Professor discusses President’s speech
By SARA FELSINSTEIN
Associate News Editor

Political Science professor David Campbell said President Barack Obama’s State of the Union address Tuesday was clear evidence the president is “moving into campaign mode.”

“This is not what we saw in the first year or two of the Obama administration,” Campbell said. “This is Obama manifesting an argument for his reelection and for his Democratic view of the way government ought to be involved in the economy.”

Campbell, who is also the founding director of the Rooney Center for the Study of American Democracy, said the speech had the usual constraints of a State of the Union address. Obama had to cite major issues, remain optimistic and appeal to his constituencies.

“This was a pretty sprawling comprehensive speech. It was also a fairly long speech,” he said. “I do think his speech can be contrasted with last year’s speech, in that this one really marks the beginning of the 2012 presidential campaign.”

Campbell said that unlike past years, Obama took a clear stance on issues and pointed out the congressional obstruction of governmental goals.

“Barack Obama was elected a post-partisan president. He tried … but he’s not going to do that anymore. He’s going to [draw] sharp distinctions,” Campbell said.

Obama was also more direct in this speech than he had been in the past, Campbell said.

“He’s definitely beginning to lay out his argument. He was quite explicit. [For example] he did want to see government investing in clean energy,” Campbell said.

Republican Gov. Mitch Daniels of Indiana delivered the GOP rebuttal to the State of the Union on Tuesday, responding specifically to the president’s speech.

ND fire department appoints new chief
By DAN BROMBACH
News Writer

When Bruce Harrison learned of his recent appointment as fire chief of the Notre Dame Fire Department, he knew his career was taking a step in an exciting direction.

“I was a little bit nervous about the move but it’s a tremendous opportunity, both for myself and for my family,” Harrison said.

Harrison, who will take over as chief on March 1, will come to Notre Dame with 30 years of experience in the DeKalb Fire Department under his belt. He said he is confident the guidance of other colleagues will help him adjust smoothly to the responsibilities of his new position.

“I trust that there’s a lot of experience and dedication in the [Notre Dame] Fire Department that will greatly assist me in transitioning into situations that may be somewhat different or have some sort of variation,” Harrison said.

Harrison said his experience in DeKalb has prepared him for any challenges he might face at Notre Dame, including fire prevention, emergency response, suppression of hostile fire and public fire education.

“There’s definitely a great deal of similarity between what I’m doing in DeKalb and what I’ll be responsible for doing here at Notre Dame,” Harrison said.

Harrison began his career in the DeKalb Fire Department with a strong desire to protect the safety of his community and to rescue those in danger.

“For me, there has been no higher calling than to be of service to those in need and in crisis,” Harrison said. “My career in the fire service has been about meeting the needs of the community through preparedness, prevention and response.

Harrison said he is grateful for the opportunity to become a part of Notre Dame’s history.

“I appreciate the tradition and the heritage that is the University that will greatly assist me in doing a lot of great work.”

Several of the South Bend organizations represented at the fair have had a long history of involvement with the CSC. AIDS Ministries/AIDS Assistant of Northern Indiana, which provides a variety of services for people living with HIV and AIDS in the six-county area, has been associated with the CSC for more than 20 years, said Debra Stanley, the CSC’s Community-Based Learning Coordinator for the organization.

Stanley inherited the duty of representing AIDS Ministries at Notre Dame’s Activities Night when she began volunteering for the organization in 1992.

“I came that first night and have been coming ever since,” she said. “Being involved led me to the CSC where I became a Community-Based Learning Coordinator, and so it’s just been a relationship ever since.”

Student service groups also participated in the fair to distribute information and talk to potential volunteers.

Senior Monica Townsend represented the Notre Dame chapter of She’s the First, a non-profit organization that raises funds to promote education for girls in developing countries.

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**QUESTIONS OF THE DAY:**

What would you do differently if you knew the World was ending?

Have an idea for Question of the Day? Email obsphoto@gmail.com

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**SPOILING ERROR CORRECTED ON ROADSIDE SCHOOL zone**

**NEW YORK —** An embarrassing misspelling of “school” is gone from the street outside a New York City school building.

Utility workers used heavy machinery to grind up the wrongly placed “H” and “C” in the “SHOOL, X-NG” sign on Tuesday. The correction was made a day after the New York Post reported the spelling error.

The words were created with industrial textured tape that permanently sticks to the asphalt. The Consolidated Edi

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**IN BRIEF**

An opening reception for the exhibit “Roots of Our Father” will be held in O’Shaughnessy Hall from 5 to 7 p.m. tonight. The exhibit will be on display in the BIS Gallery through February 19.

Campus ministry will hold a Christian unity prayer service tonight from 6 to 7 p.m. in Keenan Hall.

The film “Le Quattro Volte (The Four Times)” will be shown in the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center from 7 to 8:30 p.m. tonight. The film is in Italian with English subtitles. Tickets cost $3 for students and $6 regular admission.

The Center for Social Concerns will host a discussion in the Soup and Substance series in the Geddes Hall Coffee House from 12 to 1 p.m. tomorrow. The discussion topic is race and two race monologues will be read. Free soup will be provided.

The Men’s and Women’s Swimming and Diving teams will compete in the Shamrock Invitational tomorrow. The meet will be held in the Rolfs Aquatic Center beginning at 5 p.m. Admission is free for students.

The Notre Dame Gong Fu Club will host an informational meeting in Room 109 of Rockne Memorial from 5:15 to 6:15 p.m. tomorrow. ND/SMC/HCC students, faculty, and staff of all ages are invited to attend. No martial arts experience is required.

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

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**OFF BEAT**

Spelling error corrected on road outside school zone

**NEW YORK —** An embarrassing misspelling of “school” is gone from the street outside a New York City school building.

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The words were created with industrial textured tape that permanently sticks to the asphalt. The Consolidated Edi-
SGA to change voting structure

By CALILN CROWE
News Writer

The Student Government Association (SGA) at Saint Mary’s College announced in its meeting Wednesday that it will make major changes to its basic structure, giving Saint Mary’s students more diverse representation in the voting process, SGA executive secretary Emma Brink said.

After concluding last semester with a preliminary vote to change the structure of SGA, President Nicole Gans said the organization is focusing on answering a few basic questions this semester regarding the restructuring of SGA.

“What ways can SGA be structured to best fit the needs of the student body?” said the organization is focusing on answering a few basic questions this semester regarding the restructuring of SGA.

“What can SGA do to better serve the students?” she said. “What is going to happen? What is going to change?”

Brink said these changes include reorganizing the voting body of the organization into five councils and one senate, rather than the current board of 25 commissioners and the 8-member executive board.

SGA hopes that the new structure will include a board of unbiased voting members in the Senate, a focused group of councils to produce new ideas and programming, a more efficient flow of information and, overall, more participation within SGA,” she said.

Gans said she is optimistic about the restructing of SGA with regard to student opinions and collaboration between students and the College’s administration and faculty.

“I hope that the new structure gives more people a voice on student government,” she said. “We are attempting to build an inclusive system that promotes relationships with administration and faculty.”

Brink said SGA is currently operating under a hybrid of the old and new structures and complete changes will occur along with student government turnover on April 1. The turnover process and the new structure will involve more students in new roles, Brink said.

Now, students can run for Senate positions, the election process this year will be much more exciting and dynamic,” she said. “At the same time, students who prefer working behind-the-scenes can apply for Council positions as committee chairs or members.”

Instead of having the class boards and club presidents comprise the board of commissioners, the new council system will represent student interest groups, including the Student Academic Council and the councils of Activities, Clubs, Class Boards and Committee Chairs, Brink said.

The president, vice president, treasurer, secretary and chief of staff of SGA will each serve as the head of one of the five councils.

Brink said the council members will be appointed by interviews conducted by the SGA president or by individual academic departments. However, this process will not appoint council board presidents and the Student Activity Board, Resident Hall Association and Student Diversity Board presidents.

Position names will also be changed to reflect the full responsibilities of each position, Brink said. The executive treasurer and secretary will now be vice presidents of Finance and Internal Affairs, respectively, and the chief of staff will now serve as the vice president of External Affairs.

Brink said the new Senate will be comprised of 15 students who are not currently members of SGA, and these students cannot serve on any of the five new councils.

Since Senate members will represent a variety of student perspectives and interests, such as class years, dorms, clubs and other student organizations, Brink said she hopes the Senate will provide opportunities for the freshman class to get more involved on campus and pursue leadership roles.

Brink said the new system will complement the success of the current student government and will expand the role and a broader, more diverse group of leaders representing the Student Body,” Brink said.

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What is going to change?” Brink said. “I am so proud of the current administration for all of their hard work,” she said. “I hope our successors will find the new structure more efficient, allows for more effective communication, and that it will allow them to focus on important issues.”

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MLK panel series discusses race, sports

By AUBREY BUTTS
News Writer

In developing this year’s third annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Series for the Study of Race, Assistant Director for Multi-cultural Student Programs and Services (MSPS) Tobias Blake and First Year of Studies Professor Oliver Jenkins decided to explore the complex relationships and stereotypes surrounding African-American athletes in the United States.

“When approaching the series, we first and foremost considered the objectives,” Blake said. “We wanted to bring awareness to the subject, further educate and develop a deeper understanding of the issues and, most importantly, inspire people to action. Race and sports is a complex intersection, but we didn’t want to shy away from this complexity.”

Titled “Playing with Fire: Race and Sport in American Culture,” the series is sponsored by MSPS and began Wednesday with a MLK panel discussion.

The speakers featured featured Raghib “Rocket” Ismail, a former Notre Dame football All-American, and Dwight “Doc” Gooden, a former major league pitcher and Cy Young award winner.

Blake said he hopes the panel discussion will engage Notre Dame students, faculty and the surrounding community.

“We are trying to involve more people in the conversation by dealing with a subject with far-reaching potential,” Blake said. “Race and sport in American culture brings a lot of people together to discuss the inequalities still perpetuated in our nation and here at Notre Dame.”

Prior to the panel, Iris Outlaw, director of MSPS, discussed the significance of race and sports in society in her opening address.

“Race and sports inform and influence American society,” she said. “Sports serve as an appropriate model for a microcosm of American society in a profound way.”

Keith Embray, associate director of Student Welfare and Development, prompted the panel participants to discuss the first time they became aware of their race and the role it played and continues to play in their personal athletic endeavors.

In response to this question, January spoke about her experience as one of a few African-American athletes in her Washington hometown.

Growing up in Spokane, Washington, a predominantly white city, I have always been immersed in a different racial culture,” January said. “I think I always been the token of the team. As I made my way through the basketball circuit, I found myself representing different teams based on their race.”

Rather than focusing on the stereotypes surrounding African-American athletes, Gooden explained how baseball helped him achieve his version of the American dream.

“Growing up as a kid, the American dream was having a job, being respectful and gaining respect from others,” Gooden said. “Growing up in sports, I felt fulfilled in a way. I never had a goal to make a bunch of rewards. I just wanted to play the game and have fun.”

January, Gooden and Ismail agreed about the dangers of the media and its representations of professional athletic opportunities.

“Growing up in sports, I was made aware of the media and its representations of professional athletic opportunities,” Gooden said. “I was made aware of the media and its representations of professional athletic opportunities. The stereotypes surrounding African-American athletes to children who are also showing other professional possibilities.

Whatever shapes your imagination controls your destiny,” Ismail said. “In the black community, the love of money has taken the hearts and captured the imagination of the culture. Whatever is the vehicle allowing you to get the god of this world [money] is what you focus on. Athletics is a vehicle to get the god.”

Gooden expressed a similar attitude towards the representation of professional athletes in the media.

“I think young athletes watch TV and see the salaries of professional athletes,” he said. “I think that’s what this quick way to success.”

The series will continue with the second annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Series for the Study of Race, this year’s theme is “Sports and the American Dream.”

Gooden agreed with Ismail about the importance of being respectful in the world of sports.

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Contact Aubrey Butts at abutts@nd.edu

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Professor reflects on Republican primaries

By TAYLOR COUILLARD-RODAK
News Writer

The unpredictable Republican primary elections have decreased the chance of the party’s nomination of a strong opponent to face President Barack Obama in the November general election, according to Michael Kramer, associate professor of Communication Studies at Saint Mary’s College. Despite the relative state of chaos throughout the primary season thus far, Kramer said some trends have emerged among the candidates.

“Many of the voters are left alienated by the debates. They want the focus to be on improving the economy instead of several social issues that, for now, are not the most pressing things in their mind.”

Michael Kramer
associate professor

The big trend has been the changing winners, from [Rick] Santorum down in Iowa, then [Mitt] Romney, and then most surprisingly [Newt] Gingrich in South Caroli-
na, Kramer said. “No one has been able to get any sort of momentum or hold onto it.”

Kramer said each candidate faces personal obstacles on the road to the election, and these obstacles have hindered the candidates from accumulating solid voter support that will last through the November general election. With Romney, people talk about his financial status and how he is part of the one percent while people will be looking to see how they can portray him to look as sort of an elite, an out of touch wealthy person,” he said. “With Gingrich, he has to deal with some of his past activities in relation to his funding.”

Kramer said the status of the economy is the most pertinent issue for voters during this election season, especially in terms of finding a candidate they can trust to lead the country out of its current economic doldrums.

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“This is a country where one feels serious things, I thought voters must know in his heart that this is not true.”

Campbell said Obama and Daniels’s speeches plainly put issues on the table and gave voters the opportunity to decide on those issues for themselves.

“I thought the thought of the State of the Union address and the response from Mitt Daniels was politics the way it ought to be done,” Campbell said. “Voters heard two different perspectives on what government should be doing. In all seriousness, I thought voters could walk away from those two speeches having learned something.”

Campbell said the annual addresses are challenging for presidents because they must hold firmly to some key American perspectives. “Presidents have to pick their language carefully. They all have to say the state of the union is fundamentally strong, moving forward,” Campbell said. “[Presi-
dent Obama] struck a tone of, ‘Things have been bad, they’re getting better and they’re better than most people think.’”

Campbell also said the U.S. president is in a unique position since he is both the head of state and the head of government — a tension that Kramer said each candidate faces personal obstacles on the road to the election, and these obstacles have hindered the candidates from accumulating solid voter support that will last through the November general election. With Romney, people talk about his financial status and how he is part of the one percent while people will be looking to see how they can portray him to look as sort of an elite, an out of touch wealthy person,” he said. “With Gingrich, he has to deal with some of his past activities in relation to his funding.”

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Campbell also said the U.S. president is in a unique position since he is both the head of state and the head of government — a tension that Kramer said.

“Right now they’re not really finding someone who totally fits that bill.”

While voters generally look to debates for information about candidates, Kramer said the debates thus far have seemed to disappoint voters in their almost theatrical quality, as evidenced by sketch comedy shows and news reports mocking the debates.

“At times, [the debates] have been somewhat of a spectacle. You’ve had the audience playing somewhat of a participatory role, in terms of applauding and cheering certain things,” he said. “That type of behavior makes you shake your head a little about the debates and how they’re being handled.”

The debates have openly displayed candidate strategies to voters, Kramer said. “Gingrich is being rough and tumble. He is using really sharp language, doing some name-calling. That’s not the type of campaigning that Romney is comfortable doing,” Kramer said. “They’ve shown which candidates can handle the rough and tumble of campaigning. Romney has not stood up as well to the attacks, where Gingrich has.”

Kramer added the debates have focused heavily on social issues, but he thinks voters would prefer to hear candidates’ ideas about the current economic state of the nation and how they will be personally affected by potential future economic policies.

“Many of the voters are left alienated by the debates. They want the focus to be on improving the economy instead of several social issues that, for now, are not the most pressing things in their mind.”
The Contemplation of Truth by Faith and Reason: Saint Thomas Aquinas, Blessed John Paul II, and Pope Benedict XVI

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Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend

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Fair

continued from page 1

to expand their outreach efforts motivated its participation in the Social Concerns Fair.

“We are hoping this semester to branch out to the South Bend community and work with elementary schools that would like to get involved with St. Joseph’s,” said Williams.

It’s an immaculate place.”

He is also happy to join an organization he considers one of the best in the world, he said, and hopes to leave his own mark on the department during his tenure.

“I’m looking for volunteer work to do in Spanish for my Spanish class, and also for something to do over the weekends now that football is over,” Williams said.

Wetterer said the fair introduced her to a volunteer opportunity at La Casa de Amistad, a community organization that provides bilingual tutoring.

“The opportunity to be fire chief for the Notre Dame Fire Department and serve the Notre Dame community is a great honor and has great meaning to me, both personally and professionally,” he said. “I view the NDFD to be world class, and I hope that I can add value to that mission.”

Contact Dan Brambach at db Brambach@nd.edu

Chief

continued from page 1

of Notre Dame, and I’m tremendously honored to be part of its storied campus,” Harrison said.

“My sense is that the University believes that any claim on the basis of sexual orientation should be taken seriously and should be addressed within the University,” he said. “Essentially, a non-discrimination clause invites the state to enforce discrimination claims.”

Junior class president Kevin Doherty said the University allows the government to intervene in cases of discrimination on other bases, such as race and sex.

“It’s almost a discriminatory position to say we’re going to handle (issues of discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation) in-house, but we’re going to invite the state in on some (issues) and not others,” Doherty said.

Doherty said if a student-run gay-straight alliance could articulate how it is different from others, but overall, sustainability saves organizations money, she said.

Novick said the global Catholic community has made strides toward increasing sustainability.

“There are universities like Santa Clara and Notre Dame and Fordham and a lot of other places with sustainability programs, but they don’t necessarily reach the broader Catholic community, and in order to really make a difference … we really need to reach out and communicate and share what we’re learning here,” Novick said.

Senator also discussed the possibilities of creating a gay-straight student alliance and adding sexual orientation to the University’s non-discrimination clause.

Katie Rose, gender issues director for student government, said both issues are intertwined with religion, civil rights and creating a culture of acceptance.

“If we’re going to call ourselves the top Catholic university in the country, I strongly believe we should be leading the way on social progress,” she said.

Rose said the University is concerned about the legal implications of adding sexual orientation to the non-discrimination clause.

Student body president Pat McCormick said although sexual orientation is not included in the current non-discrimination clause, the University does not support discrimination on any basis.

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Novick said the global Catholic community has made strides toward increasing sustainability.

“There are universities like Santa Clara and Notre Dame and Fordham and a lot of other places with sustainability programs, but they don’t necessarily reach the broader Catholic community, and in order to really make a difference … we really need to reach out and communicate and share what we’re learning here,” Novick said.

Senator also discussed the possibilities of creating a gay-straight student alliance and adding sexual orientation to the University’s non-discrimination clause.

Katie Rose, gender issues director for student government, said both issues are intertwined with religion, civil rights and creating a culture of acceptance.

“If we’re going to call ourselves the top Catholic university in the country, I strongly believe we should be leading the way on social progress,” she said.

Rose said the University is concerned about the legal implications of adding sexual orientation to the non-discrimination clause.
“Don’t get that Bed Ryder BB gun. You’ll shoot your eye out.” Everyone remembers the famous line from “A Christmas Story.”

However, there are two interpretations of this sage advice. Avoid the gun altogether and you won’t run the risk of hurting yourself or others. But another alternative is to teach Ralphie to be responsible and safe with his BB gun, so that he can still have fun. Enter the gun culture.

Like the previous example, there are always two camps: the ones that neglect to use a tool because the perceived risks outweigh the benefits and the ones who use a tool because the benefits outweigh the risk.

Gun culture is a strange thing to most folks here in the United States, which is both a blessing and a curse. It is a blessing because in day-to-day life many of us don’t need to use them to defend ourselves, and it can be argued that the ignorance can lead to an overall safer society. However, it is a curse because in America, citizens with good track records have the right to own a firearm, yet many of us do not.

Now why would one want to own a gun anyway? Well, for all the reasons you would expect. 1) It is totally hardcore. 2) It is fun to shoot things recreationally. 3) It is an effective tool for defending an individual or community against outside threats. 4) It is an effective tool for hunting animals for sustenance. The forefathers most likely did not envision you were going to teach Ralphie to be responsible and safe when you gave him a BB gun, so that he can still have fun. Enter the gun culture.

Choosing the right gun can be a complicated process. There are many different types for different applications. For personal defense of your home, a shotgun is excellent because of its bullet spread and power. Handguns are also good because they are smaller and easy to carry and use. Rifles are best for hunting or being able to engage multiple targets from a distance. They come in all sorts of styles and calibers.

Like any major purchase, you should research online or with professionals about what you are looking for and which guns have a proven track record of reliability and functionality. There are plenty of resources available to give you the best information on firearm reviews and safe gun handling.

Once you have a firearm you need to find a place to shoot with it. There are usually ranges, both indoor and outdoor, in most areas that give you a safe place to practice. Your local gun store or Google are good resources to find these places. There are also gun clubs and private land that allow for shooting. Like any activity, it is good to get plugged into the local community to share tips and make your shooting experience more fun.

Take advantage of your freedom and exercise your right to bear arms. Whether for recreation or the feeling of self-reliance, gun ownership will give you a good feeling inside. Don’t knock it until you try it.

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The views expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.
Democrats and Republicans do not agree on much nowadays, but my guess is most can agree on two things: 1) America faces many complex and pressing issues and 2) America needs a President to lead on solutions for these issues. So as the 2012 election nears, there is no doubt that America needs the best candidates that the Democrats and Republicans can produce.

The Democrats already have their strongest candidate: Barack Obama. Obama has already won the presidency and shown that he can effectively govern.

While many on the left are unhappy with some of his policies, that should not lead them to support a primary opponent. A primary opponent, even someone as popular as Hillary Clinton, would weaken Obama and their party at a time when it can only win united. Anyone who thinks otherwise is a few sandwiches short of a picnic.

Then there are the Republicans, whose primary for the Presidential nomination is similar to an episode of “The Jersey Shore”: entertaining but frequently applies: marijuana. Possession of a multi-billion dollar hemp industry to the U.S. economy. Given the economic state of the country, it is hard to find an easier way to increase revenue and cut expenses than the legalization, regulation and taxation of cannabis products. I can hardly begin to cover the issues related to marijuana legalization in one Viewpoint article, but I urge anyone who reads this to take the time to do some of your own research. Question the entrenched misconceptions about marijuana, and if you come to the same conclusions I have, get involved and ask your administrators and politicians for more sensible drug policies.

Rick Santorum and Herman Cain is an embarrassing weak. (Note: Cain, Bachmann, Huntsman, Perry have dropped out of the race.) Many of the extreme candidates, who in any other election would have received little to no support, have briefly held the front-runner position or a close second. First, there was Bachmann, whose chronic use of inaccurate facts and figures (look at her polifact.com pro-file) during debates caught up with her when she suggested that a certain vaccine leads to mental retardation. Next, was Perry, who after making his debate performances hard for everyone to watch even before his charge when he was unable to name the third cabinet position that he would eliminate as President. After Perry was Cain, a man with no governing experience who was unable to respond when asked a question about Libya.

After Cain was Gingrich, a man who could fill a 747 with his personal baggage, whether it be his three wives (two of which were mistresses), his insensitive and inflammatory remarks, or his many, many, many bad ideas. Finally, Santorum, a man who lost his re-election bid for Senate in 2006 by 18%, had a surge after conservatives could flock to no one else. All the while the moderate (and normal) candidates like Romney and Huntsman have been at the rank and file.

Political parties rarely put forward all of their best potential candidates, but usually many are in the field. This is not so for the Republican primary. The ideal Republican candidates are: John Thune, Senator from South Dakota, Paul Ryan, Representative from Wisconsin (a runner up for Time’s 2011 person of the year), Chris Christie, Governor of New Jersey, Mitch Daniels, Governor of Indiana, Rody Giuliani, former mayor of New York City, Jeb Bush, (yes, another Bush) former Governor of Florida, in addition to Romney and Huntsman.

It is no secret that I want Obama to win in 2012. And the easiest way for this to happen would be for one of the weaker candidates (i.e. Gingrich) to face Obama in the general election. It would be much harder for the President to win against Romney or Huntsman, so my inner political hack says I should root for Gingrich to win the nomination.

But then the inner American takes over. I did not name the Republicans above because I agree with them. On the contrary, I disagree with these men on most issues. But as America faces many pressing issues, it deserves the best candidates that each party can provide. While hope against Gingrich would be a win nevertheless, it will not give Obama the electoral mandate he needs to move forward with his agenda that a win against Romney, Huntsman or one of the above Republicans would.

As the Republican convention nears, it looks more and more like Romney will be the nominee, but most Repub-
licans support him only grudgingly. This intolerance against moderates has made them fail to realize that Romney is the only candidate that can win both the Republican primary and general election, and Huntsman is the only person who could deliver a decisive win against Obama in a general election.

What a tragic mistake.

In the most recent Batman movie, “The Dark Knight”, a comparison is drawn between the “hero that Gotham needs and the hero that it deserves”. The context is that Gotham, a city seized by corruption, needs a hero with the power and moral ability to save it. But since Gotham has sunk so low, it does not deserve a hero of this stature.

The same can be said about the Repub-
licans: Huntsman and Romney are the heroes that the Republicans need, but Bachmann, Paul, Perry, Cain, Gin-
grich and Santorum are the politicians that they deserve.

Adam Newman is a junior finance major. He can be reached at adam.newman@nd.edu. The views expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.
“Shame” is in a rare class of films. It’s that once-in-a-blue-moon movie that’s undeniably great (dare I say, almost a masterpiece), yet too difficult to watch. It leaves you on the edge of your seat, ready to prematurely walk out of the theater.

It’s a feat really, turning a man’s desperate pursuit of sex into a cringe-worthy two hours. It so finely walks the extremely thin line between being sick and pornographic, and graphic enough that you feel the need to turn away but can’t bear to. And therein lies the genius of Steve McQueen’s sophomore effort: the fact that the visceral power is in what you don’t see. It would have been so easy for McQueen, who embraced the film’s NC-17 rating, to make it less about a sex addict’s mental and emotional unraveling and more about his sexcapades.

Michael Fassbender portrays the sex addict. And if his Ryan Gosling-like presence all over the silver screen in 2011 films wasn’t enough to make America notice, then his performance in this film should be.

Fassbender plays Brandon Sullivan, a Wall Street playboy who lives a solitary existence if not for his frequent encounters with prostitutes, one-night stands and nightly adult video chats. His ailment is all too human at first glance, and maybe even praiseworthy by society’s tendency to congratulate and emulate playboys. Beneath the surface, however, he’s broken and utterly sick. For him, sex isn’t a matter of pleasure, or even remotely a matter of emotional connectedness. Rather, it is a life-blood without which he’d have nothing to live for, except for maybe the one scrap of family he has left — his troubled younger sister Sissy (Carey Mulligan).

The film opens with Brandon staring emptily at the ceiling ahead, his bed sheets half-draped across his naked body. As the film’s title vanishes from the screen, Brandon gets up and moves about almost like a zombified version of a man. From that moment on, his sexual encounters (especially one that doesn’t even directly involve him) increasingly operate in agonizing fashion, taking momentary breaks from time to time to allow the audience to come up for air.

Fassbender, despite a career-defining turn, won’t win any of the high-profile awards for his performance. McQueen, who in his second film once again shows he has that rare Lars von Trier-like ability to get his actors to give him everything, won’t win either. The film shares the same fate simply because, to put it bluntly, no nationally broadcast awards show can get away with endorsing a movie even half as controversial as this one.

Nevertheless, “Shame” is one of this year’s best films. It tears you apart on the inside and cuts deep — deeper in some than in others — and whether you love or hate it, “Shame” is more of an experience than a film. A challenging experience to sit through, but an experience nonetheless.
By KEVIN NOONAN
Scene Writer

The Keough-Naughton Institute Irish Film Series will bring the critically acclaimed film “The Guard” to the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center this Friday.

The film, set in rural Ireland, stars Brendan Gleeson (whom Harry Potter fans might recognize as Professor Moody) and Don Cheadle as a local police officer and an FBI agent forced to team up to investigate a drug trafficking ring.

Gleeson and Cheadle’s characters could not be more different. Cheadle plays a straight-laced, uptight modern officer of the law. Gleeson, on the other hand, portrays a freewheeling and unintentionally racist cop from backwoods Ireland who is at least as comfortable at a bar or with call girls as he is investigating crime, if not more so.

The concept of an odd-couple buddy cop movie is hardly original on the surface. But Gleeson delivers the imperfections of his character’s character to such perfection, that the movie rises above any comparisons to a run of the mill action thriller.

The first interaction between Gleeson’s Sergeant Gerry Boyle and Cheadle’s agent Wendall Everett consists of Boyle expressing his shock at learning that not all drug dealers are black.

Sergeant Boyle goes on to learn that Everett is from Milwaukee, which naturally leads him to ask if the agent grew up in the projects. He is again shocked to learn that not all black kids grow up in extreme poverty. This exchange leads to one of the greatest lines in the movie, as well as a perfect description of the way Gleeson plays his character.

Everett proclaims, “I can’t tell if you’re really [freaking] dumb, or really [freaking] smart.” Boyle sits in silence, responding with a goofy smile, not giving anything away.

The film is entertaining and humorous throughout, and can be seen at DPAC this Friday at 6:30 and 9:30 p.m. Tickets are $3 for students and can be found on the center’s website.

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Sports Authority

Don't get sick with the LoB City Disorder

If Albert Pujols went to the Mets, would that make the Mets automatically better than the Yankees? Not necessarily. Pujols has been with the Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim for the past six years. The Mets have the chance to get Pujols now, which would make for an interesting scenario. The Mets have a lot of money to spend, but they also have a lot of questions about their offense. Pujols would be a great addition to the Mets, but it would take more than that to make the Mets a contender.

This is the step-by-step guide to curing a for-profit health epidemic spreading across the nation, mostly through the alarmist Bill Simmons, who lives in L.A. and is a Celtics fan and Laker-haters everywhere. It's all about manipulating the numbers.

Ricky Rhematolism — apparently spreading like the plague in the logistics of 50,000 jobs.

LoB City Disorder attacks the brain, constantly creating an aversion to the colors purple and gold. It makes you think grandiosely about things such as “The Clippers are the best team in Los Angeles” and “Donald Sterling is such a great owner” when in fact you should be asking yourself: Why do the Clippers have a team name that sounds like someone in the Food Figurine that stands in front of my Scholar Center?

The Lakers have five rings from seven NBA Finals attempts in the last decade. The Clippers have zero. And in the near future, do we honestly see the Clippers winning a championship? Can the addition of Chris Paul (coupled with the subtraction of any core of solid and role players to New Orleans) really make this team a compelling and viable threat out of the West?

First, this team with no playoff experience would have to get by the defending-champion Mavs and a very motivated Lakers, which was much easier for the Lakers to do than it was for the Clippers.

The Clippers added one All-Star player to their roster, and now they are bigger than the facade of the Coliseum.

It’s pretty sad, looking at the Clippers crowd. Most are there to see the opposing team (this title is guilty) and some are there to see Chris Paul. Paul on selflob is Blake Griffin. They aren’t there to see the Clippers, who actually have an aesthetically pleasing game of basketball. Don’t believe me? Count the number of Eric Gordon jerseys — or Clippers jerseys at all, for that matter — in the crowd.

And even if the Clippers beat the Lakers in the next 100 meet -tings, they are probably in the first 30-point, 30-rebound game since 1982, becoming one of the rare big men who can shoot reliably from 3-point range and finally giving the franchise a star player that fans could cheer for after Garnett was traded — there still was some debate entering the season about whether Love deserved a max extension.

Skeptics noted that Love wasn’t the kind of player to create his own shot in late-game situations and struggled on the defensive end, which meant that all the huge numbers he was piling up rarely led to victories.

But as this season has opened, Love quickly showed that the only debate left about his value to the Timberwolves was the length of the contract. He showed up to training camp 25 pounds lighter than last year and in perfect shape, which has served him well.

He’s also added a step-back jumper and a turnaround shot that allows him to create space between himself and the defender and is improving as a help defender on the other end. He drilled a 27-foot 3-pointer at the buzzer to beat the Clippers in Los Angeles and scored 39 points and grabbed 12 rebounds in a loss against Houston on Monday.

The four-year deal gives the Timberwolves some flexibility going forward and keeps that “option player” five-year option available for Rubio, Neal, George, Williams or another player down the road.

All three players, and Adelman, could have their contracts up in the summer of 2015.

“...It’s good to have our centerpiece,” Williams said. “We need a guy like him to put up 25 and 10 every night... I had a feeling he would stay with the fan base he’s built.”

Even though his play may not have indicated it, Love said the situation was wearing on him as the doubt approached. He said he was relieved that it was all over and would play “with a chip on my shoulder” after not getting the five-year deal.

“I don’t think that’s a negative,” Adelman said. “It was a very close call. I don’t believe, however, that Kevin will be affected by it. I believe that Kevin, deep down, cares about one thing and one thing only, winning. And I think that he understands that, to the extent that this might help us get to our team objectives, that’s OK with it.”

If there was any disappointment about Love settling for a shorter contract, Adelman didn’t see it.

“I was hoping for 10 years, for me,” the coach deadpanned. “I think he understands. You don’t want to be someplace where you feel you are stuck and immediately starts complaining. He sees the opportunity. I’m hoping he relieves a little bit and we can start making him a more complete player.

The Observer accepts classifieds every business day from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Notre Dame Office, 024 South Daring Hall. Deadline for classifieds is Monday at 3 p.m. All classifieds must be prepared in one-inch type, not more than 40 characters per character per page, including space. The Observer reserves the right to edit all classifieds for content without refusing.”

SPORTS AUTHORITY

NBA

Love signs four-year extension

Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Kevin Love watched friends Derrick Rose and Russell Westbrook sign five-year extensions this season and wondered if it was the same scenario with the Minnesota Timberwolves.

As the clock ticked down toward the deadline, it became abundantly clear that owner Glen Taylor and president of basketball operations David Kahn didn’t want to go that far. So two sides found a middle ground.

Love signed a four-year maximum extension worth more than $60 million that allows him to opt out after three years.

The deal offers the flexibility and protection from injuries that the Timberwolves were seeking while giving the 23-year-old Love the freedom to become an unrestricted free agent after the 2016-17 season if he so chooses.

“Did I want the five years? Of course I did,” Love said on a conference call from Dallas, where the Timberwolves were facing the Mavericks on Wednesday night. “It was something I felt strongly about. But the approach was basically I’m honestly seeing the five-year deal is still great.”

Under the new collective bargaining agreement, teams can offer for one player on their roster a five-year deal with anywhere from 7.5 percent, which is one year longer and three percentage points higher than what would have been offered.

Love has emerged as the new face of the franchise since Kevin Garnett era, an All-Star who led the NBA in rebounding last season and is off to an even better start this year. He is fifth in the NBA in scoring (24.9 points per game), second in rebounds (13.9) and first in minutes (39.4).

“Right now, this is what this team is...our leader,” point guard Ricky Rubio said. “We appreciate what he does and we support him 100 percent.

Coupled with the additions of coach Rick Adelman and Rubio, Love has helped form a genuine championship foundation. Still, Love can leave if he wants. The Timberwolves have his player option for the first four-year deal and will go from there.

With this grueling, lockout-shortened season still only a quarter -way through, the Timberwolves are one of the rare big men who can shoot reliably from 3-point range and finally giving the franchise a star player that fans could cheer for after Garnett was traded — there still was some debate entering the season about whether Love deserved a max extension.

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ST. PAUL, Minn. — Minnesota Vikings owner Zygi Wilf said Wednesday that the team wants a new stadium in the Twin Cities, even if it means building on the current site of the Metrodome.

Wilf and team officials met privately with Gov. Mark Dayton, several state lawmakers, Minneapolis Mayor R.T. Rybak and others to discuss tearing down the Metrodome and rebuilding there.

The meeting came after several days in which the team’s bid for public funding appeared on the brink of falling apart, at least for the year, as Dayton proclaimed two other site options unworkable and Wilf was said to be frustrated that a proposal to build in suburban Arden Hills had been discarded.

The group emerged after more than three hours to say the Metrodome site would be the focus of stadium negotiations going forward.

Concerns about the site remain, meeting participants said: the Vikings face a costly and logistically difficult relocation to the University of Minnesota’s football stadium for three seasons, and team officials are concerned the Metrodome location offers too little space for new parking, game-day tailgating, and adjacent development projects.

Another Minneapolis option, on the other side of downtown, appeared to be completely dead.

While the Vikings had been warming to the site, opposition on the Minneapolis City Council and its proximity to a historic Catholic Church — whose rector threatened to sue to prevent it — apparently doomed its prospects.

No one was ready to write off the Arden Hills option entirely. Wilf said while the team still has hopes for Arden Hills, “we will leave it up to the legislative working group to decide where they would want us to work hardest at.”

The Vikings have sought a replacement to the Metrodome for nearly a decade, contending it no longer generates sufficient revenue for the team to keep up with other NFL clubs, most of which are playing in new or renovated facilities.

The Vikings used part of the building with the Twins and the University of Minnesota, but both opened new stadiums within the last two years.

Building a new stadium on the same spot as the Metrodome is an old idea, with a number of plans and blueprints sketched out in recent years.

But the team backed the Arden Hills proposal last spring after state lawmakers told them to find a willing host. As Minneapolis leaders waffled on rebuilding downtown, Ramsey County commissioners swooped in to offer a large suburban swath of land in the St. Paul suburb that once held an Army ammunition plant.

The team envisioned not only a stadium but space for a training camp and museum, plenty of room for tailgating and other game-day activities and the possibility of related retail and hotel development that prompted some critics to dub the project “Zygi-World.”
Top four ranked players advance to semifinals

Associated Press

MELBOURNE, Australia — With Novak Djokovic clutching his leg and struggling to breathe, it looked like the "Big 4" semifinal lineup at the Australian Open might not come together.

Then Djokovic's championship instincts kicked in.

The top-ranked Serb held off No. 5 David Ferrer in a second-set tiebreaker Wednesday night and then raced through the third set for a 6-4, 7-6 (4), 6-1 win, setting up a rematch of last year's final against fourth-ranked Andy Murray.

Order was restored.

For 10 days, nearly everyone at Melbourne Park has talked about the top four players and how they are on a higher level than the rest of men's tennis. But with the other three already in the semis, Djokovic looked to be in trouble in the second set.

"No, I don't have any physical issues," Djokovic said, playing down any health concerns. "I feel very fit and I feel mentally, as well, very fresh."

"It's just today I found it very difficult after a long time to breathe because I felt the whole day my nose was closed a little bit. I just wasn't able to get enough oxygen."

The win ensured that the top four men reached the semifinals for the third time in four Grand Slams. Murray beat Kei Nishikori of Japan 6-3, 6-3, 6-1 earlier Wednesday.

"I'm really fit and I have no concerns of recovering for the next match. It's just a matter of breathing better through the nose," Djokovic calmly explained of his on-court demeanor. "Actually I'm not concerned about that at all.

"I'm really fit and I have no concerns of recovering for the next match. It's just a matter of breathing better through the nose," he added.

That may not be how Murray's new coach, Ivan Lendl, sees it. Murray and Djokovic have been playing each other since they were 12, and know each other so well they sometimes hit together and kick a soccer ball around.

ST. LOUIS — Fans are wondering about the fate of football in St. Louis as a deadline approaches for a plan to upgrade the home of the Rams.

Next Wednesday, Feb. 1, is the deadline for the St. Louis Convention and Visitors Commission to outline how it will transform the Edward Jones Dome into a "first-tier" stadium by 2015. If it fails to do so, the Rams can break their lease — and potentially move — after the 2014 season.

The commission has been meeting with city and county officials for several weeks on how to upgrade the dome, and how to pay for it. No one is discussing details. Messages left with Mayor Francis Slay's chief of staff Jeff Rainford and with St. Louis County Executive Charlie Dooley's spokesman, Mac Scott, were not returned.

Commission President Kathleen Ratcliffe declined comment. The commission said in a statement that the likelihood of success "is enhanced when the parties can make a frank exchange of information, on an ongoing confidential basis."

"I'm really fit and I have no concerns of recovering for the next match. It's just a matter of breathing better through the nose," he added.
Babcock continued from page 16

"Sometimes when I’m really feeling down, [I think] I’m here for a reason. I wouldn’t have had such a weird experience with getting in if I wasn’t supposed to be here," he said. "It’s really strenuous like finals week and exams, it’s like, ‘This is really stressful. I can’t handle it.’ I believe that God would tell me, ‘I’m putting you here for a reason. You can handle it.’"

An exceptional role model for the team’s 16 freshmen, Babcock’s passion for Irish sports became evident at an Irish volleyball match several months ago.

"The first match, I think the girls lost, so we were like, ‘We’ve got to pump these girls up!’ he said. "I would like to leave here knowing that either I changed the school or my team. My dorn in a positive way. I’d like to say I did something.”

Last year, Babcock was a recipient of the Biever-Hipp award, which is presented annually to the freshman who best demonstrates vitality, competitiveness and love for Notre Dame. The award is named in honor of former Irish swimmers Meghan Biever and Colleen Hipp, two freshmen who died in a bus accident Jan. 24, 1992.

"What all my coaches seem to have taught me is that you get out what you put in. Basically, whatever you want to do, you can," Babcock said. "I try to set the pace in every practice. I’m a fun-loving guy outside the pool, but [I try] to work as hard as I can every time I enter the pool.”

"The Irish will host the Shamrock Invitational on Friday at Rolfs Aquatic Center. The Observer

Sanders continued from page 16

I have teammates next to me cheering me on and pushing me to be the best I can be. We are all fighting to win together, as a team.

Sanders is already establishing herself as one of the top competitors in this spring, despite being only three matches into the season. She swept each of her matches in singles competition at the No. 4 spot. At No. 2 doubles, Sanders and fresh- man partner Katherine White are placed 25th in the Intercollegiate Tennis Association pre-season rankings.

"My ranking with Katherine is both hers and my first college ranking," Sanders said. "We’re very excited but also want to continue to improve. We’re working very hard in practice in order to claim more wins and hopefully move up in [the] rankings.”

Sanders said another difficult part about college competition is handling the stress that comes with being a college athlete and a top student.

"We are going to be traveling a lot this semester, so we have to make sure we keep up with our school work and at the same time compete against other schools," Sanders said. "At times it’s stressful balancing the two.”

As for season goals, Sanders said hers align perfectly with the team’s ultimate goal: to bring a national championship home to Notre Dame.

"We will continue to work hard in practice and fight for every match in order to achieve that," Sanders said. "We’re not going to be satisfied until we want that title and nothing else.”

Contact Katherine Heitz at kheitz@nd.edu

Belle continued from page 16

the Thunder 45-25. Saint Mary’s forced Trine into shooting only 33 percent from the floor. The Belles, on the other hand, thrived against the Thunder defense.

"Trine played a zone defense against us," Henley said. "It allowed us to get to some spots on the floor, and made a point of getting the ball to Loveberry.

"We need to just keep doing what we are doing and get offensive boards as well," Henley said. "Also I think we need to get to the free-throw line more than we did tonight, and when we are on the line we need to make more shots.”

The Belles 3-1 this season reached the free-throw line 12 times for the game, shooting only 38 percent.

Saint Mary’s will look to improve upon that mark when it takes on Hope, who won the previous meeting 74-56.

"Hope is coming in and that is a really good team. They have a great group with four starters back," Henley said.

Contact Brendan Bell at bbell2@nd.edu

NCAA BasketBall

Seminoles blow out Deacons

Associated Press

WINSTON-SALEM, N.C. — Wake Forest lost its best shot blocker to injury. One of its top scorers couldn’t seem to do anything right.

No wonder the Demon Deacons found themselves on the wrong end of another blowout.

No. 23 Florida State took advantage of the holes in Wake Forest’s lineup in a 75-30 romp Wednesday night.

The Demon Deacons lost more than their game and lost Ty Walker to a concussion after the 7-foot center was hurt in a collision with 9:50 left in the first half. He averages nearly three blocked shots and had swatted away four attempts before he was injured.

For complicating things, second-leading scorer Travis McKee — whose average of 17.2 points was 6.1 points behind C.J. Harris for the team lead — was a season-worst 1-3 and finished with three points.

"Losing Ty Walker really put us in a tailspin," coach Buzz Williams said. "I told McKee that ‘no player in the history of basketball has gone on to make double digits for the Thunder.

Henley said the team will look to carry the momentum from its last two games moving forward. Saint Mary’s improved its record to 5-3 at home and hosts Hope on Saturday as it looks to reach the 500 mark early in the season.

"We need to just keep doing what we are doing and get offensive boards as well," Henley said. "Also I think we need to get to the free-throw line more than we did tonight, and when we are on the line we need to make more shots.”

That’s partially because Flori- da State coach Leonard Hamil- ton said the lead to 50-32 with just under 10 minutes left.

"That’s why we were down," Bzdelik said. "We weren’t stopping them and they weren’t stopping them outside.”

"We took a lot of jump shots in the beginning of the game, and we wanted to just get it inside and be more physical. We knew they were larger inside from foul trouble and injuries, so we just wanted to pound it inside, go to our advantage right now,”

Snover scored 18 points and hit four 3-pointers. Okaro White added 11 points and Xavier Cab- son had 10. That helped the Sem- inoles (14-6, 5-3) win their fifth straight ACC game, their longest winning streak in league play in two years.

The ACC co-leaders shot nearly 51 percent — 68 percent in the second half — and outscored Wake Forest 40-16 in the paint. The Seminoles also held Wake Forest without a field goal with an 18-2 run shortly after halftime.

"I just kind of tried to slow it down, get the ball inside, get points inside the paint, take it to the free-throw line," Snover said. "We took a lot of jump shots in the beginning of the game, and we wanted to just get it inside and be more physical. We knew they were larger inside from foul trouble and injuries, so we just wanted to pound it inside, go to our advantage right now.”

Florida State earned its third victory in 12 days against the schools from North Carolina’s Tobacco Road.

The Seminoles beat then-No. 3 North Carolina by 33 points in Tallahassee, Fla., before Snover’s buzzer-beater 3 gave the Seminoles a fourth-ranked Blue Devils their first home loss in nearly three years.

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Today, we did a little bit more with free throws at the shootaround," Brey said. "Even pregame, I told the assistants, 'Get the guys to the foul line more.' I thought it really paid off because we really emphasized it today."

The Irish turned a 19-18 halftime lead into a 10-point advantage behind a 10-1 run over the first 4:20 of the second half.

Brey said this win was bigger than the win over then-No. 1 Syracuse. "You handled a great win so well mentally then turn around and beat a really good team," Brey said. "I told our group, 'If you get this one, I think you're showing signs of possibly being special.' And they delivered. So let's be greedy and go on to Hartford and get another one." The Irish face No. 24 Connecticut on Sunday in Hartford, Conn.

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said. "We want to go out and have fun again, and we need to get back to just enjoying the hockey.

"Coach is just making sure that we stay focused," Lorenz said.

Though the CCHA race is of prime concern, the Irish no doubt have aspirations to make the field for the 2012 NCAA championship and improve on last year's defeat in the Frozen Four.

The field will consist of 16 teams, 11 of which will be selected by the Pairwise comparison ranking system.

Notre Dame sits fourth in the most recent Pairwise rankings, one of five CCHA teams in the top 10. Joining Notre Dame are third-ranked Ohio State, fifth-ranked Michigan, and tied-for-sixth Ferris State and Northern Michigan.

Despite the fact that the conference will disband following next season, it appears the CCHA will be heavily represented on the national stage at this season's end.

"Our conference is, right now, proving to be tougher than any other conference."

Jeff Jackson
Irish coach

Notre Dame hockey fans may have dreams of Hockey East in their heads, but for now, the CCHA is as healthy as ever.

Contact Chris Allen at callen10@nd.edu
**Men’s Basketball**

**ND sinks Pirates**

*By MATTHEW DeFRANKS*

*Sports Writer*

When Notre Dame defeated No. 1 Syracuse on Saturday, it took the Irish 26 seconds from the opening tipoff to add a total of three points. On Wednesday night against Seton Hall, the Irish did not pass the threshold until 10:06 remained on the clock.

The Irish, however, survived the slow start to beat the Pirates 55-42.

The teams combined for eight turnovers before the first basket, which came after nearly five minutes of game action. The Irish, who started the game 1-of-11 from the field, finished the game shooting 35 percent from the floor.

Seton Hall senior forward Herb Pope and senior guard Jordan Theodore entered the game averaging nearly 17 points apiece. Pope, before fouling out, managed just five points on two of 16 shooting from the field. Theodore, meanwhile, tallied 11 points.

There’s no question [junior forward] Jack Cooley was great and [senior guard] Aaron Martin chopping a little and [junior forward] Tom Knight gave us minutes,” Irish coach Mike Brey said in an interview with und.com. “Jack was fabulous with his body position and his physical presence on the paint. [Pope] nearly never really got going and that was the key.”

Cooley finished up his 17-point, 10-rebound effort against Syracuse with a 13-point, 11-rebound outing against the Pirates. Cooley was one of three Irish players to notch double-figures. Seton Hall’s 42 points were the fewest Notre Dame has allowed this season.

“Cooley was the key,” Brey said. “He did a heck of a job guarding that and frustrating them with that.”

**SMC Basketball**

**Belles top Trine, earn second straight win**

*By BRENDAN BELL*

*Sports Writer*

Saint Mary’s defeated conference opponent Trine 59-48 to earn its second consecutive win. The Belles (9-10, 5-5 CCHA) started the game exchanging scores, but with under eight minutes left in the half, Saint Mary’s began to expand on its lead. By halftime the Belles had a 33-22 margin over the Thunder, with contributions from senior forward Jessica Gonta and senior guard Maggie Ronan.

Saint Mary’s coach Jennifer Henley says the week of practice contributed to the team’s success.

“The biggest thing today was rebounding,” Henley said. “We emphasized rebounding all week, and they came out here today and did just that.”

The Belles recorded 23 offensive rebounds and out-rebounded the Thunder 51-36.

**Women’s Tennis**

**Sanders embarks on sophomore campaign**

*By KATHERINE HEIT*

*Sports Writer*

The spring season has barely begun and Britney Sanders is already proving that, at least for her, sophomore slumps are a myth.

Sanders, who came to Notre Dame from Ontario as the 21st-ranked prospect, spent her senior year of high school playing doubles with fellow Irish sophomore Julie Saba-
cinski.

“I couldn’t speak. I was stunned,” Sanders said of one of the challenges college play brings is transitioning from individual competition, which she was familiar with in high school, to the more team-oriented play that college provides.

“Before college, I represented and competed for myself, I was alone on the court,” Sanders said. “I just started competing and competing for the Notre Dame women’s tennis team.”

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**Men’s Swimming and Diving**

**Babcock looks to add to rich Irish tradition**

*By MEGAN GOLDEN*

*Sports Writer*

After a wild ride with the University’s Admissions Office, sophomore swimmer Colin Babcock distinctly remembers how it felt to be accepted to Notre Dame.

Babcock grew up in a house divided between Louisiana State University and Notre Dame athletics.

The product of St. Paul’s High School in New Orleans, La., Babcock and his family were constantly in his ear about the possibility of one day attending their alma mater and competing for the Irish.

During his senior year of high school, Babcock visited Louisiana State University, William & Mary, and Notre Dame.

Following his visit to South Bend, he said his decision was a no-brainer, provided that he was accepted.

“I was basically raised to go to this school,” he said. “It was the school in the country, and who doesn’t love Notre Dame?”

When he spoke with the Notre Dame Admissions Office in April of his senior year, however, Babcock was informed that he had not been accepted to the school he had dreamed of attending for as long as he could remember.

“I took all the Notre Dame stuff off the wall. I kind of made a burn pile and I might have punched a hole in my wall, I can’t remember,” he said.

Just five hours later, Babcock received a phone call from Irish associate head coach Matt Tallman. Admissions had placed the Irish recruit on the list of rejections by mistake.

“I couldn’t speak. I was stunned,” Babcock said. “It was an awesome feeling. It was kind of like, ’Alright I guess I’ll put [the posters] back up on the wall.’”

Babcock said he was attracted to Notre Dame in part because of his Catholic faith. Attending Bowling Green Mass as often as possible, he said his relationship with God plays a huge role in his everyday life.

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