The Independent Newspaper Serving Notre Dame and Saint Mary's

Congregation celebrates 175th anniversary

By KRISTEN DURBIN

As the Congregation of Holy Cross celebrates its 175th anniversary today, its enduring influence on Notre Dame's international vision and commitment to Catholic education and service is loudly apparent.

University President Fr. John Jenkins said the anniversary signifies the strength of the consistent mission of Holy Cross in relation to the legacy of the University it established in 1842.

"It is deeply satisfying to serve a congregation that has maintained a seamless continuity with our founder's vision for the past 175 years," Jenkins said. "The anniversary is an opportunity to celebrate our past and renew our commitment to education, inquiry and service to the Church and the world."

Fr. Jim Connelly, a Congregation historian, said its 1837 establishment by Fr. Basil Moreau in Le Mans, France, laid the foundation for the group's forays into international mission work and Catholic education.

In 1841, Holy Cross brothers ventured from Europe to start schools in southern Indiana at the request of a group of French bishops. Connelly said, which led to the founding of the University in November 1842 when several brothers and priests migrated north.

"There was only one school needed in Vincennes, so the bishop made a deal with Fr. [Edward] Sorin and the Holy Cross brothers: if they came to northern Indiana, he would give them the land to which he held title to start a school," Connelly said.

A contingent of Holy Cross sisters arrived at Notre Dame in 1843, and they immediately recruited local women to join their community and established a school in Bertrand, Mich., which would eventually become Saint Mary's College, Connelly said.

Holy Cross, whose American headquarters are at Notre Dame, also played a role in American Civil War history, as several priests and sixty sisters served the Union army as chaplains and nurses, Connelly said.

Connelly said the national impact of the Congregation and Notre Dame was amplified during the early 20th century with the success of legendary football coach Knute Rockne.

"Immense publicity was brought to Notre Dame with its football success, so that increased enrollment to the thousands and attracted students from around the country," he said.

The onset of World War II nearly forced the University to shut down due to lack of male students, but the implementation of an accelerated education.

Juniors face off in Saint Mary’s presidential elections

Parsons, Casey aim to unify campus, implement technology

By CAITLIN HOUSLEY

Parsons and Meghan Casey, who will be running for student body president and vice president, respectively, in today’s election.

The ticket’s platform features four goals: to work with administration to launch 85 new technology initiatives, unify campus, empower each other as women and encourage more community service. Parsons and Casey said:

“We wanted to focus on things we can control as students.”

Hans, Hudson seek to foster sisterhood through mentorship

By JILLIAN BARWICK

When the polls close on today’s student government elections this evening, juniors Taylor Hans and Betsy Hudson hope to be the new faces of the Saint Mary’s student body.

Hans, the current vice president of the class of 2013, and Hudson, a community committee member, are running for student body president and vice president, respectively. Their campaign is based on a platform of “bringing back tradition but making our own history,” Hans said.

Alta Gracia promotes fair factory practices

By DREW PANGRAZE

Focused on promoting service and socially responsible business practices, members of the Notre Dame community met in Geddes Hall on Wednesday to discuss the apparel company Alta Gracia.

The clothing company provides workers with living wages while maintaining competitive pricing in the apparel market.

Since its inception 10 years ago, Alta Gracia has surpassed Nike and adidas as the No. 1 supplier of collegiate apparel and is gaining ground as Notre Dame’s chief source of blank T-shirts, event presenters said.

Alta Gracia’s website states it is also the only clothing factory in the world that pays the people who make the clothing a living wage, the amount of money needed to support a family.

During the presentation "Alta Gracia: Changing Lives One Shirt at a Time," senior Alta Gracia intern Caitlin Alli said the company can provide adequate food, clean water, clothing, shelter, healthcare, childcare and education for its workers by charging $0.30 more per shirt.

"With the extra $0.30, Alta Gracia's website states it is also the only clothing factory in the world that pays the people who make the clothing a living wage, the amount of money needed to support a family."

Summit features green transit

By ANNA BOARINI

As a continuation of Notre Dame’s commitment to sustainability, the fifth annual Green Summit showcased a trade show focused on green transportation, said Sara Brown, program and intern director for the Office of Sustainability. "Transportation is something we get a lot of questions about in the community," she said. "It is something we want to get people talking about, whether it is human powered transportation, hybrid fuels and electric cars or public transportation."

The summit, which took place in the Stepan Center on Wednesday, featured various projects to reduce Notre Dame’s carbon footprint.

Inside today’s paper

Loyal Sons and Daughters page 3  Viewpoint page 8  Project 214 preview page 10  Costello returns to men's hockey lineup page 20
Mother and her child both born on leap day

SADDLE RIVER, N.J. — A New Jersey mother born on February 29 beat 2 million-to-1 odds when she had her daughter — who was also born on leap day.

Michelle Birnbaum of Saddle River tells The New York Post that she’ll use the occasion to teach her 4-year-old daughter Rose about science and the earth’s cycles around the sun.

Birnbaum turns 32 Wednesday, but will celebrate for only the eighth time on the actual date. It comes once every four years as a result of a system intended to keep the seasons, years, months and days in working order.

Birnbaum went into labor on Feb. 28, 2008, but Rose was born the following day. She tells the newspaper she’s delighted to have a ‘built in party partner.’

Man returns to bank after robbery attempt

CHAMBLEE, Ga. — Authorities say a man has been arrested after returning back to the suburban Atlanta bank he tried to rob in order to withdraw money for his cab fare home.

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution reports that 39-year-old Trevor Gladston Jr. was charged with attempted armed robbery.

Chamblee police say Gladston is accused of giving a bank teller a note demanding cash Tuesday. Police say he left without money when the teller fled, protected by bullet-resistant glass.

Authorities say he fled in a taxi but the driver flagged down a transit police officer after being concerned her passenger would leave without paying.

Police say that officer didn’t know about the robbery attempt and talked Gladston into returning to the bank to withdraw money for the cab ride. He later was arrested.

Information compiled from the Associated Press.

THE OBSERVER

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P.O. Box 779, Notre Dame, IN 46556
024 South Dining Hall, Notre Dame, IN 46556

Editor-in-Chief
Douglas Farmer

Managing Editor Business Manager
Sarah Merwek

Aust. Managing Editor: Adriana Pratt
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News Editor: Sam Szymk
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Photo Editor: Pat Conroy
Graphic Editor: Brandon Koon
Advertising Manager: Katherine Lukas
Ad Omgirector: Amanda Jaworski
Controller: Jason Taulman

Systems Administrator: William Homan

Office Manager & General Info
(574) 631-7471
Fax
(574) 631-6900

Advertising
(574) 631-6900@obsnews.nd.edu

Business Office
(574) 631-3535

News Desk
(574) 631-3323

Viewpoint Desk
(574) 631-3503

Sports Desk
(574) 631-4543

Scene Desk
(574) 631-4740

Saint Mary’s Desk
chousl01@saintmarys.edu

Photo Desk
(574) 631-8767

Systems & Web Administrators
(574) 631-8839

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Office Manager & General Info
(574) 631-7471
Fax
(574) 631-6900

News
Kristen Durhin
Tori Roerck
Dan Brombach

Graphics
Elina De Castro

Photo
Mackenzie Sain

Sports
Matthew Schumery
Robert Niehaus
Tony Schlehuber
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OFFBEAT

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Information compiled from the Associated Press.

MAGGIE O’BRIEN / The Observer

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In Brief

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Professor Deborah Avant will give a lecture titled, “The Market for Force: Recent Developments and Implications for Peace-building,” today at 12:30 p.m. in Room C103 of the Hesburgh Center for International Studies. In her lecture, Avant will discuss recent developments in the private provision of force, the private financing of force and efforts to regulate the market of force.

The Kane Center for Teaching and Learning will host a panel discussion titled, “Reinventing Our Teaching,” at 2 p.m. today in the LaFortune Student Center. This panel discussion will explore innovations in teaching and approaches for reenergizing teaching methods.

Lina Insana will give a lecture on Primo Levi titled, “The Butterfly’s Face: Ethical Encounters with the Animal Other,” at 4 p.m. today in the Hesburgh Library. Best known for his account of the time he spent in Auschwitz, Primo Levi was a prolific writer whose poetry and essays contained vivid images of human persecution and suffering.

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

LOCAL WEATHER

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By ABI HOVERMAN
News Writer

This weekend, “Loyal Daughters and Sons’” performance incorporates material from previous years’ performances, as well as new material. The production seeks to correct misconceptions about sexual activity among students on campus.

“Generally there is a more conservative attitude [here],” Hughes said, “which isn’t a bad thing, but it keeps people from talking about [sex].” Hughes said using students’ real-life accounts in the performance addresses the myth that sexual assault does not occur at Notre Dame.

“It makes an impact because you know it’s not made up,” she said. “It brings it home because you know this is happening in your community... these are our peers’ and classmates’ stories. It’s important to know it really happened so people think of it.”

This year, the producers and writers worked to further break down stereotypes by ensuring the stories presented are not one-sided, Hughes said. “This year we’re trying to open it up,” Hughes said.

“We tried to focus on the fact that men could be victims... it’s often complicated.”

Hughes said the entirely student-generated theatrical production incorporates material from previous years’ performances, as well as new material. The production process begins in the fall when the two student writers petition for personal accounts from students, she said. The writers then conduct confidential, one-on-one interviews to accumulate content for scripts for scenes and monologues.

This year’s performances will also feature abstract dance and a pre-recorded film portion, Hughes said.

Hughes said she believes the annual performances have improved the treatment of sexual assault on campus since they began in 2006 as a gender studies student’s senior thesis.

“The atmosphere on campus has changed a lot in the past few years,” she said. “Loyal Daughters and Sons’” film has sparked dialogue and discussion.

Prior to the last academic year, the Du Lac student handbook’s policy on sexual crimes treated them in a similar fashion as the treatment of consensual sex. This meant students could face consequences from the Office of Residence Life for reporting an incident of sexual assault.

Du Lac has now clarified its sexual assault policy and clearly defines consent, and it created a new process for reporting and investigating sexual assault, Hughes said. Initially inspired by campus productions of ‘the Vagina Monologues,’ ‘Loyal Daughters and Sons’ has evolved into a yearly event sponsored by the Gender Studies Department, Hughes said.

She said a wide variety of students participate in the various aspects of the performances: “It tends to be a combination of people involved in gender relations and people involved in theater.” Hughes said...this is an opportunity to combine an interest in acting and an interest in social issues. Hughes said she hopes the audience will better understand the variety of experiences of sex, sexuality, gender, religion and relationships on campus, and that some element of the production will appeal to every viewer.

“Everyone can think about it, talk about it, feel less alone—and hopefully connect with someone on stage,” Hughes said.

Loyal Daughters and Sons will take place in the Hesburgh Library’s Carey Auditorium, today, Friday and Saturday at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are $1 for students and $3 for non-students and are available at the LaFortune box office or at the door.

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MARCH 1–3, 2012
7:30 PM
Carey Auditorium, Hesburgh Library
$3 Students/$5 Non-Students
Tickets available at LaFortune Box Office and at the door.

Contact Ahi Hoverman at ahoverman@nd.edu
Saint Mary’s professor analyzes Michigan primary

By KEELIN McGEE  
News Writer

Just across the state line, the Michigan Republican presidential primary emerged as the leading candidates battled for the state’s delegates Tuesday.

Republican Mitt Romney and former Penn-sylvania Gov. Rick Santorum emerged as the leading candidates in a tight Tuesday prima- ry, according to Associated Press polls. Santorum captured Michigan with 41.1 percent of the votes while Romney brought in 37.9 percent, according to Associated Press poll.

John Sanders, residence life director for student government, said the resolution asked the rector to make sure if they do, we can make sure if they do, we can turn in evidence to the Office of Residence Life for example, and the candidates’ electabil- ity against President Barack Obama significantly influenced voters’ opinions. "Certainly the economy was a major issue with the impact it has had on Detroit and the auto industry," Savage said. "According to exit polls, voters wanted someone who had business and administrative experience [in the private sector], but people also voted for who they thought would be able to beat President Obama, and that was Romney." 

Santorum, however, maintained a solid base of local conser- vatives supporters, Savage said. "According to polls from the primary, Santorum had the most support from labor union members, blue-collar workers, evangelicals, voters who saw abortion as the biggest issue and the more loyal conservatives," Savage said. "Savage said Romney’s level of education and affluence ap- pealed to voters. Despite the close nature of the race, Savage said a few in-tangible factors contributed to Romney’s victory, including his personal connection to the state of Michigan. "Romney grew up in Michi- gan, and his father [George Romney] had been governor," Savage said. "And even though Romney lost overall to McCain in the 2008 [primary] election, he won Michigan."

Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder endorsed Romney, who led a more organized campaign in Michigan than Santorum, Sav- age said. "Santorum would hold rallies and there would be people singing, but then there was no follow-up with his supporters," Savage said. "There was no or- ganized way of collecting names, emails and numbers to continue to encourage their support, but Romney’s campaign did not have such organizational problems."

SENATE
Group discusses discrimination

By MARISA IATI  
News Writer

In the wake of alleged hate crimes against the Black Stu- dent Association and the Af- rican American Association, Student Senate unanimously passed a resolution requesting a renewed commitment to rid- ing Notre Dame of discrimi- nation and harassment Wednes- day.

The resolution asked the University to improve advertis- ement of how to report and address discrimination. It also asked the rector to turn in evidence to the Office of Residence Life for example, and the candidates’ electabil- ity against President Barack Obama significantly influenced voters’ opinions. "Certainly the economy was a major issue with the impact it has had on Detroit and the auto industry," Savage said. "According to exit polls, voters wanted someone who had business and administrative experience [in the private sector], but people also voted for who they thought would be able to beat President Obama, and that was Romney." 

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Invites Nominations for Sheedy Award

Each year, the Sheedy Award, named for a former dean of the College of Arts and Letters, honors one member of the Arts and Letters teaching and research faculty for outstanding teaching. Both students and faculty are invited to submit nomination letters for this year’s award to:

Jocelyn DellaNeva  
Associate Dean for Undergraduate Studies  
104 O’Shaughnessy Hall

Deadline  
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Photo Credit: Chris Beyer/LaFortune Student Center
Freshman Mimi Michuda, left, and Sarah Ryckman of RecSports play a dance video game at the Health and Wellness Fair on Wednesday.

By SHANNON O’BRIEN

With spring break approaching quickly, health-minded students descended on the third annual Student Health and Wellness Fair on Monday. With over 15 opportunities for healthy living available at Notre Dame and in the South Bend community.

Jennie Phillips, RecSports assistant director of fitness and fitness facilities, said organizers conceived “How the Health Are You?” three years ago after seeing similar fairs at other schools.

“We felt that Notre Dame could use such an event to make sure students know of all the resources available,” Phillips said. “We looked at all the facets of wellness in the lives of college students and made sure to address each of them.”

Phillips said students should prioritize their health, even if it means taking extra time to exercise and eat healthy.

“As a college student there are so many demands put upon students, that sometimes they can forget the importance of health,” Phillips said. “This fair provides a chance to refocus.”

The fair brought together a variety of health and wellness groups, including Notre Dame Food Service, RecSports, the University Counseling Center and South Bend’s Memorial Sleep Disorders Center.

Freshman Kathryn Bush said she appreciated learning about health and wellness opportunities in South Bend.

“I think it’s really great organizationally,” Bush said. “I learned of resources that are so close to campus I never knew existed, such as Salon Rouge, a full-service salon only a few miles away.”

Freshman Juliann Carson said the fair’s collection of health groups represented a variety of needs.

“I was impressed with the diversity of groups at the fair. They had everything from sleep deprivational fitness to fitness,” she said.

The fair also introduced students to on-campus opportunities to improve health and wellness.

“I had never been to Rolfs (Sports Recreation Center),” freshman Christina Serena said. “So this fair was the perfect opportunity to check it out, as well as learn about so many opportunities I never knew existed.”

The Office of Sustainability contributed to the fair to promote the connections between health and sustainable living, senior Office of Sustainability intern Jenna Hefner said.

“Sustainability is a very important aspect of health because in order to be healthy, we need a clean environment to live in,” she said. “No matter how many new products we manufacture, we will never be able to produce a new atmosphere.”

The Office of Alcohol and Drug Education allowed students to stimulate the visual impairment caused by alcohol by playing Wii Bowling while wearing “beer goggles.”

In addition to the event’s interactive tables, several presentations given by educated health experts, including health issues, including medicine techniques, sleep issues, energy drinks and partying.

Phillips said the overall goal of the fair was to promote education and a health-conscious attitude among students.

“We also wanted to make this fair a learning experience,” Phillips said. “It’s the first time many students are living on their own, making the perfect time to start developing life-time habits regarding health.”

Contact Shannon O’Brien at sobrie12@nd.edu

SMC hosts Midnight Madness

First year Nicole Papiernik paints first year Courtney Wright’s face at Midnight Madness on Wednesday.

By MADELINE MILES

The Saint Mary’s College Student Activity Board (SAB) hosted Midnight Madness on Wednesday night to celebrate school spirit and build excitement for the midnight announcement of this year’s SMC Toast Performer, Sam Adams.

Junior SAB member Anna Vaughn said the event unifies students from all class years in a night of light-hearted games and activities.

“The purpose is to bring college students together in competition,” Vaughn said. “Every conference comes together not only as a class, but also as a school.”

SAB set up a variety of activities, including dodgeball, “minute to win it” games and a beer pong contest.

“The hardest thing was an Oreo-eating contest complete with milk, a relay race and a tug-of-war competition,” Senior Emily Skirtich said. “The event’s foster both competition and community among Saint Mary’s students.”

“I love the class competition and the ‘minute to win it’ games,” Skirtich said. “It’s a great way to bring a sense of community to our school. And I love the ‘minute to win it’ games.”

First-year student Vaughn said students were encouraged to wear clothes in their respective class colors, with seniors in blue, juniors in green, sophomores in orange and freshmen in purple.

The South Bend community also contributed donations to Midnight Madness, Vaughn said.

“We also try to promote community businesses as well,” Vaughn said. “We were able to get a lot of donations from local businesses.”

Businesses such as Bruno’s Pizza, Salon Rouge, Dairy Maid and the Shahen Bookstore donated prizes for many of the Midnight Madness games and activities.

Contact Madeline Miles at mil010@stmarys.edu

Holy Cross continues from page 1

Noral officer training program kept campus alive during wartime, Connely said. During those wartime challenges, Connely said Holy Cross continued its reputation as a leader of Catholic education throughout the world, including such institutions of higher education as St. Edward’s University, the University of Portland, King’s College and St. John’s University.

“Because of Holy Cross’s good reputation in establishing Notre Dame College, the Congregation was invit- ed to open other schools around the country,” he said. “Some Holy Cross priests are parish priests, but edu-

cation has been the primary focus here and in missions abroad.”

Beginning with the foundation of the Holy Cross missions in Bangla-
desh in 1853, the Congregation has maintained a strong international presence in several countries, including Chile, Kenya, Tanzania, Brazil, Ghana, India, Peru, Mexico and the Philippines.

Connely said these missions focus on the development of second-
ary schools and parishes, and the work of Holy Cross religious has paved the way for Notre Dame stu-
dents to serve abroad.

Holy Cross has hosted several programs that have developed at Notre Dame started because they went to places where they felt that their mission was active, such as east Africa and Chile,” Connely said.

Fr. Sean McGraw, a Notre Dame graduate and professor of political science, said the international influence of the Congregation is by extension of the University, and this connection forced me to reflect on my own seminarian experiences. I came to know a deeper sense of how everything we do is rooted in Christ and the Gospel,” he said.

“In our Church, we start with the assumption that we are part of something bigger, and Holy Cross serves as a bridge to that international community.”

McGraw holds a unique connect-
ction to the University, as he is both a founder of the Alliance for Catholic Education (ACE), a Newmanian and now as a professor.

“When I came back to start ACE, I had the wonder of powerful science as education as a transformative force in the world. As a seminarian, I came to know a deeper sense of how everything we do is rooted in Christ and the Gospel,” he said.

“This is a great way to bring a sense of community to our school. And I love the ‘minute to win it’ games.”

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Contact Madeline Miles at mil010@stmarys.edu

As the April 1 turnover dead-
line quickly approaches, the Saint Mary’s Student Govern-
ment Association (SGA) discussed preparations for its last few events as it awaits the outcome of Thursday’s elections.

Many of the programs that have been put on by SGA members take necessary steps to help their successors adjust to their new positions.

“Make a better pass on your actual binder for the people who will be taking your position because just giving in-

formation you wish you would have known to people in your position would be helpful,” she said.

Chief of staff Emily Skirtich said the SGA is preparing for turnover by orienting students to their positions while preparing incoming members for a successful future.

First-year Maevy Carley said she was excited to par-

take in activities at her college this year.

“I think [Midnight Madness] is so much fun,” Carly said. “And I really like how it encourages school spirit at Saint Mary’s.”

First-year Kelly Crooks said she was impressed by the hard work SAB put into making the event a success.

“They did such a nice job of promoting the event,” Crooks said. “I showed me that it must be a great way to support the school as well.”

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tion to fitness," she said. "We use such an event to make sure students know of all the resources available," Phillips said. "This fair provides a chance to refocus."
Green
continued from page 1

purveyors of green transportation, including bicycle shops and car dealerships that distribute electric and hybrid cars.

Brown said the event gave students and the rest of the Notre Dame community more information about green transportation than they might otherwise have access to.

“Public transportation is very green and our new building is LEED certified,” she said. “We are also trying to make our routes more efficient by decreasing stops to designated stops only, which will help save fuel.

In the winter, Transpo switches to a hybrid fuel blend to cut down on emissions. Transpo representative Mike Stahy said, “We use a 8-B and 8-B2 hybrid soy ethanol mix with the diesel,” he said.

Mc Cormick Motors in Napoleon, Ind., sells the Chevy Volt, an innovative electric car. Bernie Beer, McCormick’s principal dealer, said the Volt promotes green living by eliminating the need for gasoline. “We’ve got about 4,500 miles on the [showroom model] and so far, we have only used 5 gallons of gas,” Beer said. “That comes out to roughly 300 miles to a gallon.”

Beer said owning an electric car adds the same amount of electricity needed to run a refrigerator to his electricity bill. Along with selling green vehicles, McCormick Motors is committed to being sustainable. Vice president Gordon Moore said, “Since 1998, we have recycled or reused 10,000 gallons of liquid waste, and had an annual reduction of 62 tons of solid waste sent to landfills,” he said.

Contact Anna Rosini at
abrazi01@u.notre dame.edu

Alta
continued from page 1

Gracia is able to pay their workers a living wage of $2.83 an hour — that is 240 percent higher than the minimum wage of $0.83 an hour in the Dominican Republic,” Alli said.

College students nationwide have demonstrated an interest in paying extra if it means their purchases will have a direct positive impact on workers’ lives. Notre Dame, UCLA and Brown are among the 350 schools nationwide that are currently working with Alta Gracia to produce their collegiate apparel.

Alta Gracia has already partnered with The Shirt Committee and agreed to produce The Shirt for the 2012 football season. Junior Andrew Alea, president of the 2012 Shirt Committee, said Alta Gracia’s mission makes it the perfect vendor for this year’s version of The Shirt.

“Our production quality is high,” said Alli. “There was little water and the electricity went out frequently. I was able to talk with the factory workers and spend some time in their shoes.”

Meza has since returned to Notre Dame with a passion for the Alta Gracia cause and hopes the community becomes more involved in the company’s mission. “Alta Gracia can make the shirt for any Notre Dame club or on campus,” said Meza. “The factory makes the literal shirt, and a local South Bend vendor imprints the graphics. We need students’ support.”

Sophomore Alta Gracia intern Samuel Eovaldi said Notre Dame’s proponents of Alta Gracia are working to sell more of the company’s clothing at the Hammes Notre Dame Bookstore, as well.

“We know that socially responsible clothing is highly profitable, so we hope the [Hammes] Notre Dame Bookstore will support Alta Gracia,” Eovaldi said. “We’re hoping to have as much as $500,000 worth of Alta Gracia gear for sale in the bookstore down the road.”

Contact Drew Pangrazz at
apangraz@nd.edu
**Hans continued from page 1**

If elected, Hans and Hudson plan to bring back dorm dances and the “Big Sisters” mentor program, in which upperclassmen help first years and sophomores become more acclimated to the Saint Mary’s community.

The mentor program would follow the example of an existing niche mentoring program within the College’s nursing program, Hudson said.

“Actually, the nursing program has developed a type of mentoring program this year and it has been working really well,” Hudson said. “I really think that it is something that would be great to build for our campus.”

Hans said the recent events of “Love Your Body Week” inspired her and Hudson to include the promotion of body image awareness in their platform.

“We would like to work with Women’s Health on body issues around campus,” Hudson said. “They have a ton of resources that are available to them and we would like to help them get more student attendance at Saint Mary’s athletic events through the distribution of free giveaways to fans.

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“Incentives for attending sporting events, whether it be giving out sunglasses or t-shirts, would be the way we would have more student attendance at sporting events,” Hudson said. “I feel like those giveaways are a big push for people to come out and support their peers.”

“Posting flyers and hanging posters around campus about the events for that week and incorporating the cheerleaders to make banners for the team would draw awareness to the athletes,” Hans said. “This will bring more unity to our campus, which is something that would be great to have.”

Since the Senate has recently been restructured, the student body must become familiar with the new duties and responsibilities of the organization, Hans said. She hopes to express the role of the new Senate to the College community and promote student involvement.

“Throughout the year when we get back, we will really need to have information sessions on what the Senate entails,” Hans said. “The student body needs to know what the Senate can do for them since they are unsure of what the Senate actually does. It will be a great change for the whole student body, so we want everyone to know how they can get involved.”

Hans said her affinity for her school drives her ambition to improve the College through student governance.

“I love Saint Mary’s and I really want to make sure there is opportunity to make the changes we need,” Hans said. “I just hope that we are all on the same page and that we have the opportunity to make the changes we need.”

Contact Jillian Barwick at jbarw001@saintmarys.edu

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**Parsons continued from page 1**

that we really thought we really could accomplish,” Parsons said. “In order to make their goals feasible, Parsons and Casey said they have already started working with faculty to develop the SGA’s technology initiatives they hope to start this summer.

“(Saint Mary’s) hired an IT company last semester to evaluate the technology situation on campus, and (the company) came up with a plan,” Parsons said. “Throughout the year, we’ve come up with 85 initiatives that will be launched to the student body before the end of the year. It’s a three-year plan, so next year, we really want to focus on keeping communication between the administration and the students on these initiatives (flowing) as they are implemented. That way, students are aware of the changes, and they see things happening and can appreciate them.”

Parsons said these 85 initiatives feature a variety of improvements and additions, such as updating current software and establishing a student IT intern position.

Regardless of the outcome of the election, Parsons said she will actively assist with the implementation of these initiatives next year.

“The 85 initiatives will be completed,” she said. “It’s just a matter of when considering money, having a person who is able to do it and having a person who will be able to take over the initiative once it is implemented.”

Additionally, the ticket aim to empower women through a series of leadership talks by current students and alumnae. Parsons and Casey developed this idea based on the current SGA leadership series.

“We want to carry [the leadership series] into next year because we thought it was a great idea, and they have been really successful focusing more on empowering women — for example, how women are represented in the media and how you can change that for your personal image or how women in the workforce are presented and treated and how you can get past certain barriers,” Parsons said. “Also hope to bring in alumni to share their success stories to encourage each other as a student body and as women to be there for each other as a support system.”

The team also hopes to unify campus clubs and organizations by creating a master calendar through campus meetings and events.

“We want to try to find the best and most efficient way for clubs, and boards, and organizations throughout campus to integrate their events and meetings so people are aware of where they’re meeting, what time they’re meeting, and try to integrate more clubs working together,” Casey said.

The calendar would create an hourly newsfeed to update students. This project would help reduce the number of emails that bombard students daily, Parsons said.

“Hopefully, fingers crossed, that would eliminate the amount of emails that we get each day so that students really are paying attention to important emails that we receive, and to centralize information to make their lives a little easier,” she said.

Finally, the team plans to encourage students to give back to the community by bringing services to campus.

“As a student myself, I’ve had difficulty doing volunteer opportunities on campus … so we thought it would be really cool to bring different organizations here to give the opportunity to other students who may not have trans- portation,” Casey said.

Volunteer activities could include anything from babysitting to volunteering on-campus clubs with a non-profit organization, Parsons said.

“For example, we could work with the Autism Speaks club and bring in representatives from the Logan Center or Hannah and Friends, or maybe think of a project we can do here that we can deliver to an outside organization,” Parsons said.

Above all, Parsons and Casey said their top priority is unifying campus.

“I think that unifying campus would encompass all our other goals going together and supporting each other and opening the lines of communication so everyone knows what’s going on,” Parsons said. “And supporting each other on campus is one way to empower and encourage each other.”
The best women for the job

As spring training has opened across the country, baseball is running hot. It cannot help but excite for the upcoming season. For baseball fans, it has always been a major event to watch, and I have always had a deep affection for the game of baseball. Opening Day, the All-Star Game, the trade deadline, the pennant chase, the playoffs and the World Series are all events that I look forward to each year.

While I am very excited for baseball season, I am dreading watching my favorite team, the Chicago White Sox. My reasoning is simple: I think they are going to be bad. Or perhaps, they will be better than bad, but like 100 losses bad. At the end of last season, the White Sox former manager Ozzie Guillen decided he had had enough, dealing with egomaniacal general manager Ken Williams and the usual owner Jerry Reinsdorf to give him a healthy extension, so the only manager fans are left with is Carlos Quentin was moved to the San Diego Padres for two wood bats and a bag of balls. (It was actually two minor league pitchers, but you get my point.)

Along with the surprising management change, the White Sox made some baffling roster moves. First, the team allowed longtime ace Mark Buehrle to leave and join Guillen with the Marlins. Second, promising young closer Sergio Santos was traded to the Toronto Blue Jays for two minor leaguers with zero major league experience. The final move came on New Year’s Day when power-hitting, yet injury-prone outfielder Carlos Quentin was moved to the San Diego Padres for two wood bats and a bag of balls. (It was actually two minor leaguers, but you get my point.)

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Sanatorium's words unnecessary, unproductive

The Observer | ndsmcobserver.com
Thursday, March 1, 2012

Santorum’s words unnecessary, unproductive

Think hedging is important only for Wall Street bankers and War- ren Buffetts of the world? Think again, because you’re not, you hedge all the time.

For example, say you want a DM future this weekend. You really don’t want to take your crush on a fun date, but he’s just not DM. You go long (buy) stocks you thought would do well. But, if he turns you down, you made money by buying DPZ and lost money by selling PZZA. If you’re right, the pizza industry expands, you think DPZ will perform well. But, if you’re wrong and the pizza industry contracts? Then PZZA will decline the most. You choose to short Papa John’s (PZZA) because you just don’t think that’s a good idea. You are hedging in this case, but you don’t know it.

Hedging is obviously used in the fi nancial industry. Say you’re thinking about investing in the pizza industry because you think all of the national pizza chains are underpriced in the market. You decide to buy shares of Dominio’s (DPZ) because you really like the garlic powder that they sprinkle on the crust, and you think there’s a huge demand for large chain arti fi cial pizza. But, if you’re wrong and the entire industry under-performs, the idea was that you could sell shares of a company similar to DPZ, perhaps a company in the same industry, so that you remove the risk of the industry tanking but still have the opportunity to reap the reward of DPZ rising.

You choose to short Papa John’s (PZZA) because you just don’t think that better ingredients make better pizza, and if the industry declines, then PZZA will decline the most. If you’re right, the pizza industry takes off, and both stocks rise, then you made money by buying DPZ and lost money by selling PZZA. If you’re wrong, the pizza industry declines, and both stocks drop, then you lost money by buying DPZ and made money by shorting PZZA. This is how hedge funds were origi nal ly designed to operate. They would go long (buy) stocks they thought would outperform the market and go short (sell) stocks they thought would under-perform. The idea was that regardless of whether the market went up or down, they would make money.

Nowadays, hedge funds have a va ri ety of investment strategies, most of which use derivative instruments such as options or futures to provide hedging. For example, you can buy a DM future for the opportunity to gain from the pizza market's rise or fall.

Grace Concelman, a political science major from Littleton, Colo. was reached at gconcelm@nd.edu. The views expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.

Letters to the Editor

Take it personally

As I sat and read The Observer in South Dining Hall during a lunch break this past Monday, a fellow reader at another table exclaimed to her friend, “If I were black, I would be very offended by this.” While acts like placing fried chicken in mailboxes associated with African American organizations are overt, purposeful and offensive acts of prejudice, the attitude implicit in statements like this are similarly ignorant.

It seems many students have heard about this event and have expressed sorrow for those who have been directly affected by it. To view the act as insulting solely toward a specific group is to view the group as “the other,” a mindset that obstructs the complete integration of majority and minority groups.

Instead, I encourage everyone to take this, and all other prejudicial acts, personally. Think of someone you know or admire in the targeted demographic and imagine how much it would hurt you to see their talents and character belittled by such a tasteless stunt. In this case, think of it especially as an act against persons within the Notre Dame community. In every case, consider it an offense towards someone imbued with the same human dignity as you. Take it personally, get mad and act accordingly.

Irrae Romeo Kwihangana, in his Viewpoint submission “Fried chicken does not celebrate Black History Month” (Feb. 27), detailed an incident where he heard three white students teasing around the n-word and called them out on it to no avail. If we all stood up to this kind of ignorance, instead of pretending it doesn’t affect us, this kind of behavior would likely stop. My theory: because the types of people who hold these racist attitudes are too close-minded to think intelligently for themselves, then some peer pressure in the opposite direction would help to advance us past this bigotry.

Sarah Brenzel
Walsh Hall
Feb. 29
Project 214 front man and Notre Dame junior Mike “OB” O’Brien made it clear from the start that Project 214 is not so much a musical group as a musical endeavor he began two years ago.

“Project 214 is [not] a band,” O’Brien said. “If it were a band, it would be called Band 214.”

After playing in a musical group in high school, O’Brien said he wanted to form a student band at Notre Dame. He started Project 214 in 2010 after discovering students did not have time to devote to a full throttle band.

“At that point, Project 214 was focused on recording and writing songs, but not necessarily the performance aspect,” O’Brien said. “Then we did some Acousticafe, some other things and finally, we played at the Battle of the Bands [at Legends] last April. Part of the concept … is that there is no lineup of Project 214.”

Project 214’s bassist junior Mike “Mac T” Thompson said the project is composed of O’Brien and whoever wants to come with him to perform.

“Mike [Thompson], (junior) David [Pratt] and I have been pretty consistent through, but other people have come and gone as have been available and necessitated,” O’Brien said. “They’ve helped us record [songs] or played at shows. It’s a strange concept, but works better than you [would] think it does.”

“It’s a band with the understanding that it’s a group of people playing music, but the group of people keeps changing,” Project 214’s drummer junior Brian Gilder said.

O’Brien, Thompson, Gilder and Pratt are the current core members of the musical project, but Gilder said this lineup could change at any moment.

O’Brien named the project after his dorm room sophomore year, where he, Thompson and Pratt and their friends frequently played music.

“It was my room number from last year, where David and I lived together,” O’Brien said. “I live there now with Brian. [The name] had a nice ring and it made sense, especially because Mike lived down the hall last year [and this year], but Mike would come down and we would all be in Room 214 and write stuff and jam and whatever.

“That’s where a lot of the [songs] came from. It was a very fitting name.”

Although Project 214 does not yet have a cohesive lineup, they have recorded some of their music with the intention of eventually releasing an EP or full-length album entitled “Thug Aim.”

“We have eight songs [recorded],” O’Brien said. “Some of them are halfway done. It was this trade off between spending time preparing for concerts and spending time recording. You can’t really do both at the same time, and we’re all busy people.”

Since Project 214’s lineup is constantly changing and its various members have differing musical interests and influences, Gilder said their music reflects the structure of the band itself.

O’Brien said Dream Theater, King Crimson, the Styx and other 70s progressive rock bands influence Project 214’s music.

“Everyone brings their own influences into the equation, but there is also already some non-negotiable, then everyone else kind of has the freedom to add within the limits,” O’Brien said. “We’ve even chopped up parts of [songs]. This past week, we were practicing, and then we decided we should just chop parts out and throw extra stuff into the songs.”

This Thursday evening will not be the first time Project 214 has taken the Legends stage. O’Brien, Thompson and Pratt performed at Legends’ Battle of the Bands last April.

“Last year, at Battle of the Bands, we performed ‘Friday’ by Rebecca Black, but the verses were done in a reggae style and the chorus was done in death metal style,” O’Brien said.

“You can’t say we’re a 100 percent non-serious band, because a non-serious band would not change time signatures every measure, but there is a certain degree of non-seriousness that needs to exist for us to be sane. There just has to be some fun.”

Project 214 will take the stage at Legends with fellow student band Rednight Thursday at 10 p.m.

Contact Alexandra Kilpatrick at akilpatr@nd.edu

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**This Week's Mix — You're Stuck with It**

**by Meghan Thomassen**

1. “Call Me Maybe” — Carly Rae Jepsen
2. “Friday” — Rebecca Black
3. “My Heart Will Go On” — Celine Dion
4. “Crazy Frog” — Axel F
5. “Surfin’ Bird” — The Trashmen
6. “Mambo No. 5” — Lou Bega
7. “Baby” — Justin Bieber
8. “Yellow Submarine” — The Beatles
9. “Mickey” — Toni Basil
10. “Material Girl” — Madonna
11. “Mahna Mahna” — The Muppets
12. “Brass Monkey” — The Beastie Boys
13. “Jump Around” — House of Pain
14. “Girlfriend” — Avril Lavigne
15. “ABC” — Jackson 5
16. “Poker Face” — Lady Gaga

We all know those songs — the ones people play just to get everyone’s nerves. The redundant beat and the catchy words are just the beginning of it. We groan when the first few notes play, but soon the lyrics become a part of those special memories. We start to scream along with the words when they come on the car radio. They’re the songs we love to hate. And we might as well love them, because we’re stuck with them.

Listen online at ndsmcobserver.com/scene

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**On campus**

**What:** Project 214 and Rednight

**Where:** Legends

**When:** Thursday at 10 p.m.

**How Much:** Free

**Learn More:** legendsofnotredame.org
The DeBartolo Performing Arts Center will show “The Room,” as part of the Midnight Movies series Saturday. As a film, “The Room” fails on almost every level. The plot is largely unintelligible, the acting is atrocious, the dialogue is repetitive and filled with non sequiturs and several shots are out of focus. These flaws can no doubt be traced to the film’s writer, director, producer and star, Tommy Wiseau. “The Room” does succeed in one respect: It is a movie that entertains and resonates with audiences. Wiseau deserves credit for that, even though it must be entirely accidental.

Wiseau first marked the film as a drama about the relationship between his character Johnny and Johnny’s girlfriend Lisa (Juliette Danielle). Its initial run in a few Los Angeles theaters attracted little attention until someone realized the astounding ineptitude with which the drama was assembled made it one of the most unintentionally funny movies of all time. Wiseau has since claimed to be in on the joke. It’s hard to tell, though, as his interview responses can often be as confounding as the film’s dialogue.

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“Antigona Furiosa” Philbin Theatre
2:30 p.m.
$7

An adaptation of the classic story of “Antigone” with the “Dirty War” of Argentina, “Antigona Furiosa” is a powerful study of grief and the harrows of war. Don’t miss this highly praised production!

By PATRICK McMANUS
Scene Writer

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As a film, “The Room” fails on almost every level. The plot is largely unintelligible, the acting is atrocious, the dialogue is repetitive and filled with non sequiturs and several shots are out of focus. These flaws can no doubt be traced to the film’s writer, director, producer and star, Tommy Wiseau.

“The Room” does succeed in one respect: It is a movie that entertains and resonates with audiences. Wiseau deserves credit for that, even though it must be entirely accidental.

Wiseau first marked the film as a drama about the relationship between his character Johnny and Johnny’s girlfriend Lisa (Juliette Danielle). Its initial run in a few Los Angeles theaters attracted little attention until someone realized the astounding ineptitude with which the drama was assembled made it one of the most unintentionally funny movies of all time. Wiseau has since claimed to be in on the joke. It’s hard to tell, though, as his interview responses can often be as confounding as the film’s dialogue.

“The Room” was first released in 2003. Since then, midnight showings of the movie across the country have become popular events. Attendees often dress as their favorite characters, yell out their favorite lines and throw plastic spoons at the screen (in homage to an inexplicably recurrent framed spoon in the movie).

Several celebrities are among those who love to laugh at “The Room.” For instance Kristin Bell and Rob Thomas reportedly snuck numerous references to “The Room” in the series “Veronica Mars.” Paul Rudd and David Wain tried to do the same with “Role Models,” but all the references were cut. On the set of “Arrested Development,” all it took was the trailer to entertain David Cross and Will Arnett.

“The Room” is certainly a fun movie. In one scene, Lisa’s mother tells her that she has breast cancer, to which Lisa responds, “Don’t worry about it” (a line that is repeated a seemingly infinite number of times throughout the film). The cancer is never mentioned again. Please keep in mind that the context does nothing to explain anything about the interaction. That sort of thing happens a lot.

In another scene, a drug dealer accosts the creepy neighbor Denny, who serves no obvious narrative purpose, on a roof. The incident is neither prompted by nor explained by the rest of the film. The best part is that it was filmed in front of a green screen, rather than on an actual roof, as if no regular roof was available in Los Angeles.

“The Room” earned the designation “The ‘Citizen Kane’ of bad movies.” Perhaps a worse film could be made if that was the intention of the filmmaker, but even then, no movie could mimic this film’s futile earnestness.

Contact Patrick McManus at pmcmanu1@nd.edu

Project 214 and Rednight Legends
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Check out performances by two student bands at Legends tonight at 10 p.m. Project 214 returns to Legends after its Battle of the Bands performance at the venue last April. The event is free, so don’t miss out!

Collegiate Jazz Festival Washington Hall
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On campus

What: “The Room”
Where: DeBartolo Performing Arts Center
When: Saturday at 11:59 p.m.

How Much: $6 for general admission, $3 for students

Learn More:
performingarts.nd.edu
**SPORTS AUTHORITY**

MLB needs to expand replay, protect catchers

Baseball is late to the party. A lot. In fact, baseball has been late to the party so many times I’m surprised baseball still gets invited.

The powers pulling the strings behind the scenes of Major League Baseball disregarded email about a week ago and think change is a running fad. Needless to say, the sport has taken recent steps to act like they’re the one to come the idea.

**The League**

The league reached an agreement with the Player’s Association last November to remove tobacco from the public’s eye, preventing players and coaches from carrying tobacco packages in their uniforms during games. Players think more positive changes will come.

**Coaching booth**

Adding a fifth and designated replay umpire is hardly an original idea, yet it is one that would have already implemented replay to questionable homerooms — it needs to expand replay’s scope to every thing else.

Adding a fifth and designated replay umpire in the scorer’s booth is hardly an original idea, yet it is one that would eliminate the shadow of a doubt a base runner’s right to be on the bags, not to mention unfair pitcher tantrums and ejections.

But baseball’s most incriminating tradition is the one most likely never to change: collisions at the plate. I’ve been at AT&T Park at its loudest, lest like when Barry Bonds slams his nose into my section of the bleach-ers. But nothing compares to the silence of May 25, 2011, when I saw Buster Posey break his leg and tear three ankle ligaments after Scott Cousins of the Marlins plowed into the Giants’ catcher. It was as if someone took a vacuum to the life of that stadium, creating the silence that only comes when you know you’ve lost your franchise player for the season and maybe more.

Two months later, Diamond- back fans lost Stephen Drew to a season-ending ankle injury sustained in a home- plate collision. Forty-one years earlier, Milwaukee Bra- ders fans lost a rising star catcher Ray Fosse when Pete Rose famously rearranged his left shoulder in the 12th inning of the All-Star Game, colliding with Fosse before scoring the game-winning run for the National League. Fosse had 16 home runs at the All-Star Break. In the nine years following the collision, Fosse never hit more than 12 in a full season.

I’m tired of hearing the “It’s part of the game” argument. Head injuries in the NFL were part of the game. Checking to the head in the NHL was part of the game. How can a sport that employs rigorous drug tests in order to protect “the integrity of the game” undermine the protection of its players with an almost certain injury-inducing collisions? It’s a losing proposition.

From 1876 to 1926, 38 different pitchers earned two complete seasons for the same team on the same day. That means they pitched at least 18 innings over the course of a double header. But by the end of the 19th century, pitchers were throwing on four days of rest instead of three in light of career-ending throwing injuries from overuse. Owners and managers were able to extend the protection of their pitching investments, and baseball returned.

By encouraging players to slide into the plate and mandating catchers to use swipe tags, owners and coaches are essentially eliminating the protection of their players. For a league that fears making a change from precedent, base- ball, there’s your precedent.

Contact Chris Masoud at masoud@nd.edu

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**INTERNATIONAL SOCCER**

U.S. tops Italy for first time

Associated Press

GENOA, Italy — The United States beat Italy for the first time in 11 games over 78 years, a 1-0 victory in an exhibition Wednesday night on Clint Dempsey’s goal in the 55th minute.

Dempsey took a short pass from Jozy Altidore following Michael Bradley’s assist and put a right-footed shot from just inside the penalty area past just an outstretched hand of goalkeeper Gianluigi Buffon.

Although just an exhibition, it was a rare U.S. vic- tory over a world power.

“I’d like to think that we’re closing the gap and hopefully one day we can do something special,” Dempsey said.

It was the 25th goal in 83 international appearances for Dempsey, a veteran of two World Cups and one of the players counted on to lead the Americans in qualifying for an Olympic tournament.

“Initially, I was going to say where I was and have him lay it back to me,” Dempsey said. “I saw the guy was covering. So I tried to move to try my right to get them to move me the ball. He did a great job of holding it up, playing me, and I just tried to hit it low and hard, fast and post, and it went in.”

A native of Nacogdoches, Texas, who turns 29 on March 9, Dempsey has had the most recent match to im- press U.S. coach from Bob Bradley to Klinsmann, who took over as the U.S. coach in June.

Dempsey also had the best U.S. chance in the first half, when he sent a shot from 25 yards that Buffon saved with a two-handed punch.

The Americans continued with a 2-0 win over Serbia in a Euro 2012 qualifier in June, had been 0-7-3 against Italy and had been outscored 32-4.

Italy dominated for stretches but the American defense held and the Americans were called for offsides eight times. With retired baseball star Mike Piazza watching from the stands alongside former U.S. forward Brian McBride, the Americans won their fourth straight match to im- prove to 5-4-1 under Jurgen Klinsmann, who took over as U.S. coach from Bob Bradley last summer.

It was a measure of per- sonal revenge for Klins- mann, the former German World Cup great, Germany, then coached by Klinsmann, lost to Italy in the 2006 World Cup sem- ifinals and the Azzurri won on the way to the 2006 World Cup title.

Today marks his second-to-last day as the one and only Douglas Farmer.

You should also say goodbye to the one and only Douglas Farmer.

**WANTED**

Artist needed for children’s book/

Come into the Giants’ catcher. It was as if someone took a vacuum to the life of that stadium, creating the silence that only comes when you know you’ve lost your franchise player for the season and maybe more.

**USA forward Clint Dempsey tries to corral a loose ball during America’s 1-0 win over Italy in a friendly match Wednesday.**

With the Americans wear- ing new road jerseys in blue with white sleeves, Klins- mann had most of his regu- lars back following victories over Venezuela and Panama while playing with a backup squad. He had hoped to be able to name a list to Landon Donovan for the first time since taking over as coach, but Donovan missed the match because of bron- chitis.

Italy had its own personnel problem, especially up front where it was missing injured forwards Giuseppe Rossi and Antonio Cassano. Marbes- ter City striker Mario Balotelli was out of the squad because of his temper and unpredictability.

The Observer accepts classifieds every business day from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Notre Dame office, 104 South Dining Hall. Deadline for acceptance is 4 p.m. All classifieds must be prepaid. The charge is $1.30 per character, per page, including spaces. The Observer reserves the right to edit all classifieds for content without issuing refunds.

**CHECK OUT TOMORROW’S WOMEN’S BASKETBALL INSIDER**

**CHECK OUT TOMORROW’S BENGAL BROADCASTERS INSIDER**

The Observer encourages all readers to leave a comment but not all comments will be posted. All comments are subject to approval. Comments are sometimes removed after 72 hours so older comments may not be seen. Comments that are offensive, inappropriate, nonsensical, or contain profanity will not be posted.

**For Sale**

**RECOMMENDED ARTIST**

Dempsey had a big kick save in the World Cup semifinals and the Azzurri were called for offsides eight times. With retired baseball star Mike Piazza watching from the stands alongside former U.S. forward Brian McBride, the Americans won their fourth straight match to im- prove to 5-4-1 under Jurgen Klinsmann, who took over as U.S. coach from Bob Bradley last summer.

It was a measure of per- sonal revenge for Klins- mann, the former German World Cup great, Germany, then coached by Klinsmann, lost to Italy in the 2006 World Cup sem- ifinals and the Azzurri won on the way to the 2006 World Cup title.

Today marks his second-to-last day as
CINCINNATI — JaQuon Parker scored a career-high 28 points in a take-it-to-the-hoop attack on Wednesday night, leading Cincinnati to a 72-61 victory over No. 8 Marquette that embel-lished the Bearcats’ NCAA tour-nament chances.

The Bearcats (21-9, 11-6) have won six of their last eight, includ-ing home victories over then-No. 17 Louisville and Marquette (24-6, 13-4). The Golden Eagles had won five straight, including a 95-78 drubbing of the Bearcats in Milwaukee on Feb. 11. The rematch was a total reversal.

Cincinnati repeatedly drove through Marquette’s defense for layups, with Parker leading the way. Dion Dixon added 21 points for the Bearcats. Cincinnati’s front line dominated with nine blocks, including seven by Justin Jackson. Darius Johnson-Odom scored 18 points, and Jae Crowder added 17 points and 12 rebounds for Marquette, which never got the lead under double digits in the second half.

Cincinnati improved to 5-3 against ranked teams this season. It was Cincinnati’s most lopsided win over a top 10 oppo-nent since it beat No. 4 Louisville 101-80 on Feb. 22, 2003. Marquette sat three starters, including Johnson-Odom, for the first half of a 61-60 win at West Virginia on Saturday, punish-ment for violating unspec-i-fied team rules. All were back against Cincinnati.

The Bearcats honored seniors Dixon and Yancy Gates before the final home game. Gates set a tone early, getting five rebounds before picking up his second foul on a charge at the 16:16 mark. Even without Gates, Cincinnati dominated the boards — it had a 10-3 advantage early — while pulling out to a 19-11 lead. Dixon had a pull-up jumper, a layup and a finger-roll basket during a 10-0 run.

Marquette made its first three shots — all from behind the arc — but missed nine of its next 10, including two air balls. Cincin-nati blocked seven shots in the first half, by Jackson.

Parker took advantage of Marquette’s perimeter defense, driving past step-step defenders for layups as Cincinnati pulled away in the closing minutes of the first half. His 3 from the left corner with 1 second left pushed the lead to 42-26 and left Parker with 16 points.

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**Federer, Djokovic advance in Dubai**

Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates — Novak Djokovic and Roger Federer reached the quarterfinals in straight sets Wednesday to advance to the quarterfinals of the Dubai Tennis Championships.

Djokovic beat Sergiy Stakhovsky of Ukraine 6-3, 6-3, while Federer defeated Feliciano Lopez of Spain 7-5, 6-3.

Andy Murray of Britain also reached the final eight with a 6-3, 6-2 win over Jo-Wilfried Tsonga of France. The fourth-seeded Murray will meet Novak Djokovic, who was facing France’s Gilles Simon.

Murray has just six hours of tennis in his pocket, having played Bastian Baker in his first-round win in straight sets.

Federer, who won in straight sets against Tsonga, said he has a back injury and will not play again until the Shanghai Masters in October.

**Steelers part ways with receiver Hines Ward**

Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — Hines Ward's contract talks have hit a wall, tucked behind a black facemask has been a lasting image for Pittsburgh fans since winning the past 14 seasons.

They won't see it again.

At least, not in a black-and-gold uniform.

The team's all-time leader in just about every meaningful receiving category will be released in the next two weeks, said president Art Rooney II. The team's website on Wednesday.

"We had a conversation today with Hines Ward and informed him that we plan to release him of his contract prior to the start of the 2012 NFL calendar year," Rooney said. "Hines has been an integral part of our success since we drafted him in 1998, and we will forever be grateful for what he has done for us and the city.

A four-time Pro Bowl selection and MVP of the 2006 Super Bowl, Ward was released by his St. Louis Rams career with 1,000 catches, 12,083 yards and 85 receiving touchdowns. He helped Pittsburgh to three AFC championships and a pair of Super Bowl wins.

The former "Dancing With The Stars" champion, who spent last weekend working the red carpet at the Oscars — doesn't appear ready to put away his cleats just yet, however.

When asked if he thinks this chapter of my career is over and was released for a turn for a 15th season next fall. I do feel that I still have more football in me. I am looking forward to playing in the NFL, again, this upcoming season," Ward said in a statement.

A third-round pick out of Georgia, Ward developed a reputation as one of the league's best blocking wide receivers, a trait that endeared him to the blue-collar fan base of one of the league's marquee franchises.

"Ward was pretty good at catching passes too, particularly in the postseason. He helped the Steelers to their fifth Super Bowl in 2006 catching five passes for 123 receiving yards and a touchdown in a 21-10 win over Seattle.

"He has meant so much to this organization, both on and off the field," Rooney said, "and we appreciate his efforts over the past 14 years." Just not enough to bring Ward, who turns 36 next week, back at $4 million next season.

The Steelers are in the midst of a youth movement at receiver.

Ward did not record a catch.

Steelers receiver Hines Ward stands on the sidelines during a Dec. 12, 2010 game. Ward was cut by the Steelers on Wednesday.
The Big Ten is instead working on a proposal that would allow teams across the nation to play up to 14 non-conference games in the fall. The results of those fall games would carry over to the spring for consideration in the NCAA tournament selection process.

A team choosing to play in the fall could resume its season later than the current mid-February start date and avoid those expensive trips to the Sun Belt. Proponents say northern teams could build a stronger RPI, the key component weighed by the selection committee, because they would have more home games.

Purdue coach Doug Schreiber, who came up with the fall-spring model, said the fall games would be optional and the trick would be to lure teams from the power conferences to come north in the fall. Unlike Anderson’s proposal to play in the summer and forfeit the opportunity to play in the NCAA tournament, Schreiber’s wouldn’t “upset the whole apple cart.”

NCAA rules don’t prohibit conferences or individual schools from playing in the summer, as long as they don’t exceed 56 regular-season games.

Associated Press

Imagine a warm June night, a packed baseball stadium and two of the biggest names in college athletics battling for a championship.

The College World Series comes to mind, right?

How about Michigan and Ohio State with the Big Ten title on the line?

Minnesota’s John Anderson, the winningest baseball coach in Big Ten history, is pushing for his conference to break away from the NCAA’s traditional February-to-June schedule and play when the weather in the northern climes is more favorable. In short, the Big Ten’s boys of summer would be on the field in summer.

Such a move would cost the Big Ten schools any shot at playing in the NCAA tournament. That doesn’t bother Anderson.

“There were four SEC teams in the College World Series last year. We’re never going to catch those people,” he said. “The system works for them, and they’re not going to want to change it. People are going to criticize this idea, but we need to get people talking about it.”

Big Ten leadership has spent the last decade trying to provide northern teams greater access to an NCAA tournament usually dominated by schools from the South, Southwest and West.

Big Ten deputy commissioner Brad Traviola said he isn’t going to let a good thing end in million.

Schreiber’s wouldn’t “upset the whole apple cart.”

NCAA rules don’t prohibit conferences or individual schools from playing in the summer, as long as they don’t exceed 56 regular-season games.

Associated Press

No matter what happens at the Missouri Valley tournament, 15th-ranked Wichita State knows its name will be called when NCAA tournament bids are announced a week from Sunday.

Wins in 16 of its last 17 games allowed the Shockers to win the regular-season championship by two games over Creighton and make a strong claim on at least an at-large NCAA bid.

Coach Gregg Marshall doesn’t want to let a good thing end in St. Louis.

“We’re going there to win the tournament,” Marshall said. “Our guys, without being over the top, have been solid in their resolve and approach and haven’t gotten too high or too low. This is just the next challenge and obstacle in our way. We’re looking forward to the opportunity to go to St. Louis and be the first Shocker team to come out of there with a victory.”

Wichita State won the tournament in 1985 and ’87, but not since the event moved to St. Louis in 1991.

The tournament opens Thursday with Indiana State (17-13) matched against South-ern Illinois (8-22) and Drake (16-14) against Bradley (7-24).

Friday’s games pit Wichita State (26-4) against the Indiana State-Southern Illinois winner, Illinois State (18-12) against Northern Iowa (19-12), 25th-ranked Creighton (25-5) against either Drake or Bradley and Evansville (15-14) against Missouri State (16-12).

Semifinals are Saturday and the championship game is on Sunday.

The way Wichita has entered the tournament, they’re playing as well as anybody in the league and maybe as well as anybody in the country right now,” Creighton coach Greg McDermott said. “Someone is going to have to slow that train down somehow.”

Second-ranked Creighton, like Wichita State, is also on track for an NCAA at-large bid if it doesn’t win the MVC’s automatic berth. The Valley has received only one bid four straight years but could get as many as three if a team other than Creighton or Wichita State wins the title.

The top-seeded team has won the tournament 13 times in 35 tournaments, but it has happened only six times in the 20-year history in St. Louis.
NCAA Basketball

Hummel, Purdue down Penn State

Associated Press

WEST LAFAYETTE, Ind. — Robbie Hummel wrapped the best of his four years of playing at Purdue into one special final home game.

The senior had 26 points, eight rebounds and six assists on Senior Night to help Purdue defeat Penn State 80-56 on Wednesday night.

Boilermakers fans at Mackey Arena got one last glimpse of an athlete who embodies what they admire perhaps more than any Purdue player in a decade. He has overcome two surgeries, sore knees, a shooting slump early this season to close the season with a flourish.

Hummel said he was glad to finish the home schedule on a high note.

"It still would have been nice if I wasn't playing at a so-called high level, but I guess to be doing that after everything is nice," he said.

In the last six games, Hummel is averaging 23.5 points and 9.3 rebounds, and Purdue has gone 5-1.

In the last half of conference play, Robbie Hummel’s been one of the best players in our league," Purdue coach Matt Painter said. "He’s re-bounding the ball, he’s scoring the ball, he’s been very, very consistent.

"D.J. Byrd scored 14 points, Terone Johnson had 13 and senior Lewis Jackson added 12 for the Boilermakers (20-10, 10-7 Big Ten).

Senior Robbie Hummel and Tyreke Smith combined to score 30 of Purdue’s 43 points in the second half. One of the three seniors either scored or assisted on all 15 of Purdue’s field goals after the break.

"It was a lot of fun," Smith said. "A lot of smiles out in the second half.

"The Boilermakers were coming off a win at No. 11 Michigan, and there was no letdown. The Boilermakers shot 57 percent to win their third straight.

"I think we’re on a big-time roll right now," Hummel said.

Tim Frazier led Penn State (12-18, 4-13) with 24 points and six assists. Jermaine Marshall added 10 points and nine rebounds for Nittany Lions.

Purdue avenged a 65-45 loss to Penn State on Jan. 5 and clinched a winning conference record heading into its showdown with in-state rival Indiana on Sunday.

Purdue led Penn State by as many as eight points early, but Frazier’s shooting kept the Nittany Lions in it. Trey Lewis hit a 3-pointer to give Penn State the lead, but Hummel responded with a four-point play to put the Boilermakers up 33-30.

The Observer

SPORST

walk the walk this Lent

Friday, March 2 @ 9pm in Co-Mo lounge

(a brief panel discussion will follow with students who have walked El Camino de Santiago) Admission is free. Popcorn and refreshments too!

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Knights of Columbus Soup Supper at 8pm

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Observer Sports

Raptors make late run to beat New Orleans

NEW ORLEANS — Linas Kleiza and Demar DeRozan scored 21 points apiece and the Toronto Raptors rallied to beat the New Orleans Hornets 95-84 on Wednesday night.

The Raptors, who trailed 69-62 after tying a season low for points in a quarter with 11 in the third, broke loose for 33 in the fourth — matching a season best for any quarter. They hit their first eight shots and took control by scoring 22 points in the first 4:22.

Kleiza tied a career high with five 3-pointers off the bench, including three in the fourth. Leandro Barbosa, an- other reserve, added 15 points.

Marco Belinelli had 20 points for the Hornets, who missed 13 of their last 17 shots in the fourth. Chris Kaman added 12 points and 10 rebounds.

The game turned quickly at the start of the fourth after Toronto missed 17 of 21 shots in the third, getting outscored 23-11.

DeRozan scored on a Roater. Kleiza drilled a 3-pointer and Barbosa converted a transition layup to tie the score right away, prompting a New Or- leans timeout with 10:43 left.

The Raptors did not cool down. Kleiza hit another 3 on their next possession for a 72-71 lead. Jerryd Bayless responded to a 3 by Belinelli with a 3 the next time down the court. After Belinelli sank another 3, Barbosa hit a mid- range shot, Bayless made two free throws and Barbosa made a 3 from the corner to give To- ronto an 82-77 lead with 7:38 left.

Kleiza finished off the Hor- nets with his fifth 3-pointer, a 25-footer, to put Toronto ahead 89-81 with 3:25 left.

The final margin was Toron- to’s largest lead of the night.

The Hornets turned a 51-46 halftime deficit into a 69-62 lead by limiting the Raptors to one basket in the last 7 min- utes of the third quarter. New Orleans went ahead for the first time since the first quar- ter, 60-58, on Trevor Ariza’s layup. The Hornets extended the advantage to seven when reserve Solomon Jones scored back-to-back baskets in the fi- nal minute, getting the ball to fall in after rolling around the rim both times.

Toronto went more than 4 minutes at the start without making a shot, getting its only two baskets on putbacks while falling behind 19-4. The Rap- ters heated up quickly, though, finishing the first quarter 12 of 19 (63.2 percent) from the field.

Jose Calderon sank all four of his shots, including a pair of 3s to give Toronto a 29-25 lead by the end of the quarter.

New Orleans point guard Jarrett Jack, coming off the bench for the sixth consecutive game after missing seven in a row with sore knees, struggled for almost all of the first half. He hit the backboard on the fly with a 3-point attempt and shot an airball from 17 feet that Ka- man grabbed for a layup.

Associated Press
MEMPHIS, Tenn. — Marc Gasol had 22 points and 11 rebounds, and Mike Conley added 20 points and 10 assists as the Memphis Grizzlies defeated the Dallas Mavericks 96-85 on Wednesday night.

Rudy Gay added 18 points for Memphis, despite hitting just eight of his 19 shots. Dante Cunningham was 5 of 6 from the field and scored 10 points.

Jason Terry led the Mavericks with 18 points, while Rodrigue Beaubois scored 16. Brendan Haywood had 10 points for Dallas, which lost its third straight.

The Mavericks played most of the game without leading scorer Dirk Nowitzki, who scored only one point before leaving early in the second quarter with lower back tightness. He did not return.

Memphis led by as many as 15 in the second half and maintained a nine- to 11-point lead most of the way down the stretch.

Beaubois gave the Mavericks good minutes off the bench in the first half scoring 12 points on 5-of-8 shooting from the field. He was part of the Mavericks hitting 13 of their 20 shots in the second quarter, taking a 49-47 lead into halftime.

Memphis built the lead to as many as 10 early in the second period, but Dallas outscored the Grizzlies 32-22 in the quarter.

Both teams shot well in the half, Dallas connecting on 54 percent of its shots, the Grizzlies hitting at a 50 percent clip. But the Mavericks were hampered by 10 turnovers.

Gasol led Memphis with 12 points in the half.

The Mavericks extended the lead with four points from Haywood to open the second half, but Conley sparked Memphis to retake the lead. The Grizzlies relied on their defense to compose an 18-2 run in the period.

That wasn’t enough to hold Dallas completely at bay, however, as the Mavericks picked their was back. Still, Memphis led 74-67 entering the final quarter.

Memphis opened the fourth with four straight baskets, including a pair by Gasol, to reach its biggest lead at 82-67.
Holt
continued from page 20

Holt also gave credit to the University as a whole for drawing talented student-athletes.

“I think the fact that it’s the University of Notre Dame gives parents a reason to send their girls here to play golf and get a great education,” Holt said.

“The academic and athletic tradition that this institution has benefits our recruiting efforts.”

Holt also said she is generally a hands-off coach.

“In the long time (22 years) I have been doing this, I have never been accused of over-coaching,” Holt said. “Once the match starts, all the preparation is done and they are out there against the course. At this point, I’m there to support them through the ups and downs emotionally and mentally. I need to keep up their confidence. I feel like I’m a cheerleader.”

When recruiting players, Holt said she looks for a student-athlete, with an emphasis on the academics. In three out of the four years, a Notre Dame team has won the competition for highest GPAs in all varsity athletics at Notre Dame, with a team average of 3.655 during the fall of 2011. Holt said she is a proponent of this University commitment.

“When recruiting a player we look for a player who truly loves and appreciates the game, but academics are also at the forefront,” Holt said. “Another thing I look for are athletes who are also golfers. Golf is a mental sport and requires a tough competitive edge and strong mental game. Having a multiple-sport background really gives them a strong sense of competition.”

Holt said the Irish nabbed the best recruiting class for 2012. Lindsey Weaver, from Scottsdale, Ariz., and Talia Campbell from Dallas — ranked by Junior Golf Scoreboard as the No. 3 and No. 29 best players in the country — will join the Irish in the fall of 2012.

“We have the number one recruiting class,” Holt said. “Two top players are completely committed to coming here.”

For now though, Holt said the team is focused on preparing for this season’s rough competition in the Big East, particularly Louisville and South Florida.

“In the Big East this year, I think we will face the most competitive championship,” Holt said. “We are prepared though .. with this good weather, we have actually got to get out on the course already. The team is focused on golf and excited to get out of town to get started.”

The Irish compete in the Darius Rucker Intercollegiate in Hilton Head, S.C., starting Friday.

Contact Isaac Lorton at ilorton@nd.edu

Bayliss
continued from page 20

caused the Irish to drop the key doubles’ point.

“We had a chance to win the doubles’ point,” Irish coach Bobby Bayliss said. “We got broken serving 7-8 and we were 3-4 down. Bobby Bayliss said. “We got broken serving 7-8 and we were 3-4 down. Bobby Bayliss said. “We got broken serving 7-8 and we were 3-4 down. Bobby Bayliss said. “We got broken serving 7-8 and we were 3-4 down. Bobby Bayliss said. “We got broken serving 7-8 and we were 3-4 down. We had a chance to win the doubles’ point, which we won, we probably would have won the match overall.”

While an injury prevented

Sophomore Billy Peper from playing. McCoy filled in at both No. 3 doubles and No. 6 singles. In addition to losing the tightly contested No. 3 doubles match, McCoy fell to senior Will Kendall (6-1, 6-0) at No. 6 singles.

Andrews continued his hot streak with a straight-set 6-3, 7-5 win at No. 2 singles, improving his yearly record to 15-2. After losing the first set, Watt fought back to force a third set tiebreaker, which he took 10-8.

Notre Dame’s biggest struggles came from the bottom of the lineup, something that does not typically occur, Bayliss said.

“Greg Andrews played very well at No. 2 singles,” Bayliss said.

“Casey Watt fought back from a set and break down to win at No. 1 and normally, if we can win at one and two, we can beat most teams. But today we didn’t play quite as well in the bottom part of the lineup, and that’s normally not been the case.”

No. 4 singles was the last match to finish as senior Niall Fitzgerald lost to sophomore Dmitrije Tasic in a third set tiebreaker 10-6.

“I felt like Niall Fitzgerald would have won his match had he played out a third set and probably had a chance to win it in straight sets,” Bayliss said.

Contact Peter Steiner at psteiner@nd.edu

Costello
continued from page 20

in a while, so, especially in my first game back, I was very fortunate to get that bounce that I did. I think that built up our confidence after that, especially in Friday night’s game.”

Friday’s win proved to be enough for the Irish to secure home ice for the opening round of the CCHA playoffs this weekend, when they’ll take on Ohio State in a best-of-three series. The Buckeyes have won just one of their four games since Jan. 1. and the atmosphere of the Compton Family Ice Arena should make turning that streak around a difficult task. If that wasn’t tough enough, the Buckeyes will have to deal with Costello, who is focused on making Ohio State’s visit to South Bend as unpleasant as possible.

“I think I bring a nastiness to this team, and playing on the edge without giving over, as [Irish coach] Jeff Jackson likes to tell me to do,” Costello said. “Never giving up on pucks, playing physically, getting pucks to the net, getting myself to the net so we’re in a position to score goals and making other teams not like playing against us, that’s sort of my job.”

Looking over the Irish through the entire CCHA playoffs, will be the possibility of making the 16-team NCAA tournament field, and making another run toward the Frozen Four. A potential national championship appearance in Tampa is a long way off, and Costello said the team is focused on the task at hand.

“We’re just focused on Friday night, then we’ll deal with Saturday,” he said. “Hopefully we’ll make it to Detroit and play at Joe Louis Arena, but we have some work to do before then.”

We just need to take it one game at a time.”

Contact Jack Hefferon at wheffero@nd.edu

Bayliss
continued from page 20

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The Wide Range of Political Opinions at Notre Dame

What does the Church say?
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Across
1. Africa’s Lake ______, body of water in four countries
5. Changes, in a way
11. Fingers
14. Many a stayer
15. Moore who wrote “A Gals at the Stairs”
16. Goose egg
17. Private quarters in a stabler
19. New Deal initials
20. Court alli, with “The”
21. Dox
22. “Could we get started, please?”
23. Dallas tourists, perhaps?
26. URL ender
27. Noisy
28. “ Lucky here!”

Found Results of bringing someone home.
60. Not solving for quite some time
62. Velvet finish
63. Attaches, in a way
64. Pac-12 team
65. Bit of work
66. Very early
67. Mail

Crossword

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...or send them to EUGENIA LAST

The London Express

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☑ Enclosed is $130 for one academic year
☑ Enclosed is $75 for one semester

Name
Address
City State Zip

Horoscope

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Antoneo Salerno Jr., 40; Anthony Robbins, 52; Dennis Farina, 66; John Ashcroft, 84.

Happy Birthday! Expect to face some opposition. Prepare wisely, precisely, and with the intent of overcoming any challenge you meet along the way. By timing well and being progressive, you will master and produce something that makes you proud and adds to your confidence. Don’t allow emotion to cloud your vision; keep cool, or you may misplace numbers 10, 14, 18, 27, 29, 31.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Your sensitivity, charms and imaginative ideas will attract attention. Speaking freely will encourage one to engage in a relationship with you for personal, professional reasons. Don’t let emotions stop you from accepting in offer.

Taurus (April 20-May 20): Keep your business private and you will avoid getting into a debate with someone who doesn’t agree with the way you are doing things. Offer a helping hand to someone in need and you will raise your profile and reputation.

Gemini (May 21-June 21): Expect the unexpected. You may have to deal with some circumstances that are difficult to control and can be troubled if you are not honest about the way you feel or what you are doing. Choose your battles wisely and stick to the truth if you want it to raise your reputation.

Cancer (June 22-July 22): Ask questions if you fear something about a situation. You must be satisfied with the information given before you engage in a partnership or a project that will influence your life. An animal farm of events will lead to a far more favorable change.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22): You feel compelled to help others. Whether it is to show off or to pass the passion of your heart, you must not take anything advantage. Love is on the rise and everyone wants to see an encounter with your life.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Handle whatever situation you face carefully. An emotional matter will come along and lead to a conflict with someone you are involved with financially. Protect your assets, possessions and emotional well-being, or you may end up with a costly battle.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Do the best job possible so you will be victorious. A change in position or the environment in which you are working can be expected. Don’t allow a partnership to limit your productivity. Someone is highlighted. TOPS.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Don’t use anything that may stimulate you. Sagittarius is a powerful sign of strength and will make you feel powerful, but if it has not potential to feed your feelings, you are at best to keep your distances.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Avoid improving change based on honesty, impulsive judgments lead to loss. Protect your assets, home and family. Let your imagination guide you and you will bring someone taking advantage of you and what you have to offer.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Readily rule on the people who have always been for you. A favorable emotional change will lead to greater maturity. Remember it is the wait, and holding special plans to enhance your love life will bring positive results.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Be careful what you share. Someone will take advantage of your generosity. Emotions will be difficult to control. You will lack good judgment when 22 you judge things, relations and neighbors. Don’t make promises you won’t want to keep.

Birthday Baby: You are sensitive, passionate and imaginative. You are versatile, inventive and flexible.

The London Express

Today’s Crossword

Jumble

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter per square, to form four ordinary words.

Answers from last week:

Answer: GRILL VENOM FLUNK BETRAY

“A: I’m a rebel!”

Birthday Baby: You are sensitive, passionate and imaginative. You are versatile, inventive and flexible.

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**HOCKEY**

**Back on the ice**

*Sophomore left wing Jeff Costello returns to lineup for Irish*

By JACK HEFFERON
Sports Writer

The nastiness is back. After missing seven games due to a head injury, sophomore left wing Jeff Costello returned to the Irish lineup Friday against Michigan State, leading the charge as the Irish won their first game in three weeks. For Costello, who had to drag himself through a slow re-hab process while watching his teammates struggle, just getting back on the ice was a good feeling in itself.

“I felt good to step out in front of the home crowd, but you could definitely tell I wasn’t skated in a month,” Costello said. “Conditioning-wise I wasn’t 100 percent, but each and every day at practice I’m getting better and better.”

Despite not being at his best, Costello was a force in the weekend series. The hard-nosed sophomore was relentless in the hitting game, sparking Notre Dame to one of its most physical efforts of the season and its first shutout since 2009. That focus on checking is something Costello said the Irish may have missed during their five-game losing streak.

“[Hitting] is kind of what I do,” he said. “I think that might have been something we were missing the past few weeks while I’ve been out. And I like to think that hitting is kind of contagious — if one guy is finishing his checks, that’ll motivate everyone else to do it — and that’s when we’re playing our best. So I just try to go out there and do it right away.”

While Costello may be looked upon as a grinder, he has also been one of Notre Dame’s most surprising clutch scorers this year. Even though he’s missed 12 games and scored only four goals, Costello leads all Irish skaters with three game-winning goals. The Milwaukee native’s streak of timely scoring continued in his return Friday, as his power play goal early in the second period gave Notre Dame a lead it would never relinquish.

“(Scoring on Friday) was awesome,” Costello said. “We haven’t scored the first goal — yet. And that award was not due to my work,” Holt said. “The award is a direct reflection of the team’s performance. We had the best season in Notre Dame history last year and it was due to the players and their hard work.”

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**ND WOMEN’S GOLF**

Holt guides Irish to two Big East crowns

By ISAAC LORTON
Sports Writer

It was 1982 when the NCAA began sponsoring a women’s golf championship tournament, and 1988 when women’s golf became a varsity sport at Notre Dame. Yet the Irish had not qualified to participate in this championship until last season, under the leadership of Irish coach Susan Holt.

During her six years in the driver’s seat of the golf cart, the Irish have earned two Big East championship crowns, four consecutive regional appearances and 10 tournament titles. This stellar record, along with Notre Dame’s premiere appearance at the NCAA tournament, earned Holt the recognition of the 2011 Big East Coach of the Year.

Yet Holt claimed no credit for this success.

“That award was not due to my work,” Holt said. “The award is a direct reflection of the team’s performance. We had the best season in Notre Dame history last year and it was due to the players and their hard work.”

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**FENCING**

National title defense a unique challenge

By CONOR KELLY
Sports Writer

It is one thing for a team to defend a championship when it is favored. It is another thing altogether to defend a championship when the team must spend the entire regular season searching for an identity in the wake of graduating Olympic Portions and coaching changes.

The Irish, after winning the national championship in 2011, are now set to begin their title defense after a regular season that saw the team start slowly but come on strong as the season closed. The squad is now primed to make a run deep into the NCAA tournament, according to Irish coach Janusz Bednarski.

Bednarski said his team has had to work hard to craft its identity and mentality in the wake of a series of challenges this season.

“I think they have done a very good job,” Bednarski said. “The biggest thing is that they work very hard. We have great training sessions. Everything we have built comes from hard work.”

The Irish were dealt their first challenge in the beginning of the year as several core fencers, including senior foilist Gerek Meinhardt, were forced into early season to train for the 2012 Summer Olympics in London. The departure of some of the team’s best athletes forced the rest of the squad to step up.

The Irish struggled to 2-3 records for both the men and women in the season’s opening meet at the St. John’s Duals, but improved as the season progressed, highlighted by 12-0 sweeps by both teams at the Notre Dame Duals on Jan. 28 and 29.

“We have developed a team of fencers who wants to show that they like stepping in and fencing against the best in the country with full emotion and engagement,” Bednarski said. “We as a staff have tried to foster the right psychology and mental strategy for the team, especially as a young team that happens to be the defending national champions. Now we get to see how it works.”

According to Bednarski, the leadership of the upperclassmen has been instrumental in establishing the team’s identity. Junior epeeist James Kauli even briefly acted as coach to the epee squad following the departure of coach Marek Stepni after the 2011 season.

“Our upperclassmen have worked with the freshmen to take away distractions,” Bednarski said. “There is really a bridge between all classes on both teams.”

Even with a full season to work out the postseason lineup, Bednarski waited until this past weekend to get a final look, as the Irish sent a small number of individual teams to the U.S. Squad Championships in New York. Though each individual discipline represented took home a metal, the real value was in giving a few select athletes one final chance to show that they deserve to be fencing in the coming weeks.

“I think in most cases we had a positive reading on our athletes,” Bednarski said. “The competition was very different from usual because individual. For them there was the chance to make up points on weaker ones. It was great to see guys like [junior sabreur] Jason Choy and [senior foilist] Enzo Castellani step up. They were important for us going forward.”

With the Midwest Conference championship on tap this weekend at home, the postseason has its final chance to show that they deserve to be fencing in the coming weeks.

Contact Conor Kelly at ckel77@nd.edu

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**Hoosiers snap Irish streak**

By PETER STEINER
Sports Writer

Despite victories by senior Casey Watt and sophomore Greg Andrews at No. 1 and No. 2 singles, respectively, No. 26 Notre Dame suffered a narrow 3-2 defeat Wednesday at the hands of No. 29 Indiana.

The Irish (11-5) won four straight heading into the matchup, but were unable to exact revenge on a Hoosiers squad (7-3) that also took down the Irish 6-1 on Jan. 28.

Andrews and junior Spen-
ner Talmadge began the con-
test with an early victory at No. 2 doubles (8-3), but losses at No. 1 and No. 3 doubles...