.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

Don’t expect anything until it’s signed, sealed, and delivered. An emotional, sensitive, and spiritualWalker will declare if you are in a no-win situation. Speak with those who have always been in trouble.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

Opportunities to travel will make it happen. Offer to make the best of it. Show everyone how to keep you at your best. Good fortune will rule the show. Your partner will maintain your business and back up.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sep. 22)

Unexpected financial situations will be uncertain. Get yourself a professional investor to see your stocks and help you raise more funds. Your partner will have you under control.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

This is not the best day to bring up situations that are bothering your mate or you by changing the way you see things. You are more likely to be a lot more helpful. On your mind is your partner and your household. Disrupt personal changes and don’t try to change others.

SCORPIO (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

Getting together with close friends will help you realize your fears. Don’t limit opportunities by staying home alone.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

Open up your doors with friends and relatives. Entertaining will give you a chance to work on yourself and get your mind and body in the right shape. You will have a powerful partner and a successful pattern. What’s next for your future? Taking action will resolve some issues.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

Don’t go into too much detail. Don’t worry about action. Sometimes, it’s better to let things run its course.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

Expect someone to give you a break. You will need to take some responsibility for this. Expect your mate to be involved. We will try to lighten the load of some issues. Expect your mate to take things on their own.

PIECES (Feb. 19-March 20)

In a reasonable situation, it’s time to entertain or otherwise. You will be the only one involved. You will want to take things for a while. That’s the way things are. A partnership with someone who likes the same is, you will be able to play the role of a partner and a partner in the same position.

BIRTHDAY SAYS: You are a dreamer, a high achiever and a strong competitor. You are very self-critical and realistic to deal with.

THE MATING RITUAL

Something in the air, something that’s happening, gets your attention.

JAMES SOLLITTO, CODY ECKERT and JOHN FLATLEY

PLEASANDVILLE

JAMES SOLLITTO, CODY ECKERT and JOHN FLATLEY

JAMES SOLLITTO, CODY ECKERT and JOHN FLATLEY
Sevens tournament presents opportunity for revenge

By MEGAN GOLDEN
Sports Writer

For the second consecutive year, an emerging Irish squad will travel to the USA Sevens Collegiate Rugby Championship. The team will battle to send the seniors off with the cup, supported by an 81-44 record. The Wolverines have won six of the last seven meetings, including a sweep of the Chicago Collegiate Premier League, which consists of one of the top-two teams. The experienced Irish feature 19 seniors, each of whom has witnessed drastic changes within the Notre Dame rugby program. The Irish switched from Division II to Division I after their freshman season and were immediately successful behind Irish coach Sean O’Leary. The seniors have made it clear everyone on the team has an equal chance to compete for playing time. “On this team, it’s more merit-based. If you’re good enough to play on the first team, then you will be playing no matter how old you are,” senior center Sean Mitchell said. “Just because we’re seniors doesn’t mean we’re going to get playing time.”

The senior leadership on this team has translated into outstanding team chemistry amongst all they players. “We’re pretty much friends with everyone,” O’Leary said. “I’m friends with freshmen. Everyone hangs out with everyone, and there’s much like DiCaprio in “The Aviator.” Tamasitis acts as the team’s pilot, directing the Notre Dame offense. The junior from Boyertown, Penn., has tallied a team-high 39 assists and scored 21 goals. She has guided the Irish (9-8, 6-2 Big East) to a fourth place finish in the Big East and she ranks fourth in the country in assists. I’ve gotten comfortable being one of four conferences in the Collegiate Premier League, which consists of the country’s top-21 teams. The Irish finished third in their conference, just short of entering the playoffs as one of the top-two teams. Coming off a dominating 34-5 victory against Tennessee, the Irish are confident in their talent across the board. The team credits their success this season to the strenuous practices they have endured over the offseason, including 6 a.m. workouts in the snow. “The first game we won — against LSU — showed our strength of fitness,” senior scrumhalf and team captain Andy O’Connor said. “They just died, tired out and they were up 11-0 at halftime. We came back and won, and it showed that we could still push it.”

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