**GSA resolution passes**

By MARISA IATI

Student Senate passed a resolution requesting the University approve an application for a gay-straight alliance (GSA) on Wednesday. The resolution also requested the University offer a public statement explaining its decision on the application.

Twenty-one members of Senate voted to approve the resolution and two members abstained from voting.

Junior Katie Rose, gender issues director for student government and vice president-elect, said student government’s records show the possibility of an official gay-straight alliance has been discussed since at least 1989. Senate entered into closed, executive session for much of its discussion about the resolution. When public discussion resumed, student body see GSA/page 6

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**Whole Foods to open in fall**

High-end grocer will offer more dietary options to students

By TORI ROECK

Health-conscious students will have options beyond the Huddle’s limited organic and gluten-free options when Whole Foods opens in Mishawaka in the fall.

After investigating the South Bend area for years, the high-end grocery chain will take over the 24,000 square foot space on Grape Road formerly occupied by Borders, according to the South Bend Tribune.

Sophomore Kelly Cronin said she is greatly looking forward to shopping at the new Whole Foods.

“There’s so much good food there,” Cronin said.

Cronin said she suffers from Celiac disease, which restricts her to a gluten-free diet. Although the dining hall offers special meals for her, Cronin said she is excited to take advantage of Whole Foods’ vast inventory of gluten-free products.

“Whole Foods has some great gluten-free options provided in the dining halls,” Cronin said.

The resolution also requested the University offer a public statement explaining its decision for a gay-straight alliance.

**Mendoza students aid local Montessori school**

By NICOLE MICHELS

Four Mendoza College of Business students are applying project management skills learned at Notre Dame to a local Montessori school.

Juniors Stephanie Boggs, Patrick Cotter, Barbara Smith and Devlin Lynch are using professor Corey Angel’s Project Management class to help Good Shepherd Montessori School increase enrollment.

Good Shepherd develops classroom directly to real world experience after choosing their clients from a list of interested organizations, Angel said.

“We want to send the message to our work and our lives, [taking] the preferential option for the poor and [making] the world a place where it is an easier place to be good.”

Room exists for improvement and expansion from the 16 students the school had when it opened 10 years ago, Leon-Driscoll said. Good Shepherd wants to increase class size, with the immediate goal of generating enough interest to open a preschool classroom.

“Our goal is to attract 20 new elementary-age students and 15 new preschoolers,” Leon-Driscoll said.

“The will ensure that we communicate with the entire class on a regular basis, as well as allow plenty of opportunities for the class to communicate with us,”
QUESTION OF THE DAY: WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE SONG TO SING IN THE SHOWER?

Adrianna Perales  
Junior  
Holy Cross  
"It's Raining Me by The Weather Girls."

Allie Schultz  
freshman  
McCandless  
"I Wanna Dance With Somebody by Whitney Houston."

Alyssa Baz  
Junior  
Holy Cross  
"The Sun Will Come Out Tomorrow by Annie."

Grace Urankar  
sophomore  
Holy Cross  
"Friday Bay by Rebecca Black."

Jordie Wasserman  
freshman  
McCandless  
"You Belong With Me by Taylor Swift."

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

IN BRIEF

Tim Hart, president of Credibility Consulting, will give a lecture titled, "Financial Services: The Broken Promises," today at 12:30 p.m. in Giovanni Commons, located on the lower level of the Mendoza College of Business. This lecture is part of Ethics Week, which seeks to encourage discussion of ethics in and out of the classroom.

The Nanovic Institute Film Series is sponsoring a showing of the movie "Melancholia" today at 6:30 p.m. in the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center. Directed by Lars Von Trier, the movie is rated R and has a running time of 136 minutes.

National Book Award Finalist Bonnie Jo Campbell will have a book reading today at 7 p.m. in the Eck Visitors’ Center as part of the Notre Dame Literary Festival. The reading will be followed by a Q&A session as well as an author signing.

Professor David Solomon, professor of Notre Dame and Baxter, is the author of "Broken Promises: The Most Controversial Decision: Harry Truman and the Bomb," today at 7:30 p.m. in the Hesburgh Center Auditorium. The panel will discuss President Truman’s decision to drop atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki to end WWII.

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

OFFBEAT

Bulldog adopts 6 wild boar piglets in Germany

BERLIN — Forget the three little pigs hiding from the big bad wolf. These six little pigs have found a new friend in a maternal French bulldog named Baby. The Lehnitz animal sanctuary outside Berlin said Baby took straight to the wild boar piglets when they were brought in Saturday, three days old and shivering from cold.

Sanctuary worker Norbert Damm said Wednesday that, as soon as the furry striped piglets were brought in. Baby ran over and started snuggling them and keeping them warm, even though they’re almost her size.

The 8-year-old bulldog has stayed right by their side since then, making sure they’re OK, Damm said.

“She thinks they’re her own babies,” Damm said.

It isn’t the first time Baby’s taken to new guests at the sanctuary - she’s also raised raccoons, cats and many other animals, Damm said.

“She’s an uber-mother,” he said.

Man wore ‘Scream’ mask in two robberies

MIAMI — A police have arrested an Indianapo- lis man in connection with two convenience store robberies in Mississippi where the thief wore a mask like the one used by the vil- lain in the 1990s slasher flick “Scream.”

Meridian police charged 33-year-old Jerry Jones with two counts of armed robbery.

Jones is suspected of robbing the two stores roughly four hours apart early Friday.

Both times, authorities say, he was wearing a mask like the one worn by the vil- lain in the film, “Scream,” which starred Neve Camp- bell, Courteney Cox, Drew Barrymore and David Ar- quette.

No one was injured in ei- ther incident.

Information compiled from the Associated Press.

The Observer regards itself as a professional publication and strives 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 (574) 631-4941 so we can correct our error.
Comedian O’Shea makes College laugh

By ANNA BOARINI
News Writer

Comedian Eric O’Shea had Saint Mary’s students in stitches Wednesday as he performed his routine in Carroll Auditorium, sponsored by the Student Activities Board (SAB).

O’Shea has been nominated for College Performer of the Year five times.

“I say that humbly [referring to his five nominations] — I expect the very best out of myself every show and want to leave a great impression,” he said. “I am very proud to be around after 17 years and to be working so much and, as I say, it is not hard to get there, it’s hard to stay there.”

Along with his five nominations, O’Shea has over 4 million hits on YouTube, has received a rave review from Steven Spielberg and was able to present at the Creative Emmys with Betty White, who he calls, “my golden girl.”

O’Shea said he has performed at colleges around the country for 17 years and has done about 60 shows a year since 1996.

“I became a comic because my thoughts could not survive in a nine-to-five world,” he said. “I’m curiously opinionated.”

Even though O’Shea has performed all over the country, he said he does not have a favorite place to do his act.

“I love what I do and to share my thoughts with young minds,” he said. “I don’t have a favorite place, although there is nothing like a show where the chemistry is perfect.”

O’Shea said his writing is for everyone — young and old, male and female. While he does not write for the college market specifically, he said his material fits in really well.

“She college market seems to be a good fit where they appreciate wit, pg-13, unique humor with a sizzle factor,” he said. “Colleges keep you honest. You can’t get away with cheap club bits and the students are privy to the very best, have a little swagger and have seen it all in terms of entertainment.

“it is a frustrated, self-deprecating look at everyday life with random ideas and thoughts thrown in for fun. It moves fast and keeps you relating.”

SAB member senior Allie Courtney said the group brought O’Shea to campus in an effort to make February a month full of fun.

“This semester we really tried to up our events in February and offer a different event every Wednesday,” she said. “February can be the worst month on campus with the weather and no break so we are just trying to make it better.”

This month, SAB has also shown the film “The Help,” hosted a tie-dye event and will show the film “50/50” next week.

Contact Anna Boarini at aboari01@saintmarys.edu
Professor researches violence

By ANNA BOARINI

While working in Northern Ireland over the past six years, Dr. Mark Cummings’ research team found that political violence affects the way families function, which in turn causes behavioral and mental health problems in children.

The team’s research was published on Child Development’s website and will run in a future issue of the journal, according to a Feb. 8 University press release.

Cummings, chair of the psychology department, said he first became interested in the conflict in Northern Ireland while he was a Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies fellow.

“I became interested in exploring the impact of political violence on families and children as a way to better understand possibility for peace process,” he said. “If you understand those pathways, then you understand more about how you might mediate problems by first understanding what the problems are at that level.”

In conducting the research, Cummings and his team worked with faculty living in Northern Ireland. The researchers from Northern Ireland conducted all the interviews, he said.

“When we started, the children were between 10 and 15,” he said. “Now we are on our sixth year studying approximately 1,000 families in Belfast.”

Mothers and children were interviewed and filled out a survey to assess the different measures of political violence they encountered, Cummings said.

“We developed measures of sectarian community violence and non-sectarian community violence,” he said. “We assessed interparental conflict, family conflict and parent-child conflict, especially parents controlling children’s behavior.”

Cummings said the researchers were also examining the emotional security of their participants, as well as the children’s adjustments.

Through interviews and surveys, the research team found that political violence, specifically that of Northern Ireland’s political and religious divisions, affects family units, which in turn affects children.

“This violence increases conflict between parents, increases family conflict, and that increases insecurity that children have about their communities and their families,” he said.

“Children under these conditions are experiencing stress, anxiety, aggression, social isolation. They’re all at that level.”

Society effect

The team has also found that children think that every society would be different, but different levels of society effect children’s emotional security about their community, their culture and their family’s matter to their adjustment.

Dr. Mark Cummings

Cummings said this research would also help understand youth and how political violence affects them everywhere, not just in Northern Ireland.

Contact Anna Boarini at aboa21@ saintmarys.edu

SGA Association prepares for student elections

By KRISTEN RICE

Saint Mary’s Student Government Association (SGA) is preparing for elections set to take place at the beginning of March.

The Observer reported Monday that SGA introduced a new organizational structure for the 2012-2013 school year. SGA held a meeting Wednesday night for potential candidates running for positions within the new structure in Senate, SGA, Student Activities Board (SAB), Student Diversity Board (SDB), Class Boards and Residence Hall Association (RHA).

“SGA chief of staff and senior Emily Skirtich gave attendees information about campaigning, highlighting its positive elements,” Cummings said.

“For these candidates, we are also brainstorming about election rules, such as vandalizing another candidate’s poster or students voting for their own tickets more than once, were also addressed. All candidates must get approval for all campaign materials by the Elections Committee and the Office of Student Involvement, Skirtich said. For Senate and SGA, the last day to get approval is Feb. 24. Any student planning on running for election on a Class Board, SAB, SDB or RHA must get approval by March 2.”

Any student who may not get a position in the Senate or SGA still has an opportunity to be involved in one of these activities, Skirtich said.

“There are plenty of ways to be involved. So do not be discouraged if you do not get the initial position that you want,” she said.

Changes will be made to the voting process to raise awareness, SGA vice president and senior Jacqualyn Zupancic said. SGA has decided to not only send links by email, but also allow students to vote in the Student Center from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Another informational meeting will be held tonight at 6 p.m. for interested students. Campaigning for office will begin at the end of February.

Voting for SGA and Senate will take place March 1, while voting for Class Boards, SAB, SDB and RHA will take place March 8.

Contact Kristen Rice at krice01@saintmarys.edu

The Office of Undergraduate Admissions invites applications and nominations for the position of Admissions Counselor.

Please come to an information session to learn more about the position. Current admissions counselors will be there to share their experiences.

Position will be posted in the coming weeks.
The Observer  NEWS  ndsmcobserver.com | page 5

Thursday, February 16, 2012

COUNCIL
continued from page 1

The Observer
Andrea Palm and Emily Voorde

"We are excited to begin working on allowing Domer Dollars to be used. Edity members, such as a parlour and a restaurant, are enthusiastic about enacting a number of initiatives."

"We'd like to host a festival on the quad during their sophomore year and enjoy the last of the 'warm' season together," he said. "We plan to organize care packages and outreach committees."

"The ticket also looks to continue some of the more popular events that our Class Councils have put on in the past, such as the Class Mass and expanding the 2014 class merchandise," Helpling said.

Nicholas Desmonde, Kerry Hunt, Jacob Kaminski, Matthew Schmit

Nicholas Desmonde said the members of his team are focused on delivering a number of exciting experiences to the members of the class of 2014 next year.

"Simply put, our ticket wants to create events for the class of 2014 that we can be proud of," he said. "Instead of focusing on an array of smaller events, we want to pursue large goals."

Desmonde said potential event ideas include having a new concert on campus in the fall semester along with multi-day service trips coupled with recreational activities such as a trip to Cedar Point.

The ticket, which also includes Kerry Hunt, Jacob Kaminski and Matthew Schmit, also wants to plan a charity dinner as one of their signature events.

"We'd like to host and sell tickets to an on-the-quadrangle dinner for some of the best food on campus (such as) steak, seafood, amazing deserts and music," he said. "The money collected would go to a charitable cause."

The ticket also wants to set his ticket apart from other potential candidates is the group's spirit of innovation.

"I believe what separates us from our opponents is our specific ideas and originality," he said. "We are excited and fired up for this." 

SENIOR CLASS COUNCIL
Tricia Corbran, Claire George, Daniel Klorod, Chris Chaplim

"A focus of our senior year should be on making an unforgettable experience filled with events that everyone feels truly involved in and that people actually want to go to," she said.

"Our campaign would include a "Senior Bar Throw-Down," a "Graduation Moose," as well as tours of the Stadium, tunnel and 14th Floor of the Hesburgh Library.

Another area of focus, Corbran said, is helping students transition from Notre Dame to the real world.

"We hope to hold a series comprised of several workshops ... with speakers on managing personal finances, how to cook more than Easy Mac but stay on budget, and getting students involved with alumni clubs and other students in the local community to help them ease into their next stage of life," Corbran said.

Megan Rodts, Caitlyn Koscielski, Kevin Mitchell, Louis Medina

The goal of Megan Rodts' ticket is to stay involved, centered and stay in active communication with the Class of 2013, Rodts said.

Rodts runs with Caitlyn Koscielski, Kevin Mitchell and Louis Medina.

Their platform, titled "Enriching Our Futures," aims to help students transition from Notre Dame to the real world.

"We're really excited about this lecture series because it will involve current faculty or Notre Dame alumni who have excelled in their professions, and will be focused on what they did during their senior years and immediately after college," Rodts said. "We are planning successful and vital to their career path," she said.

The ticket hopes to hold social events including a "Fall Senior Week" program in the week before graduation, as well as a senior tailgate at the last home football game, Rodts said.

She said her ticket has a great combination of "unique experiences" and "fresh perspective."

"We feel that it's really important because the current structure of the Class Council is very tailored for younger classes; yet as we grow, the system also needs to grow and adapt," she said. "We acknowledge that and look forward to helping your Class Council in order to provide for these more mature needs and program success."

Contact Sam Sweney at ssweney@nd.edu, Sara Felserstein at sfelsens@nd.edu, Marisa Iati at miati@nd.edu and Nicole Tocaner at ntocane@nd.edu

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Edith Kosiarski, Kevin Mitchell and Louis Medina

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A teacher works with children at the Good Shepherd Montessori School in South Bend. A group of Notre Dame students is assisting the school through a project management course.

Tom Lienhoop
Core Council member

"There's so much value in having a peer-to-peer organization that is recognized at the University."
CINEMA
WORTH THE WALK

Experience Notre Dame's THX-certified cinema right here on campus at the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center. Purchase your $3 student tickets now online at performingarts.nd.edu

MELANCHOLIA
(2011)
Thursday, February 16 at 6:30 PM and 9:30 PM
Friday, February 17 at 6:30 PM and 9:30 PM
Saturday, February 18 at 6 PM and 9 PM

Entertainment Weekly called Melancholia, "a movie masterpiece is hiding in plain sight.
One of the best buzzed films you’ll see.

THE GOONIES
(1985)
Saturday, February 18 at Midnight
Come prepared to do your best Truffle Shuffle!

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney is wooing tea party supporters in his home state of Michigan with a potentially risky strategy: blasting the auto industry bailout that many people credit with saving the state’s most vital industry.

The tactic seems designed to undermine Rick Santorum’s popularity with conservatives who dislike government intervention in business, even when the results appear defensible. It also reinforces Romney’s image as an experienced capitalist who understands the pain sometimes involved in making companies work.

Santorum’s fast rise in national polls has forced Romney to sharpen his criticisms of the former Pennsylvania senator. Santorum says his team will “plant our flag” in Michigan while also campaigning in other states.

A Romney loss in Michigan’s Feb. 28 primary would be hugely embarrassing, or worse, to his campaign. His team has promoted an aura of inevitability for Santorum, Newt Gingrich and Ron Paul. Thus far, he has bought far more TV advertising than they have.

When longtime Michigan political analyst Craig Ruff was asked if a Romney loss here is conceivable, he said: “I’m astounded, but yes.” Ruff worked for Republican Gov. William Milliken but now is an independent.

He said he was surprised by how vigorously Romney is criticizing the government rescue of General Motors and Chrysler in 2008-2009.

“Many, many Republicans have ties to the auto industry,” through investments or current or former employment, Ruff said. “He’s got a lot of explaining to do.”

Some GOP activists, however, said Romney’s actions make sense. He already was on record opposing the bailouts. So his Tuesday op-ed in the Detroit News gave him a chance to elaborate, they said. And his stance will appeal to business-oriented Republicans as well as more libertarian-leaning voters who oppose government intrusion in general.

“It may be dicey in the general election, but it’s not dicey to the primary,” said Lansing-based Republican strategist Steve Mitchell. “Republicans opposed the auto bailout. They opposed other bailouts. They oppose bailouts.”

A May 2010 poll conducted by EPIC-MRA for the Detroit Free Press found that nearly two-thirds of Michigan adults thought the auto bailout was a good idea. Republicans were more closely divided, with 51 percent calling it a good idea, and 43 percent calling it a bad idea.

Santorum, Gingrich and Paul also criticized the auto industry rescue, but Romney’s remarks have drawn more attention because of his ties to the state and the auto industry.


Romney made no mention of his GOP rivals or direct references to the auto bailout in an 18-minute speech to several hundred people at a rally Wednesday in Grand Rapids. He stuck to his standard attacks on President Barack Obama’s handling of the economy.

The auto bailout started when the Bush administration loaned money to GM and Chrysler to keep them from collapsing during the 2008 financial crisis.

The Obama administration brought the total to $81 billion, and Obama now calls the results a triumph.

“When I took office, the American auto industry was on the verge of collapse. And there were some folks who said we should let it die,” Obama said Wednesday in Wisconsin in a veiled swipe at Romney. "With a million jobs at stake, I refused to let that happen.”

GM emerged from bankruptcy as a considerably smaller company. It has repaid billions of dollars, but the federal government still holds much of the firm.

Chrysler was forced to join GM under the federal government and the United Auto Workers union also became big stockholders.

General Motors says it made $8 billion in profits in 2011, and GM and Chrysler claimed profits of $225 million for the fourth quarter of 2011.

In his op-ed, Romney said the car companies should have gone through regular bankruptcy procedures. Obama rushed in to help pro-Democratic labor unions andweren’t the job of “Washington insiders,” Romney said. Calling it “crony capitalism on a grand scale,” the former Massachusetts governor said: “Without big intervention, things there would be better.”

John Feehery, who oversaw the auto rescue for Obama, told the Free Press that Romney’s remarks were “a complete denial of the facts.” There was no private financing at the time to sustain the car companies, which would have been shattered and sold in pieces in normal bankruptcy procedures, he said.

Many nonpartisan economists agree with that view.

John Feehery, a Washington-based GOP strategist, said Romney is taking a risk. “My own view is that the auto bailout was pretty popular in Michigan, so recharacterizing that is stupid,” Feehery said.

As for Romney’s stances here, Feehery said: “Losing Michigan could be fatal.”

Romney was campaigning in Grand Rapids on Wednesday. Both he and Santorum planned to campaign in the Detroit area Thursday.

Michigan voters are just starting to learn of the effects that flooded Iowa, South Carolina and other early states. Romney and Santorum, and the independent committees that support them, are deciding whether to put up positive and negative ads.

A pro-Romney spot notes he “grew up in Michigan.”

An anti-Santorum ad, which ran in earlier states, says Santorum voted five times in Congress to raise the federal debt ceiling, an issue the tea party has turned into a battle cry. The ad calls Santorum a “big spender” and “Washington insider.”

Santorum is pushing back with an ad in which a Romney look-alike Santorum, but ends up splattering himself. “Mitt Romney’s ugly attacks are going to backfire,” the narrator says.
Chocolates sentiments

Valentine’s Day is a polarizing holiday. Some love it and go all out every year, wearing pink and red and handing out boxes upon boxes of conversation hearts. Others are extremely anti-Valentine’s and can’t stand all the gooey sentiment. There’s one thing, however, that unites the two factions: candy.

Especially chocolate. No matter where the chocolate comes from, be it a secret admirer, a care package from home, or post-Valentine’s candy sale at Martin’s, it never fails to make life just that much better. If you happen to be lucky enough to receive a bag of Dove chocolates, even the wrappers can brighten up an otherwise lousy day.

Every delicious bite of your mouth chocolate square comes with a short message intended to help each chocoholic feel a little better about him or herself. These messages range from good-natured words of encouragement such as “Mom to son: you’re the best.” to well-concealed advertisements like “Linger over chocolate longer.” Sometimes they’re a little strange, like my personal favorite: “Draw yourself a bath.” Other times, they dispense advice that, frankly, is imperative that we enjoy the training. Enjoy the sere legs, the piercing ah workouts and hundreds upon hundreds of pushups. Enjoy the aching shoulders, the monotonous hand wrapping and the repetitive technical drills, because for exactly half of those who were in the room that day, our version of the 2012 Bengal Bouts would be over after the first fight. More than four months of training would culminate in less than four minutes of battle.

Yet in victory or defeat, the simple realities of life that are reflected in those few lines are unlim ited.

You learn about strategy. You go in with a plan. And if you’re sitting in your corner after the first round with scarlet drops of blood painting your white Nikes, you decide that maybe it’s time to rethink that plan. You adapt. You sacrifice breathing out of your nose for the next couple rounds because just plugging up the left nostril isn’t going to stop those scarlet red drops from appearing on your shoes. Plans, adaptations and sacrifices, working together to ensure that the fight goes on.

You learn about complexity. The constant juggle between being the aggressor while playing defense at all times is a balance that even the most seasoned fighters must find. You learn about misconception, how stumbling on your own feet can look like a knock-down or how it is easy to judge from the sidelines yet once inside those ropes it is an entirely different ball game.

You learn about defeat and how to tip your hat to your opponent when he takes advantage of those three short rounds better than you do. The warning from your trusted veteran coach just a few weeks back, which you never wanted to believe but always knew was possible, appears at the front of your mind. You’re glad you took the time to enjoy the training, but the frustration of an immediate end to such a long journey is undeniable.

With that it is time for more strategizing, more adapting and more training, because there will surely be more challenges on the road before then. But no matter what happens between here and there, another fight awaits and it certainly must go on.

The things boxing reveals about life are what make it so enjoyable. Indeed, it makes what sports as a whole so enjoyable. They speak messages about people that are greater than the competitors themselves. They reaffirm that innate capacity of human beings to rise up to challenges, continue in battle and find virtue in defeat.

A look at the world outside the boxing ring is enough to produce a sense of hopelessness in even the most optimistic among us. From the indiscriminate killing in Syria to starvation in the Horn of Africa to the arms build ups between bitter enemies, it is easy to wonder what we have to look forward to in the months and years ahead.

It’s unclear exactly what role the U.S. should have in international affairs. It’s more unclear how so many world-wide problems have persisted for years and yet we’ve found no way to stop them. However, what is obvious is that something must change. Strategies need to be adapted and sacrifices have to be made. Lessons from yesterday’s defeat have to be applied in winning today. The killing and the starvation have to stop. The threats and the fears have to end.

Victory over all evil is unfortunately not entirely possible, but when the alternative to fighting back is indif ference, the fight must go on. With so many questions remaining with regard to the misfortunes of the world around us, one question remains above all others: Win or lose, what will the human family choose to make of its lessons learned from three minutes and 45 seconds in the ring?

John Sandberg is a sophomore political science major from Littleton, Colo. He can be reached at jsandbe1@nd.edu

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

The Federal Reserve. Ben Bernanke. Monetary Policy. You’re probably about to stop reading this column because it sounds about as exciting as your freshman philosophy lecture. But, if you think what the Fed says only matters to the wannabe bank-ers in Mendoza, preparing for Wall Street interviews, you might want to read on. Monetary policy affects businesses, your parents and, yes, even you. But first, what exactly is the Federal Reserve?

The Federal Reserve is the central bank of the United States. Its responsibilities range from regulation to providing banks with financial services, but one of its main tasks is to conduct monetary policy, which means it controls the supply of money. The Treasury prints cash, but the Fed gets to decide how much of it should be circulating in the economy.

Controlling the supply of money certainly makes monetary policy sound a whole lot sexier, doesn’t it? And Bernanke should be circulating in the economy. But does monetary policy really matter to you?

Well, do you buy things? Do you want a job someday? Do you eventually want to take out a mortgage or car loan? Monetary policy affects all of these things. The Fed manages employment, inflation and how much money is in the economy by influencing interest rates.

If the Fed increases the money supply, the unemployment rate declines, but inflation and interest rates rise. If the Fed decreases the money supply, the unemployment rate rises, but inflation and interest rates decline.

Ideally, there is a delicate balance: employment is high, inflation is stable and interest rates are moderate. However, in some situations where the economy is expanding or contracting, the balance is thrown off, and the Fed must intervene. Since the crisis in 2008, there has been some unprecedented intervention.

The latest mechanism the Fed is using to jump-start the economy is a new communications policy. The goal is clarity, but even clear communication sometimes needs a little interpretation. Here are some excerpts from the Jan. 25 statement by the Federal Open Markets Committee:

“While indicators point to some further improvement in overall labor market conditions, the unemployment rate remains elevated.”

Thanks, Ben. You didn’t have to tell us that the job market hasn’t fully recovered.

Although the national unemployment rate is predicted to decline to 8.3 percent from as high as 10 percent in 2009, the rate for people aged 20-24 is higher at 14.2 percent. Good luck with that job hunt, seniors!

“The Committee decided today to keep the target range for the federal funds rate at 0 to 1/4 percent.”

The target federal funds rate is the mechanism through which the Fed influences other interest rates. Reducing the target rate can go, this tool has been less effective, which is why Bernanke can keep on curving away.

However, barring extra credit, a curve can only go down to zero. It’s the same with interest rates. Since zero is as low as the target rate can go, this tool has been less effective, which is why Bernanke is enacting the new communications policy to tell us that these rates are going to be low for a very long time.

The hope is that increased communication and transparency will help the public manage expectations about the future, reduce economic uncertainty and facilitate decision-making. If you know ahead of time what the curve on a test is going to be, it affects how much you study.

“The Committee expects to maintain a high degree of policy accommodation and transparency policy ... and currently anticipates that economic conditions ... are likely to warrant extremely low levels for the federal funds rate at least through late 2014.”

Despite a generous curve, the economy is still collectively doing pretty poorly. So, now Professor Bernanke is telling us that he’s going to keep the curve coming until the economy starts passing. Actu- ally, more than just a curve. If you throw in a couple of review sessions, too, just to make sure that he’s being perfectly clear.

Let’s just thank goodness this is a finance test and not organic chemistry.

Grace Concelman is a senior majoring in finance and philosophy. She can be reached at gconcelm@nd.edu.

The views expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.
Yeah, I saw "The Vow" this weekend. Big whoop, wanna fight about it? And you know what? It wasn’t very good. But you know what else? I didn’t mind that much.

As with many things in my life, I walked into this movie with such extremely low expectations, that it would’ve taken a Justin Bieber cameo and a Nickleback inspired soundtrack in order to fail them.

And since neither of these things happened, this was a decidedly average romantic comedy. Of course, and it goes without saying, an average romantic comedy means that it’s a pretty terrible movie by regular standards, but that’s neither here nor there.

Rachel McAdams (Paige) is, as always, a likeable leading lady in this film and plays her part, sappy and unchallenging as it is, well.

Channing Tatum (Leo) is, as always, completely ripped, but plays his part, sappy and unchallenging as it is, with a complete lack of acting ability.

On some levels Tatum’s continuing inability to portray any believability or deliver lines without sounding like he’s in a high school drama class production has a certain endearing quality to it. His completely unabashed lack of acting skill gives him an unexpected likability that someone like Ben Affleck (who at the beginning of his career also couldn’t act) lacks.

But on another level, come on. The guy can’t act. And in romantic comedies, despite the fact that many moviemakers see acting ability as optional at best, the ability to make the audience care about your situation is the most crucial factor to success. And if you can’t act, you can’t make anyone care that your wife doesn’t remember you.

Channing Tatum’s Leo, is completely unlikable, a male without a backbone, who’s entire characterization is that he is a carelessly laid-back jerk.

Of course, and it goes without saying, an average romantic comedy means that’s it’s a pretty terrible movie. Despite all of this, this is not the worst movie I’ve ever seen, which surprised me so much that I even decided to give it one whole shamrock. Guys, if you’re in the doghouse because you didn’t do anything for your significant other for Valentine’s Day, there are worse options than "The Vow." There aren’t many, but I’m sure there are some.

"Rom Com Not Worst Movie Ever"
The Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show, the dog world's most eagerly anticipated event, celebrated its 136th occurrence this week. The canine competition took place Monday and Tuesday in New York's Madison Square Garden and was televised on USA and CNBC.

The 2012 winner, a Pekingese named Malachy, is the 10th dog from the Toy Group to win the competition. The Pekingese, known as the "lion dog," reached the height of its popularity during China's Tang Dynasty, when the Emperor exclusively owned the breed.

Many other notable dogs were also in the field. Some were renowned for their work with autistic children and the elderly. One Tibetan Terrier in show was lucky to be alive, having survived a nearly fatal bobcat attack a few months ago. Marsha Stewart's dog won Best in Breed.

For many people, dog shows are nothing more than fodder for Christopher Guest comedies. But millions more will dedicate countless hours to preening over pretty pooches. So, as long as they don't take home top honors.

An organization known as Dogs Against Romney staged a protest outside of Madison Square Garden, protesting the G.O.P. presidential hopeful's treatment of animals. The specific issue was an oft-told story of how in 1983 the Romney family drove from Massachusetts to Canada with their Irish setter in a dog crate on top of the car. The demonstration drew about a dozen people.

Between the public's continuing outrage with the Pekingese, known as the "lion dog," reached the height of its popularity during China's Tang Dynasty, when the Emperor exclusively owned the breed.

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The Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show is the second oldest continually held sporting event in the United States, having started two years after the Kentucky Derby. Since its first show in 1877, 113 dogs have won the prestigious title Best in Show to become, for the next year, America's Dog.

The Westminster show has sold out the Garden every year since 2005, with another 3 million people watching on cable. That's more than the average Knicks' game before Linsanity!

Twenty-five hundred dogs compete annually. Twenty-five hundred dogs compete annually. Only once in a blue moon will you have the opportunity to go bowling on campus. Stick around after bowling some strikes to enjoy "The Big Lebowski." The cult classic about a man who gets caught up in a case of mistaken identity and a host of other zany antics is a must-see for those who've missed it. The Dude abides.

Bowling Alley and Lebowskifest Legends 10 p.m. Free

"Melancholia" Browning Cinema 6:30 and 9:30 p.m. $3

Lars Von Trier's latest film, loosely about the end of the world, has popped up on top critical lists since its release last year and has won a string of awards, including Best Actress for Kirsten Dunst at the Cannes Film Festival. "Melancholia" will also play at the Browning Cinema at 6:30 and 9:30 p.m. on Thursday and 6 and 9 p.m. on Saturday.

"The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 1" DeBartolo 101

In case you missed the latest incarnation of sparkling vampires and shirtless werewolves, SUB has you covered. It's wedding time for the star-crossed Edward and Bella, and nothing will be the same when it's over. Prepare yourself for this fall's finale by watching the set-up that has the most shocking conclusion to date.

L.A. Theatre Works presents "The Rivalry" DeCicco Mainsstage 2 p.m. $10

The Rivalry" uses original transcripts from the famed Lincoln-Douglas debate of 1858 to bring to life a heated presidential election. This riveting production will also be presented on Friday at 7 p.m. and Saturday at 7:30 p.m. These presentations will include pre-performance talks with Notre Dame scholars.

By PATRICK McMANUS

The Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show is, in the words of one of our referees, "a must-see for those who've never owned a dog myself." The set-up that has the most shocking conclusion to date.
Police arrest four TCU players

Associated Press

FORT WORTH, Texas — Authorities arrested 17 students at Texas Christian University on Wednesday as part of a six-month drug sting, an especially embarrassing blow to the school because it included four members of the high-profile football team.

Arrest warrants painted a startling picture of the Hurned Frogs, with a handful of players allegedly arranging marijuana sales at any time of day or class or after class or around practice and who told police that most of the team had failed a surprise drug test just two weeks ago.

According to police, players sold undercover officers marijuana during the season and as recently as last week.

“These days people want to be a head football coach, but today is not one of those days,” said Gary Patterson, the head coach. “I thought the news this morning, I was first shocked, then hurt and now I’m mad.”

The 17 arrested players were caught making "hand-to-hand" sales of marijuana, cocaine, ecstasy and prescription drugs to undercover officers, police said. They said the bust followed an investigation prompted by complaints from students, parents and others.

TCU has an enrollment of about 9,500 students, but police said the bust followed an investigation prompted by complaints from students, parents and others.

"There are days people hear for the first time since 2001 that Horn was a good friend of mine and I exchanged phone numbers and I drafted him," said Brock. "I don’t think that’s accurate because I didn’t talk to him again for about three months until his bump was up at Wyoming, from both Horn and Yendrey."

Officers during the next several months allegedly set up drug deals with the players outside restaurants, a grocery store and other areas around campus. On Jan. 19, Brock allegedly sold an officer $200 worth of marijuana after Yendrey ran out.

"After a short conversation about the marijuana, Brock and I exchanged phone numbers, telling me to come to him from now on instead of (Yendrey)," according to the affidavits.

Horn and Johnson scoffed at the Feb. 1, team drug test ordered by Patterson, police said. Brock allegedly told an undercover officer that he failed the surprise test "for sure," but that it wouldn’t be a problem because there "would be about 60 people screwed.""Horn had looked through the football roster and "said there were only 20 people that would pass the test on the team," said one of the officers.

In response to that allegation, TCU cornerback Kolby Griffon posted a tweet on his personal account Wednesday that read, "This rumor of us all failing a drug test is false completely false."

TCU released a statement late Wednesday afternoon that said the school tests its athletes for drug use "on a regular basis."

The comments about failed drug tests made by the separated players in affidavits cannot be verified simply because they were made in the context of a drug bust, the school said. Patterson declined to answer questions beyond his prepared statement.

Phone messages left at the homes of Horn, Johnson and Yendrey were not immediately returned. Brock did not have a listed home number.

All of the players are 21 except for Yendrey, who is 20.

Brock was being held on $10,000 bond at the Mansfield city jail. Johnson and Horn were being transferred to the jail on Wednesday afternoon, according to police. Yendrey had not been arraigned.

Police said they had yet to determine if other football players were involved or would be charged.

Officials said the students had been "separated from TCU" and criminally barred from campus, but it wasn’t clear if the players had been kicked off the team. They said their names had already been removed from the University of Texas football roster posted on the school’s athletic website.

"No student-athletes serve as ambassadors for the university and will not tolerate behaviour that reflects poorly on TCU, the athletics department, the student-athletes and other student-athletes within the department," athletic director Chris Del Conte said.

"Our student-athletes are a microcosm of society and unfortunately means that some of our players reflect a culture that glorifies drugs and drug use. That mindset is not reflected by TCU nor will it be allowed within athletics."

The Observer accepts classifieds every business day from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Notre Dame office, 204 South Durning Hall. Deadline for ads is 5 p.m. on the day before publication. Eight classifieds must be prepaid. The charge is 5 cents per character per day, including all spaces. The Observer reserves the right to edit all classifieds for content without issuing refunds.

SPORTS AUTHORITY

Take the ESPN Challenge until spring training starts

It’s that time of year again, that slow hull when the sports world doesn’t quite know what to do with itself. From Super Bowl Sunday to Selection Sunday, fans wade through the eye of the storm as the networks desperately search for anything that can grab our attention.

2012 was heading in that direc tion with its path was uncer monious.

SportsCenter was debating the legacy of Tom Coughlin and Eli Manning in the most entertaining way, causing the sensation of Jeremy Lin to sweep the nation. But let’s assume I go through the next 360 words without mentioning the sanity pun or reference to the phenomenon.

Sports Illustrated, Yahoo! Sports, Fox Sports, ESPN, The New York Times, The Wall Street Journal, and every other publication have done a pretty good job of dissecting every remedy while finding angle of this story. I will respectfully abstain.

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Associated Press

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — Charles Mitchell won't be able to hear the crowd noise or announcements when he goes to a University of Kentucky football game this fall, but he will be able to track announcements and read the words to “My Old Kentucky Home.” Mitchell, a deaf football season ticket holder from Lancaster, and the university have settled a lawsuit over closed-captioning.

University of Kentucky spokesman DeWayne Peevy told The Associated Press that the school added the captioning when it spent $6.5 million to install new scoreboards and ribbon boards at the stadium last year. Peevy did not have a specific cost for adding closed-captioning to the boards.

“Put it all in together,” Peevy said.

Mitchell sued in May seeking to force the Southeastern Conference school to put captions for all game announcements on the scoreboards of the stadium under the Americans With Disabilities Act, which bars discrimination against people with disabilities. The suit was similar to cases brought against Ohio State and the NFL’s Washington Redskins.

The Kentucky lawsuit arose about a year ago after Mitchell sent an email to the University of Kentucky requesting the school provide captioning at Commonwealth Stadium for home football games. Knoll said the school didn’t respond to that request and denied a similar request from individuals who were deaf or hard of hearing.

The Associated Press

Indianapolis — Indiana is battling its second measles outbreak in two years, even though its vaccination rate exceeds the national average. Health officials say the cases, traced to a Super Bowl event, illustrate just how vulnerable the public is to exposure from sources at home and abroad.

The 13 cases confirmed this month have been confined to two counties, Boone and Hamilton. But all cases are linked to two infected people who visited the Super Bowl Village together on Feb. 1, prompting Indiana officials to reach out health departments in New York and Massachusetts for fear that the outbreak could cross state lines.

Concerns about a widespread outbreak are well-founded, said University of Minnesota professor Kristen Ehresmann, who was part of a research team that studied the disease’s spread across a large sporting event. In 1991, a track and field runner from Argentina participating in the Special Olympics in Minneapolis unknowingly started an outbreak of measles, infecting spectators, athletes and event organizers.

“This was kind of Murphy’s Law of disease transmission, with a highly infectious disease in a very, very crowded place so as to spread the disease as much as possible,” Ehresmann said.

The Super Bowl setting has the same potential to spread the notoriously infectious disease, even though health officials in 2000 declared endemic measles — cases of the disease that originated in the United States and were eliminated, largely due to increasing vaccination rates.

About 90 percent of all Americans are vaccinated against measles, said Dr. Greg Wallace of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. And in Indiana, more than 92 percent of children ages 19 months to 35 months received the vaccine in 2010, the latest year for which figures are available.

But concerns over the vaccine’s safety have kept some parents from immunizing their children. In 2005, an outbreak of 34 measles cases in Indiana were traced back to a group of parents who didn’t vaccinate their children because they believed it caused adverse health effects, according to a study published in the New England Journal of Medicine. Ehresmann said claims that the vaccine causes conditions such as autism are debunked in several major studies.

In other countries, vaccination rates are dropping, raising the risk of exposure. The number of cases in Western Europe has particularly spiked, with France reporting the third-highest number of measles cases in the world. More than 750 people have contracted measles in an ongoing outbreak in Quebec, Canada, despite the country’s high immunization rate.

The U.S. typically sees about 50 cases of measles each year. There were 223 cases in 2011 — a 15-year high. Officials said the increase was due to Americans picking up the disease while abroad. Three-quarters of measles cases can be traced to importation, with the rest originating from contact with a visitor from another country, Wallace said.

The outbreak has prompted state health officials to issue near-daily updates on the number of cases and places visited by those infected in hopes of stopping the disease’s spread. In Noblesville, where a suspected measles case has been reported, school officials have been cleaning classrooms and canceling evening activities. Spokeswoman Sharon Trisler said 98 percent of Noblesville students are immunized against the disease, and the rest are being asked to get the vaccine.
LOS ANGELES — A human rights group called on the International Olympic Committee to require that Saudi Arabia's participation in Olympic sporting events, including the upcoming London Games, be contingent upon the Arab country allowing girls and women to play competitive sports.

Human Rights Watch issued a report Wednesday saying that Saudi Arabia is violating the IOC charter's pledge of equality. The country has never sent a woman to compete in the Olympics.

Neither has Brunei or Qatar, although Qatar said last summer it hopes to send up to four female athletes to the 2012 Games. In interviews with Saudi women and international sporting officials, the group found that the restrictions put sports beyond the reach of almost all women in the kingdom. The few women who play sports in Saudi Arabia are limited to exercising at home or at expensive, segregated gyms, or participating in non-competitive events.

With nine months remaining before the 2012 London Games, the IOC hasn't attached any conditions to Saudi Arabia's participation. The IOC's embrace of the Arab country that is the cradle of Islam is hard work that takes a lot of time.

“We are supporting women here to be in sports but that means fighting deeply entrenched traditions in Saudi Arabia,” the official said in a phone interview Wednesday.

“We are trying to overcome them and we are seeking support from the IOC to have a woman in our delegation at the London Games,” the official added. He spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the issue.

Wilkie said the sports federation have no women currently invited for Olympic-level competition; however, he urged the government to nominate women for slots available in track and field, where the competitors don't have to be top level. There are slots available in swimming, but Wilcke said the Saudis would not tolerate women wearing swim suits in public.

He noted that equestrian Dalma Rushdi Malhas attracted widespread attention in Saudi Arabia after winning a bronze medal in show jumping in the 2010 Youth Olympic Games. Human Rights Watch said Malhas may be invited to participate in the London Games by an international sports federation, and it said the Saudi national Olympic committee has indicated it won't interfere with a female athlete attending after being invited.

Adams said the IOC has been in regular contact with national Olympic committees of Saudi Arabia, Brunei and Qatar.

“As a result of fruitful discussions, the three NOCs included women in their delegations competing at the Youth Olympic Games in Singapore last summer,” he said, citing Malhas. “We are very pleased with this evolution, which can only be seen as a promising development leading towards London 2012.”

Sarah Kureshi, an American-Muslim Olympic athlete, speaks at a news conference held by Human Rights Watch on Wednesday. She discussed Saudi Arabia’s involvement in the upcoming Olympic Games.
AC Milan shuts out Arsenal

Associated Press

MILAN — The most highly an-
 ticipated matchup of the Champi-
 ons League’s first knockout round was hardly even a contest. At. Milan outclassed Arsenal on
 Wednesday to plant one foot firm-
 ly in the Champions League quar-
terfinals, beating the English club
 4-0 in the first leg of their round of
 16 series.

Zenit St. Petersburg also se-
cured a slimmer advantage by beat-
ing Benfica 3-0 at home ear-
erlier, but Milan produced the most
 convincing display of the knockout
 round so far as the meeting of two
top teams turned into a rout.

Robinho scored twice at the San
 Siro after Kevin-Prince Boateng
given Milan the lead with an
 unstoppable volley, and Zlatan
 Ibrahimovic all but finished off
 the Gaspers with a penalty in the
 79th as the hosts repeatedly
 exposed Arsenal’s weakness in
defense.

“We played a perfect match, es-
specially in defense,” Milan coach
 Massimiliano Allegri said. “We
 played very well as a team, we
didn’t give them any goal-scoring
 chances. We deserved this, this
 win. It’s the best game we’ve
 played this season.”

The result puts the Italian club
in a strong position to reach the
 last 16 if it can draw a blank
 away against Ajax of the Nether-
 lands on Wednesday. The
 Oranje have scored 14 times in
 four matches this year.

Robinho scored on a penalty
 after 10 minutes and
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LOS ANGELES — Luke Donald was the practice range at Riviera before dawn Wednesday, so dark that only the tip of a nearby floodlight allowed him to see where the ball was going. It was a snapshot of the perks that come with being No. 1 in the world, and what he got from them.

The best player gets his choice of tee times for the pro-am, and the early spots go first. Along with being No. 1 in the world, Donald sits atop both the PGA Tour and European Tour money lists, the first player ever to lead the two biggest tours. As for the work ethic? Getting there was the top wasn’t an accident.

“I think the best part of being No. 1 is knowing that my best golf is good enough to get me to that No. 1 spot, just from a confidence and mental standpoint,” said Luke Donald, PGA golfer.

Donald talks about a strong will to succeed, and there’s no reason to think that won’t apply during the four biggest weeks of the year. “I feel like my game is good enough right now to win majors,” Donald said. “I don’t feel like there’s a huge weakness. If I can win four times in a year, I should be able to win a major. There are still things I can improve on to give myself better opportunities.”

As a student, you know firsthand that the cost of education is not going down. The difference between what you receive in government student loans and the actual amount needed to fund your education is expanding every day.

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**SMC SWIMMING AND DIVING**

Belles rely on senior leadership at MIAA championships

**By JOE WIRTH**

Despite three straight losses, the Belles can turn around a mediocre season with a strong performance at this weekend’s MIAA championship.

“Tough day,” Henley said of the Belles’ 16-point loss to Saint Mary’s on Wednesday. “I think our kids took care of some business down the stretch here to ensure that we are one of those top four teams so I think it’s a testament to them.”

Jennifer Henley
Belles coach

**SMC BASKETBALL**

Knights lay siege to Saint Mary’s

**By BRENDAN BELL**

The combination of poor shooting and rebounding is usually a bad omen for a team, but that was no different when Saint Mary’s fell to No. 5 Calvin 73-52 on Wednesday.

Calvin (23-1, 15-1 MIAA) has been great overall. They have backed it up with strong swims. We know we can always count on them for motivation.”

Sophomore Alex Kane, who swims the breaststroke for the Belles, agreed with her coach.

“I would say leadership is just as, or even more important in an event like this,” Kane said. “The seniors have worked so hard this season. Without their leadership and drive, our team would not be where we are today.”

Though she won’t participate in the conference championship, Kane said she understands how important it will be for her teammates to keep an even keel heading up to the championship event. “Like any athlete, you have to just think that this is just any other sporting event,” Kane said. “If you think too much about it, you might psych yourself out. Usually before an event all of us just listen to music that gets us pumped up.

Kane said her teammates see the championships as another opportunity to impress at the conference level.”

The Belles will complete their season with the MIAA championships, which begin today.

**Medley**

continued from page 20

1-40.94. Their finish time was the squad’s fastest on the year by over two seconds. “The times dropped because our swimmers were well-rested and ready to go,” Irish assistant coach Kate Kovenock said. “Both our relays were strong, but we were pretty keyed up and need to get our emotions under control.” Each relay swimmer also earned All-Big East honors with a top-three finish in an event, and Prestinario and Reaney each earned two. “[Prestinario] has really developed into a true leader since the beginning of the year,” Kovenock said. “And [Reaney] has a tremendous learning curve and poise, especially for her first time at this kind of meet as a freshman.”

The Irish must have a balanced lineup and take advantage of all opportunities. We also must realize that success at this meet requires a whole team effort.”

The events today kicked off the swimming portion of the Big East championships, as the diving competition spanned last Friday through Sunday. Enter the day, Notre Dame was second with 71 points, trailing first-place Louisville by only three points. The Irish continue the second day of the Big East championships with four events at Trees Pool at the University of Pittsburgh. Preliminary races for the 500-yard freestyle, 200-yard Individual Medley, 50-yard freestyle and 200-yard freestyle relay begin at 10:00 a.m. with the finals starting at 6 p.m.

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**Write Sports.**

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**Knights lay siege to Saint Mary’s**

By BRENDAN BELL

Sports Writer

The combination of poor shooting and rebounding is usually a bad omen for a team, but that was no different when Saint Mary’s fell to No. 5 Calvin 73-52 on Wednesday.

1-40.94. Their finish time was the squad’s fastest on the year by over two seconds. “The times dropped because our swimmers were well-rested and ready to go,” Irish assistant coach Kate Kovenock said. “Both our relays were strong, but we were pretty keyed up and need to get our emotions under control.” Each relay swimmer also earned All-Big East honors with a top-three finish in an event, and Prestinario and Reaney each earned two. “[Prestinario] has really developed into a true leader since the beginning of the year,” Kovenock said. “And [Reaney] has a tremendous learning curve and poise, especially for her first time at this kind of meet as a freshman.”

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Contact Matt Unger at mounger3@nd.edu

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**Belles rely on senior leadership at MIAA championships**

By JOE WIRTH

Sports Writer

Despite three straight losses, the Belles can turn around a mediocre season with a strong performance at this weekend’s MIAA championship.

“Tough day,” Henley said of the Belles’ 16-point loss to Saint Mary’s on Wednesday. “I think our kids took care of some business down the stretch here to ensure that we are one of those top four teams so I think it’s a testament to them.”

Jennifer Henley
Belles coach

**Belles sophomore swimmer**

**Freshman Julianne Divine races in the breaststroke during Saint Mary’s crushing 152-50 victory over Defiance on Nov. 12. The Belles will complete their season with the MIAA championships, which begin today.**
Cooley continued from page 20

The Irish struggled out of the gate defensively in the first half, but kept Rutgers (12-14, 4-9) in check with a strong defensive showing that led to eight Scarlet Knight turnovers in the first half.

Notre Dame’s defensive pressure was a Stark contrast from the Jan. 16 matchup in Piscataway, but could not ignore his bachelor’s degree in pharmacology, and graduated with a maturity.

Tips said he noticed a difference in how his new team adapted to his guidance on the court.

“They pick things up quicker than when I was trying to say some of the same things on the men’s side,” Tps said.

“The fundamentals of basketball are the same, but it’s different in the approach. To me, it’s what makes the women’s game a more pure game.”

“I feel like I don’t deal with a lot of the same ego problems that I had on the men’s side. I think that end goal is different for them. For the men, no matter if they start or if they sit the bench, they still think they’re going to play professional basketball. That was something on the men’s side that I had to do. I had to tell people they may not be as good as they thought they were. I quite enjoy not working with egos and teaching people to have great self-confidence.”

Tips attended North Carolina and graduated with a bachelor’s degree in pharmacy, but could not ignore his passion to be a coach. While in college he worked on the men’s basketball staff at Duke under prestigious head coach Mike Krzyzewski, before moving through the coaching ranks at Le Moyne College in New York, Cornell, Elon and UNC-Greensboro before ultimately arriving at Notre Dame.

For the Irish, Tips works specifically on season scheduling, building recruiting classes and mentoring specific players — namely fifth-year senior guard Brittany Mallory and senior tri-captain guard Natalie Novosel.

“I really enjoy the player development and the mentorship part of my job,” Tps said. “Seeing them coming in as freshmen, helping their game expand and recruiting them has been a big part of my job at Notre Dame.”

Aside from the mentoring, Tps said he enjoys his annual assignment of forming the team’s schedule.

“I really enjoy taking on some of the best teams in the country, preparing the film and getting everything for the game plan ready to present to coach McGraw.” Tps said. “When we play the [Conn), you know what kind of games you’re getting. To me, it’s a little tighter and try to force plays. We can’t do that unfortu-

Lorenz continued from page 20

aren’t going our way, is that you can yell and scream all you want but when it comes down to it, as long as you’re working hard and trying to lead by example, that’s when they’re going to follow you the best.”

Entering the second-to-last series of the regular season, the Irish head to Ohio to take on Miami in a crucial pair of games. To turn around its recent struggles, the team will need to find the back of the net more consistently, a facet of the game Lorenz said would come from the Irish playing within themselves.

“We all want to win and it’s frustrating,” he said. “Sometimes you start to grip the stick a little tighter and try to force plays. We can’t do that unfortu-

Listen to Meg on 101.5FM Tuesday nights from 9-11pm.

Irish sophomore guard Jerian Grant drives to the basket during Notre Dame’s 71-53 win over Rutgers on Wednesday. The win marked the seventh consecutive victory for the Irish.

never really kind of rested on their laurels or been distracted,” he said. “This is the first game they’ve played as a ranked team. They continually… want to get better and want the next challenge, and that’s a great sign of maturity.”

The Irish return to action Saturday when they travel to Villanova for a 9 p.m. tip-off.

The Observer • SPORTS

Thursday, February 16, 2012

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Thursday, February 16, 2012

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The Observer

A vital source of information on people and events in the Notre Dame and Saint Mary’s Community.

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The Observer
P.O. Box 779
Notre Dame, IN 46556

Crossword

Across
1. La (Argentine city) (4)
2. Income (6)
3. Blacken (10)
4. Museum piece (15)
5. Name of counties in three states, all crossed by I-90 (16)
6. Amicable (20)
7. Windsock-to- Preludia dir. (21)
8. "Beloved" in operas (22)
9. Begin onlogically (23)
10. Player of Mark Anthony in 1953's "Juliet Cortez" (27)
11. Sing (30)
12. Spat for François Louis VI, "with the" (31)
13. Singer Alan or Andy (32)
14. Weather line (34)
15. Attic in classifieds (62)

Down
2. American Shakers founder (35)
3. Language that's no longer taught (36)
4. Popular Italian scooter (60)
5. Map magnification (69)
6. "Down Like many a" (14)
7. "Excuse me..." (36)
8. Kind of pudding (50)
9. Flickering (55)
10. "Assuredly" (9)
11. "Broom..." (11)
12. Much-advertised sleep aid (12)
13. Fixed up (13)
14. "Where Hannah's..." (17)
15. "Sukie her sauce" (23)
16. "The L.A. Sparks play in..." (52)
17. "They're stuck in..." (57)
18. "Have...to pick" (60)
19. "Wow!" (63)
20. Subject of the 2005 book "Conspicacy of Fods" (63)
21. "Year in the reign of the emperor Augustus" (66)

WILL SHORTZ

Horoscope

EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Jonny Lee Miller, 59; Beverly D’Angelo, 60; Sean Hayes, 48; John Krasinski, 42.

Happy Birthday: May be on top of your to-do list. Put bounce first and speak from the heart. People from your past will show up with an interest that you are strong. An unusual turn of events will alter your domestic environment. Your numbers are 1, 5, 22, 24, 30, 41.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Do what you can to improve your home and domestic life financially and emotionally. You'll face criticism if you are not busy planning outside of your circle. Do something nice for your corner. Do something nice for your circle.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Short trips are highlighted. Engage in conversation that brings you knowledge about something you want to pursue. Getting the OK from people who you love with may if you are imaginative and about the details of creating.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Your desire for change may not make everyone close to you happy. Your best bet is to re-up the way in which you want without making a big splash. Once you have love in charge, you will be able to shape and later your plans.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Share your feelings. Added responsibilities can be lifted if you are honest about what you can and what you do that is not. ***

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You need a change of pace and a change of scenery. Make plans that will allow you the freedom to interact with people who can contribute to some of your ideas and plans for the future. Love is highlighted during the evening.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Be careful how you approach topics when dealing with friends, relatives or your lover. Expand your interests if it will help you share a special moment with someone else. ***

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Not everyone will be on your side. Be careful when sharing your ideas and plans, especially with colleagues or someone who can make an impact in your future. Allow a little time for the other person to entertain you before sharing your spirits. ***

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Question anyone who is delusive. It is up to you to find out any information that you need to know before making a decision, especially if it has to do with your income. Someone from your past may be the key partner in your future. ***

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Work behind the scenes. Finish your work before you get to your job. You are tiring of complete. It's better to approach things than it is to let others do the work for you. Short of the expectation you have raised in others.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Getting along with others will be hard the battle. Put your time and effort into building a strong and stable home because emotionally, financially, physically and spiritually, you will want to be around someone who really does mean something to you. ***

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Communication can create misunderstandings. Engage in heartfelt communications, it will show you the value of being in touch with your inner self. Honesty and charm will help you win trust as well as favor. ***

PIECES (Feb. 19-March 20): Words may say what you would say. Not everyone will share your viewpoint and no one will. Talk things over with your lover. Doubt and charm will help you win trust as well as favor.

Birthday Baby: You are creative, caring and intent on following your own path.

The London Express

ALEX GRISWOLD and LEE HAGGENJOS

Did you know Lydia thinks you’re gay.

She said that you told her.

Well I didn’t...I don’t know why she thinks I did.

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JON REPINE

Jumble

ALEX GRISWOLD and LEE HAGGENJOS

alex griswold and lee haggenjos

Puzzle by Graham Bin

37 Napkin shade, maybe
38 Party in a legal proceeding
39 Part of St. Paul’s
40 No longer bothered by something
41 Barren
42 Richthofen
43 "Like some runs, 45, 45, 55, 55, 45, 55" in a year

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JON REPINE

Pics

Jumbles: YUCKY PRIZE UNFAIR CATTLE

Answers tomorrow.

Now arrange the clued letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

YESTERDAY’S:

Jumbles: UNFAIR

Answer: YUCKY PRIZE

(Answers tomorrow)

Birthday Baby: You are creative, caring and intent on following your own path.

ExpND
**Men’s Basketball**

Cool comeback

By ANDREW OWENS
Associate Sports Editor

Sparked by a 17-point second half performance from junior forward Jack Cooley, the Irish pulled away in the second half to win their seventh consecutive game, 71-51 over Rutgers.

Cooley scored 22 points and snatched 18 rebounds—a career-high performance. In the first half, he was the seventh Irish player to foul out until 11:57 to play in the second half. Cooley had made every Irish 2-point field goal with the exception of one.

“Toni Connor told me with names of former Irish hockey sports information director Tim Connor told me about him,” Irish coach Mike Brey said. “Their speed bothered him at first. They got underneath him. But he does a good job of playing off of Eric and (sophomore guard Jerian Grant)’s drives, and we certainly want to go to him. He’s the go-to guy when he gets offensive rebounds. He gets us extra possessions.”

Brey said he was worried Cooley might lose his motivation as his performance improves, but that hasn’t been the case.

“I think at times when he was a younger player he could take a day off and maybe not be as engaged, but I wasn’t as engaged in him last year and this is the seventh guy,” Brey said. “Now that he’s a main guy, he’s more of the focal point, but I’ve been very pleased to see when Jack has had success, he wants to have more.”

Cooley’s 10 final votes were the Big East Player of the Week who accounted for 18 of the team’s 37 rebounds, said the play of the Irish guards has enabled him to produce offensive rebounds.

“The whole program has helped me to become what I am right now,” he said. “Everyone’s individualized play he no-tend force on the blue line and in the locker room.

“It’s a great honor. I didn’t find out until [hockey sports information director] Tim Connor told me about it,” Lorenz said. “I’m very honored to be thrown into a group with names of former Irish players Calle Ridderwall, (Eric) Condra and Jordan)’s Peare, and some of those kinds of guys. So it’s an honor, definitely.”

On the heels of a 2010-11 season in which he received the CCHA Defensive Defensemen of the Year honor, Lorenz was named co-captain of the squad along with fellow senior right wing Billy Maday. The duo has faced a difficult assignment as captains, having to guide a young Notre Dame squad through a pressure-packed campaign.

The No. 13/9 Irish (16-13-3, 11-10-3-0 CCHA) sit seventh in the CCHA standings with only two regular seasons left to play. Lorenz said he and Maday have adjusted their leadership style in the midst of recent struggles.

“I think [Maday] and I have kind of both talked about it. We just try to lead by example,” Lorenz said. “I think that’s the best way to lead a team when things go wrong.”

see LORENZ/page 18

**ND Women’s Swimming and Diving**

Strong relays leave ND competitive in Big East

By MATT UNGER
Sports Writer

In the opening events of the Big East Championships, the Irish saved their best season times for the finals of each relay race. Notre Dame took third in both the 800-yard freestyle relay and 200-yard medley relay. The Irish sit in second place in the team standings, only nine points behind first-place Louisville. In the 800-yard freestyle, the Irish team of senior Amy Nemetz, and the Irish did not disappoint. They currently lead the finals with 197 points, followed by Pittsburgh with 132 points.

Defending-champion Louis-ville is tied with West Virginia for third with 110 points.

“The men’s team at the 2011-12 Irish season has been a campaign of remarkable highs and lows, with last-second victories balanced by big losses at home. Amid the inconsistency, senior defenseman and captain Sean Lorenz has been a consistent force on the blue line and in the locker room.

As a tribute to his leadership and performance on and off the ice, Lorenz was named one of 10 finalists for the Lowe’s Senior Class Award in hockey. The award is considered the premier honor given to a senior student-athlete in each sport. The defend-ee has a difficult assignment as captains, having to guide a young Notre Dame squad through a pressure-packed campaign.

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see LORENZ/page 18

**ND Women’s Basketball**

Assistant coach stresses team play

By MOLLY SAMMON
Sports Writer

When Irish associate head coach Jonathan Tsipis arrived at Notre Dame nine years ago, he had never coached a women’s basketball team. After helping the Irish program improve its all-time winning percentage to .728 and come within six points of a national champi-onship, he has no intentions of going back to the men’s game any time soon.

“I like the teaching aspect of the women’s game better,” Tsipis said. “There is this great learning curve that the women’s game has, and the game has really grown. We’re getting faster, stronger, bigger athletes now, but it is still more of a team-based game. Every year it’s getting better.”

Tsipis said he favors the cohesive technical structure of the women’s game and dis-likes the trend of the highly-individualized play he no-ticed on the men’s side.

Irish junior guard Kaila Turner drives past a defender during Notre Dame’s 66-47 win over Providence on Tuesday.

“I think [Maday] and I have kind of both talked about it. We just try to lead by example,” Lorenz said. “I think that’s the best way to lead a team when things go wrong.”

see TSIPIS/page 18