LGBTQ students discuss campus relationships

Members of gay community express challenges and unique aspects of dating, friendships and hook-ups

By SARAH MERVOSH
Managing Editor

Editor’s note: This is the third and final installment in a series about the experience of LGBTQ students at Notre Dame in light of recent requests that the University grant club status to a gay-straight alliance.

For senior Rocky Stroud II, meeting up with other gay men on campus is not as simple as getting coffee or hanging out in a dorm room. With other gay students sometimes still in the closet, it often takes planning, and a bit of secrecy.

“Some guys don’t want the same guy who has been labeled or somewhat seems like he’s gay to keep coming in and out of his room,” Stroud said. People will then either guess or know or figure out that he is not coming over just to watch the game.

So when Stroud II spends time with a male student who is not out to the Notre Dame community, the pair will go off campus for dinner, wait until late at night to see each other or sometimes, look for obscure places to hook up.

“There are rooms on campus that students have used,” he said. “The Jordan science lab was one of them.”

At a Catholic university that has not recognized a gay-straight alliance or added sexual orientation to its non-discrimination clause, the gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and questioning (LGBTQ) community has formed an underground network that helps them find friendship, love or simply a hook up.

Sophomore Mia Lillis said this network is particularly important at Notre Dame—not only for meeting potential romantic partners, but also for finding support.

“In an environment like this, a community is necessary because we still feel discriminated against by the official standpoint of the University,” Lillis said. “So we all connect to each other so we can have that haven.”

Running underground

Students said the underground network is necessary because we still feel discriminated against by the official standpoint of the University. Lillis said. “So we all connect to each other so we can have that haven.”

Saint Mary’s holds class board elections

By BRIDGET FEENEY and MEAGHAN DALY
News Writers

Saint Mary’s students will cast their ballots Thursday to decide on the next team of student leaders for the 2012-2013 school year, as elections for class councils and school boards begin.

Voting starts at 8 a.m. Thursday and ends at 8 a.m. Friday. Students can vote electronically, or they can cast their ballots at Student Government Association’s (SGA) booths set up in the Student Center, Sps Unica atriums and the Dining Hall. Senior Emma Brink, SGA executive secretary, said SGA is hopeful these elections demonstrate a high voter turnout.

SGA is so excited about last week’s Student Body election turnout that we hope to replicate the same enthusiasm for the class and big board elections this week,” Brink said.

Class of 2013 President and Vice President

Three tickets are running for class of 2013 president and vice president: Emily Caltrider and Megan Hogan, Meg Brown and Christina Bueno, and Silvia Cuevas and Ambreen Ahmad.

“Today is essentially an international day of awareness,” Newcomb said. “It is a day we set aside to gauge the effect we are having across the world.”

Newcomb said the campaign has gathered about 15 million pledges globally since 2011 alumna Soeren Palmemo started the program in 2009. She said over 1,000 high schools and 200 college teams participate.

Special Olympics works to end ‘r-word’

By ADAM LLORENS
News Writer

Members of the Notre Dame community will look to remove the derogatory term “retard” (“r-word”) from their vocabulary in a show of solidarity with the “Spread the Word to End the Word” international campaign today.

Graduate student Jenna Newcomb, a project leader of the Notre Dame Special Olympics Club, which coordinates the event, said the project is focused on changing the way people with disabilities are perceived worldwide.

“This day is essentially an international day of awareness,” Newcomb said. “It is a day we set aside to gauge the effect we are having across the world.”

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The Observer • DAY-TO-DAY

Wednesday, March 7, 2012

(Photo) Lisa Hoeynck

In Brief

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A physics colloquium titled "Development of Next-generation Ultraviolet Astronomical Instrumentation" will be held Wednesday at 4 p.m. in Room 118 of the Newbuild Science Hall.

An apparel sale for the class of 2014 will be held today in the LaFortune lobby from 5 to 8 p.m.

An event called "Domer Rally for Human Dignity" will take place in the ballroom on the second floor of LaFortune from 5:15 to 6:15 p.m.

A screening of the film "Promising the Moon," sponsored by the Novomec Institute for European Studies, will take place at 7 p.m. Wednesday in the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center. Tickets cost $3-6.

A Lenten vigil to pray for those affected by the death penalty will be held at 9 p.m. tonight in the Goddess Chapel, followed by a walk to the Grotto.

The Howard Hall Chapel Crawl will move to Ryan Hall's waffle Mass at 10 p.m. Wednesday.

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

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Photo
Sarah O'Connor

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Post Office Information

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SC country GOP endorses purity pledge
LAURENS, S.C. — A county Republican group in South Carolina wants its candidates to promise to not cheat on their spouses and not watch pornography. But the state GOP says it would be illegal to keep candidates off the ballot only because they refuse to sign the pledge.

Bobby Smith, the chairman of the Laurens County Republicans, says the "purity pledge" endorsed by the group last month is meant to encourage good values in the party's candidates. He says it won't prevent anyone from getting on the ballot.

The pledge would require candidates to promise they have not had premarital sex and will protect gun rights and oppose abortion, among other things. The state Republican party says it would be illegal to enforce such a pledge.

Miss Seattle apologizes for city-bashing tweet
SEATTLE — The newly crowned Miss Seattle says she was just having a bad day back in December when she tweeted, "Ugh can't stand cold rainy Seattle and the annoying people."

Since winning the pageant on Saturday, Jean-Sun Hannah Ahn has said she was just complaining about the weather like any Seattle native and didn't mean that people in Seattle are annoying.

She is a former Miss Phoenix who graduated from Arizona State University. Ahn told KIRO-7 that she was in a transition period three months ago, missing friends and sunshine.

She says she learned a valuable lesson.

She tweeted on Monday that: "I really do love Seattle ... the summers are to die for."

Miss Seattle represents the city this summer at the Miss Washington Pageant.

Information compiled from the Associated Press.

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

Question of the Day: What did you do with your sunny day on Tuesday?

Kayla Tinsley
Derek Wolf
Eric Bens
Sara Cloon
Christine Fagan
Michael McCormick

"Walked around the lakes."
"Homework."
"Got kicked off the Warren Golf Course practice facility."
"Laid on the quad."
"Run around all the lakes!"
"Going lovely girlfriend, Morita, a foot rub on the quad!"

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Professor discusses Dutch mystic

By KAITLYN RABACH

The works of the Dutch poet and mystic Hadewijch inspired Saint Mary’s women to deeply analyze thirteenth century spiritual life Tuesday night.

Professor Amy Hollywood of the Harvard Divinity School explored the work of Hadewijch in the lecture “Love Abyss: Hadewijch’s Infinite Desire” in the Stapleton Lounge. She said it is crucial to understand the time period the mystic lived in to understand the poet’s work.

“To understand Hadewijch, one must understand the context in which her work was created,” Hollywood said.

Hadewijch’s work was sparked by the practices of the beguines in the thirteenth century, groups of women that were semi-religious, but not bound by taking formal vows, Hollywood said.

“These women often worked in the cloth industry, took care of the sick or were school teachers,” she said. “They were spiritual women, but since they were not bound by vows there was more permeability between the beguines and the outside world. This is what sparked a movement.”

Hollywood said this process includes the many letters, poems and the manuscript of Hadewijch. Today, the work of Hadewijch is studied and translated into many languages, but Hollywood said experts are still trying to fully understand the poet.

“We really do not truly know anything,” Hollywood said. “All we have are these texts and poems. We do not even know if there is a Hadewijch, but we assume there was based on bodies of text with her name.”

Hollywood said communal prayer, manual labor and private reading and devotion were the main components in Hadewijch’s texts where she described her divine episodes.

“For Hadewijch, communal prayer is a necessary pre-condition for anything to do with the divine,” Hollywood said. “This especially includes psalms.”

Hollywood said Hadewijch often referred to the word love as meaning God, and believed love was God’s act.

Hollywood said it is through this understanding of love that Hadewijch described her divine mystical experiences.

“Hadewijch had intense personal devotion and this allowed for spontaneous mystical ways in which the divine can be encountered, she said.

Hollywood said it is important to study the intense practices of spirituality of the past in order to bring the same passion into modern times.

“For Hadewijch and other women in the thirteenth century, there was an understanding of their own intense amount of labor for being a Christian,” Hollywood said. “By reading material from the past we see this intensity and the vitality it had within Christianity at the time. When we see this intensity we must recognize it and think about it.”

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By CAITLIN HOUSLEY

Saint Mary’s campus elections March 8 will feature three races with tickets running unopposed—Student Activities Board (SAB), the Student Diversity Board (SDB) and the Resident Hall Association (RHA).

Junior Liz Kraig and Stefanie Schwab are the only names on the SAB ticket. Kraig said she and Schwab want to incorporate student voices, amongst other things, in next year’s Board.

“We want to incorporate the opinions of the student body into every event, create unity among the three campuses through our events and maintain Saint Mary’s traditions while bringing new exciting events to campus,” she said.

To do this, the ticket plans on maintaining traditional events such as Belles Bash, Midnight Madness and SMC Tostal, while launching new events such as a field day and a Slip n’ Slide day.

Kraig said a top priority of the team is to cater to the wants of the student bodies — Notre Dame and Holy Cross included.

“We are very interested in collaborating with Notre Dame and Holy Cross to create a kick-off of the school year or ending school year event for all three campuses to enjoy,” she said.

“This year we really want to stress the importance of the student body’s opinion and are looking for feedback for new events that students would like to see brought to campus.

In order to better meet the needs of the student body, Kraig said the team will rely heavily on student feedback.

“We would like to send out more surveys and create an open door policy where students can feel free to email us with ideas or suggestions for new events or improvements for old events,” she said. “SAB caters to the wants of the student body and it is important for us, if elected, to make sure these wants are fulfilled to the best of our ability.”

Juniors Maggie Galvin and Madde Meckes are running unopposed on this year’s SDB ticket.

Galvin said she and Meckes hope to stick with tradition but introduce new programs.

“One of our goals for Student Diversity Board next year is to bring in more traditions while launching new ones,” she said. “We want to be as successful as all of the previous boards while adding our own twist to things. There are always new issues being presented as time goes on and we plan on addressing them in creative ways.”

As in years past, Galvin said the biggest project she and Meckes will plan is the Diverse Student’s Leadership Conference (conference).

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“As in years past, Galvin said the biggest project she and Meckes will plan is the Diverse Student’s Leadership Conference (conference).
Will Moore, a visiting research fellow at the Kroc Institute and Florida State University professor of political science, addressed the shortcomings of popular perspectives on the events of the Arab Spring.

He revisited the dissent and revolutions in the Middle East on Tuesday during the lecture “Dissent, Repression and Outcomes of the Arab Spring.”

“Conventional Arab Spring narratives are unpersuasive because they don’t focus on outcomes,” he said.

“These narratives also have a very strong ‘blame the victim’ approach, which is ahistorical,” Moore said.

Moore said there should be a focus on the behavior and interactions of dissidents and states. He discussed 24 instances of mass protests in four different countries — Algeria, Egypt, Jordan and Syria — since 1990 and said it was significant that only one of those protests resulted in a victory for the dissidents.

“Unless you start paying attention to the interaction of states and dissidents, you can’t understand the outcomes,” he said.

Moore outlined the research methodology and theoretical approach for his current project, which will supply the content for an eventual book on the subject.

“I don’t yet have the answers to the questions I’m addressing. I’m going to be laying out how I’ve designed a research project,” he said.

Eventually, the project will include case studies for every country in the entire Middle East and North Africa, as well as further analyses for the period of 1990 to 2011, Moore said. Currently, he is focused on 10 countries in particular and only has access to data from 1990 to 2004.

“During this time and in all of these countries, dissidents and states are interacting. In every single one of these 10 nations, there is a long history of people challenging government and government responding in kind,” Moore said.

During the lecture, Moore displayed a graph of dissident and state activity in each of the 10 countries and pointed out that some, such as Tunisia, stood out as having less dissident activity. The data came from a database of news reports, he said.

“Something I have to consider is whether there is less news coverage or actually less dissident activity,” he said.

Moore said he intends to evaluate the behavior of two actors, the state and the dissidents, along a Hostility-Cooperation Continuum.

He said the continuum shows how one side responds to the behavior of the other and how both the desire to stay in power and the influence of constituents are important in determining this behavior.

“If you’re halfway up the hostility scale, my people want me slightly more hostile than you,” Moore said.

Moore said the continuum allows him to estimate the average behavior when the other actor does nothing. For example, the state will be very cooperative on average when the dissidents do nothing.

He said he can also estimate the average responsiveness to surprise for each actor, though his calculations do not differentiate between hostile and cooperative responses to surprises.

Moore said his current data reveals interesting patterns, but he has not analyzed the set thoroughly enough to draw any conclusions.

“If I haven’t delved into how much I can trust these particular estimates,” he said. “I’m showing you a flavor of what I’m going to be able to do.”

Moore said his project might not lead to the kind of results he hopes for, but he believes it addresses something existing literature is missing.

“Does this project that I’ve launched give me any leverage? It’s possible I’ll strike out,” he said. “I’ve argued existing scholarship ignores behavior and limits our ability to understand and answer important questions. The missing objective of inquiry is the behavior of dissidents and states.”

Contact Christian Myers at cmyers@nd.edu
**Apple Planning to Release New iPad Next Wednesday**

**Associated Press**

NEW YORK — Apple is holding a major news conference Thursday in San Francisco, and has hinted that it will reveal a new iPad mini. The company is expected to speak of an updated tablet with a speaker processor, a sharper screen and an option for faster wireless broadband access.

If last year’s launch of the iPad 2 is any guide, the new iPad model will go on sale in the U.S. next week.

**The Observer**

**Brian Greene, mathematics and physics professor at Columbia University, gave a lecture Tuesday about Physics theories, like string theory, designed for a non-scientific audience.**

By ANN MARIE JAKUBOWSKI

Most students are so preoccupied enough with classes, schoolwork and extracurriculars that they cannot escape their immediate surroundings. However, for Brian Greene, his work places him in the cosmic realm on a daily basis, transcending the world, the galaxy and even the universe.

Greene, a professor of physics and mathematics at Columbia and a leading expert on string theory, delivered a lecture Tuesday as part of the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center lecture series. Greene is currently promoting his book, written for a non-scientific audience, which he drew material from for Tuesday’s lecture.

Greene cited Einstein’s theory of general relativity as the foundation of today’s work in the cosmic realm in terms of the analogy of a rubber sheet. Greene explained that the shape of the object with mass, such as a bowling ball, presses on the space-time itself, creating the gravitational force we know.

The newly planned iPad, called the “iPad 3,” may look similar to the iPad 2, which added two cameras, a faster processor, a sharper screen and an option for faster wireless broadband access. Some analysts believe it could join AT&T and Verizon Wireless in selling “4G” or “LTE” networks. However, Apple has not confirmed its plans.

**Word continued from page 1**

colleges and universities are participating. Notre Dame gathers the most pledges of any university, Newcomb said. “Last year, 2,071 pledges came from Notre Dame,” she said. “Our goal this year is to beat that number, an amount we have accomplished every year.”

Newcomb said the use of the word carries a negative stereotype that students have the power to end the use of the term. “Even when used in a joking way among friends, you still evoke some negative implications,” she said. “As college students, we are in a position to set a good example for our parents and those who will come after us.”

Graduate student Molly Car- ey, also a project leader for the Notre Dame Special Olympics Club, said the campaign is concerned with the way the “r-word” is used by people in everyday language. She said Notre Dame students in particular have a responsibility to end such discrimination.

“The mission of the Notre Dame Special Olympics Club is to promote inclusivity and diversity on our campus,” she said. “The Notre Dame community is committed to that message.”

Solidarity with the global community is an aspect of the Notre Dame mission, Carey said, and the use of the term for Special Olympics is part of this harmony.

“When you use the ‘r-word’ with friends, it speaks to the power of the word and for some, people with disabilities are less or,” Carey said. “It takes away their humanity.”

Best Buddies International, a non-profit organization funded by donations and corporate sponsors, was founded with the mission of improving the lives of those with intellectual and developmental disabilities, helped the Special Olympics campaign.

Junior Elizabeth Klinepeter, president of Notre Dame’s Best Buddies chapter, said Best Buddies and the Special Olympics club collect pledges and spread awareness of the campaign in an email: “The void must End to the Word” message.

This event is really important for us because we want to give such a derogatory meaning in our society, to end the use of the word,” she said. “It is so commonly used by every one in our country, around the world, and here on our campus.”

Whether people realize it or not, the use of the phrase is a form of hate speech and threatens the inclusion of people with intellectual or developmental disabilities.

Klinepeter urged people to consider the detrimental effects of using the “r-word,” they will understand the impact the word has on people with intellectual or developmental disabilities.

“More people need to realize that the ‘r-word’ student should never be used, even in a joking way, to make fun of the word,” Klinepeter said. “It’s so engrained in people’s minds to use the ‘r-word’.”

“It’s not just the power of the word, it’s the power of the word,” she continued. “It’s so ingrained in people’s minds that it makes it even more powerful. It’s so ingrained in people’s minds that it makes it even more powerful. It’s so ingrained in people’s minds that it makes it even more powerful.”

**Professor continued from page 1**

According to a University press release, Johnson earned his doctoral degree from the University of Kansas. He graduated from the University of Arkansas in 1963 and earned a bachelor’s degree in divinity from Southern Methodist University in 1965.

Johnson, who directed Notre Dame’s Laboratory for Social Research for 14 years, once said his many interests helped him better understand himself and his place in society.

“I have a wide range of interests, but each area of study is tied to focusing on that interesting subject within myself and society. How one understands a sense of self in his or her place in society, and how the social structure tends to shape and mold the way we think and act,” Johnson said.

But contributions in Johnson’s memory may be sent to the Center for Social Concerns, 973 Auseon Pavilion, Notre Dame, IN 46556.

**Contact Adam Llorens at alllorens@nd.edu**

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Dating

Continued from page 1

icularly strong among gay men on campus, who meet each other through friends, West Side gossip, word of mouth, unofficial student clubs and technology. When asked if he had ever seen a need to hook up for those students that use the network to hook up, Stroud II didn’t think there was a mutual understanding of what was going on.

“It was always kind of like an understanding,” he said. “You won’t tell, I won’t tell. No one will know sort of thing.”

However, when the under- ground nature of the net- work was also brought to the surface of social cir- cles, things can get messy. For example, Stroud II once had a closeted student con- tact him asking to get to- gether. When someone later saw Stroud II calling him, it resulted in accidentally out- ing the student.

It’s always walking on this fine line between the room for hurting people un- intentionally,” he said. “But it’s just the way of the world.

“I personally have found it to be enough of people to know that this is not the choice to do so.”

Girls will come out to their close friends and then they don’t really feel the need to get connected to the community,” she said. “It’s very different than a straight guy. You have an equal amount of gay guys and gay girls on campus, it’s just not as connected like networking in as the guys.”

Different argument between gay and lesbian communities on campus is the underground culture of students because gender stereotypes allow women to stay in the closet longer than men.

“The group puts on parties once a month and has a private Facebook group that students must be added to in order to see. “We just hang out and play silly games and stuff,” Lillis said. “It’s just for fun.”

The “gay loop hole”

Despite the challenges to identifying as LGBTQ at Notre Dame, students have found one year advantage - par- ietals don’t apply when they look to want to sleep over with mem- bers of the same sexgender.

“The gay loophole,” G’Sell said. “We joke about it all the time. You’re kind of like the Univer- sity is going to screw us over in every other dimension, at least we get this one thing. We get the gay loophole.”

When G’Sell was dating his boyfriend, he said he spent the night more than once.

“I slept over in his room,” G’Sell said. “No one cares.”

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According to the student handbook, du Lac, one rea- son parietals exist is to re- spond to the personal needs of students sharing com- mon living space.

“I think the student body is kind of like an awkward then if someone is present because how are you supposed to enforce that? Would it make my roommates more uncom- fortable if it was a gay guy over or if I had my girlfriend over to sleep?” Lillis said. “Because one of them the University doesn’t approve of, but the other one the University has nothing to say about.”

Stroud, who lives off campus now, said he never ran into a problem when he had male students sleep over in the dorm. However, he said he was often cautious so he did not out a closeted stu- dent by accident.

“Yes, parietals and the RA couldn’t get me in trouble but running into another guy could get him in trouble,” he said.

A range of relationship

experiences

G’Sell said once LGBTQ students enter a relation- ship, the degree to which couples are “public” varies. However, these students said they have been able to en- gage in typical Notre Dame dating experiences - from yoga to dinner halls.

G’Sell was dating his ex-boyfriend, he said “ev- eryone” in his dorm knew they were together.

“He came to Duncan’s dance with me, he knew my rector and he knew my my- ster,” he said. There was no doubt about it. I mean, we would have known all the time and kiss in public.

Stroud has now been dat- ing another student for the past three months, and said their relationship is fairly open.

“It’s a very open, kiss you goodbye, hold your hand type of relationship,” he said. “Everyone can pretty much tell when we’re walk- ing down the quad that we’re dating.”

When Lillis came to Notre Dame, she assumed she would be single her entire college experience. But as a freshman, she met an alum- na who lives in the area and they began dating.

Though Lillis has been out since middle school, she sometimes felt uncom- fortably expressing affection in public at Notre Dame. “We would hold hands on campus sometimes and I was so wary of who was around and who was looking at us,” she said.

Without sexual orienta- tion in the University’s non- discrimination clause, Lill- is feared she would receive backlash at work or a co- worker saw her with another girl because she works at an organization that values Catholic tradition.

“I feared that my orienta- tion was a conflict of inter- est at the job,” she said. However, she said she didn’t experi- ence any overt nega- tive reac- tions from the campus community when the couple was first together.

“I don’t want to say it’s affectionate in public. She said current students seem to be more progressive when it comes to gay men and wom- en expressing themselves ro- manically on campus.

I think a large part of the problem here is not at the student body,” Lillis said. “I think the student body is majority on board with granting the gay students on this campus what they are asking for, but I think a large part of it is the admin- istration and the alumni that are holding this University back.”

Senior Rocky Stroud II

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Contact Sarah Mervosh at smervosh@nd.edu
Election continued from page 1

that we know how to get things done and get them done right, since we are both involved in various parts of the College," she said.

Brown and Bueno are running a platform focused on continuing the platform of the class of 2014, which included alumnus connections after graduation. Brown, who serves as the Le-Moyne's Student Government Association's vice president, said relationships with fellow alumnus are crucial.

The senior year is an important year for building confidence and training for life after graduation," she said. We will increasingly networking opportunities not only within the class, but also with the alumnus network by working to get graduating Belles in touch with their successful predecessors and their body lasting success in the 'real world.'

Brown said she and Bueno are looking forward to bringing their class together in the near future.

"We would love to get [ourselves and our alumnus connections] out there because we know how to get things done right," Bueno said. "We also want to look on the other campus experience," she said. "I really want my fellow class members to be a part of the planning process for senior year events such as Senior Day, the Senior Rallies and the Senior Ball. I want these well-known events to be more community-oriented, and more attractive to the majority of the class.

Class of 2014 President and Vice President

Susie Larson and Carolyn Backes will run unopposed for class of 2014 president and vice president. The ticket’s platform is focused on unifying their class and getting students in more campus activities. The pair is also looking to provide more opportunities and programs in the South Bend area.

"We are looking forward to办好 memorable Junior Mom's Weekend, the Larson and Backes are planning a class trip to Chicago and mixers with Notre Dame students. Larson said her ticket also envisions implementing a ring ceremony for the junior homecoming court.

"Receiving your class ring calls for time to reflect upon who you were at Saint Mary's, who you are as a Saint Mary's student, and who you will represent as the class of 2014. With this in mind, we leave this unique and empowering campus experience," she said.

The ticket also looks to foster a sense of community through the event, as they plan on inviting current students and previous alumnus who were not given this opportunity to participate.

Backes said through her and Larson's varied experiences, students have the opportunity to bring their class together in the near future.

"Another big idea we have is a class of 2014 retreat that focuses on empowering another one as a class. The retreat will be held at Touchstone Farm to touch base with one another and to discuss how we have all grown academically, socially and spiritually," she said. It will also give us the weekend where we can develop stronger friendships within the class.

In addition to hosting a memorable class of 2014 reunion and Senior Week, the Backes ticket also envisions implementing programs in the South Bend area.

"We will increase networking opportunities, and we will also have networking opportunities, and involve students in the school community." She said she and Backes plan to foster a sense of community through events and programs.

Class of 2015 President and Vice President

Two tickets, composed of Anna Fanelli and Susie Larson and Kelly Gutrich and Maddie Sampson, will run for class of 2015 president and vice president. Both tickets emphasize a passion for student government and staying involved in the Saint Mary's community.

Fanelli said she and Sampson have the passion for their role because we come from different backgrounds and our lives are uniquely different. Gutrich said she and Sampson have the passion for their role because we come from different backgrounds and our lives are uniquely different.

"We thought becoming more active in South Bend missions and food shelters by providing transportation to such volunteer opportunities would give more incentive and accessibility for those without means or transportation," she said.

"Another idea that we have is a class of 2015 retreat that focuses on focusing on fun events for their classmates," she said. "Another idea that we have is a class of 2015 retreat that focuses on focusing on fun events for their classmates," she said.

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Sampson said she and Sampson are focused on planning events that will foster relationships between members of their class.

"If elected, some of the first tasks Maddie and I hope to accomplish are the class bonding activities," she said. "We will use our ice cream socials and events and food shelters by providing transportation to such volunteer opportunities would give more incentive and accessibility for those without means or transportation," she said.

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I despise laundry. I despise most everything about it. I hate the separating of dirty clothes. I hate walking up and down the stairs. I hate the money I need to spend. So guess that’s why I wait until I absolutely have to in order to do my laundry.

Up until yesterday I had a mountain of clothes climbing from my hamper up toward my bed like a bonfire smoke reaching the sky. I had jeans. I had sweats. I had polo shirts. I had boxers. I had socks. I had everything in that monstrous pile. For a while, I thought I was having a competition with myself to see how high it could reach. I almost took a Sharpie and made tick marks on the wall as if the laundry was my own child and I wanted to see its progress each and every day. But I didn’t because I would have had to fix the walls and because that would have been weird to treat dirty garments as children.

I hate separating the clothes. Myewart tends to look like the colors of the rainbow. I have pastels and dark colors and whites. I need to make sure the colors don’t bleed on each other and mess up whenever I attempt to match. So I need to turn one big pile of laundry into four smaller piles? Sounds like so much fun.

No one likes to walk down two flights of stairs (For you people that must climb stairs in college, I feel sorry for you. Except you people in Ryan, it’s so nice there.) more than I’m a lazy college kid. I don’t like to sit in my room doing anything. But when I have to walk up and down stairs multiple times carrying clothes, I become an angry lazy college kid.

Even worse than the walking is the moment when you swipe your I.D. card and you realize that you don’t have enough Domer Dollars to pay for the four loads of laundry you need to do. Not only is this frustrating but it is also an additional task for the angry, lazy college kid. One does not simply put cash into your Domer Dollars on the weekend (I know you can do it online. I just do not know how to) and it becomes an extra task to do during the busy week of a Notre Dame student.

Laundry does have some redeeming qualities, I guess. The smell of freshly cleaned clothes is like walking into the kitchen to smell your mom’s home cooking — except these are clothes and not steaks. The lingering aroma of the fabric softener is kind to everyone’s noses, especially to the one wearing said clothes. A newly washed batch of clothes also opens your wardrobe up infinitely. That shirt you wanted to wear a week ago but was dirty and, yeah, it’s fair game now. Those comfortable socks you like so much? It’s go time.

So, maybe I don’t despise laundry so much. I just hate it.

Contact Matthew DeFranks at mdefrank@nd.edu. The views expressed in the Inside Column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.
**Viewpoint**

**Finding a family**

In general, I feel the most at home at Notre Dame when I spend time with international or ethnic minority students. That is not to say I do not have other friends; I just identify more with the international students, being myself. This occurred to me at Monday night's Town Hall meeting. The Carey Auditorium was full of students voicing their concerns and experiences with racial discrimination or incidents that have impacted their time here.

First, I commend all who shared their stories. People like Victor, Lindsoy and Ryan definitely highlighted key issues we have to deal with on campus, ranging from name calling from passersby to racial derogations from hall staff. Most students are familiar with some episode or another in which a student has been negatively, or in some way in which a student's identity has been negated.

I must say that there are times when I felt as if I were someone, but at the same time, I felt like I was nothing. This is because I was not just an individual, but also someone who was being represented by others. I was not just myself, but also someone who was being perceived by others.

The Town Hall was a great first step. Others include open dialogue and communication among everybody in the Notre Dame community. I also acknowledge that this is easier said than done. I can only imagine what every one personally felt about the proceedings from Monday night — frustration, confusion, amusement — but I actually felt a sense of connection. I walked away glad that there existed so many people who would understand without much explanation what I feel like as a minority student on campus, secure that other people could relate to how I felt at the end of some of my days and that it was part of what happens next on campus to address these matters.

While working, I often tell prospective students when asked how I felt about leaving home to come here for college that “I feel confident in having left my family halfway across the world only to find a wonderful new family here.” The past couple of weeks have definitely seen me struggle to sustain that sentiment. I am different from the majority of people here, I can’t quite follow most (actually, any) Rudy references, I do get asked very often, “How do you know English?” and I do think that American food is really bland. But is that necessarily wrong of me? I could have the same thoughts if I were anyone — why is the way I look and the place I come from reason enough to treat me differently? As these questions linger in my mind, I know that things will eventually get better. They always do. I hope, though, that it happens because of the cohesive change arising from the student body, not because it’s imposed upon them. Bad days though I have had, I want to say thank you to the ever-increasing and amazing support system all around me — I live in the best dorm ever. I have too many professors who have adopted me for good and all the friends who put up with me, crazy Indian-girl that I am. Oh, and my favorite South Dining Hall staff.

Ultimately, I just wanted to say that while I understand and can attest to the unfair actions directed towards us “diversity kids,” I also somehow managed to still find that Notre Dame connection we talk about and fall in love with.

Nikitha Rao Taniparti is a sophomore. She can be reached at tanipar@nd.edu

**Letters to the Editor**

**ND needs GSA**

I am deeply disappointed by the SAO’s apparent response to the current request for a gay-straight alliance.

Ms. Hnatosko, the director of student activities for programming, was quoted in the recent Observer article “Gay-straight alliance asks University for official recognition” (Mar. 5) as saying “It remains the viewpoint of the Student Activities Office that due to the sufficiently complex nature of the issue, the needs of gay, lesbian, bisexual and questioning students can best be met through the structures that are currently in place.”

I hope the SAO takes the time to consider Sam Costanzo’s request for an official GSA, keeping in consideration that the Church preaches that all people are God’s children, equally deserving of love and dignity, and this includes everyone at Notre Dame.

Julia Kohn
junior
LeCheval
Mar. 6

**Support from afar**

I am writing in response to an article published on the front page of your Mar. 5 edition of The Observer titled “GSA Asks University for Official Recognition.” I am no way affiliated with Notre Dame, The Observer or the state of Indiana for that matter. I am a student at The American University in Washington, D.C. As a gay Catholic college student I am fortunate to attend a university whose Methodist affiliation appears meager when compared to the prevalence of its religiously diverse student body, representing everything from Catholicism and Judaism to Mormonism and Islam. Additionally, The American University was given five stars in the Campus Climate Index, ranking it among the top LGBT friendly universities in the country.

Queers and Allies (our student organization) often works alongside the student government and university administration to ensure that our university is kept up to par with the latest developments in the ever-changing LGBT spectrum. However, from my experience with Q&A, I know why Notre Dame takes issue with the development of a similar club on its campus.

As a gay Catholic I have found that it is quite difficult to build a bridge between religion and sexuality, especially when the religion is Catholicism. As a private university with a Catholic background, it seems as though AllianceND’s fight for recognition could last forever. That being said, I’d like to offer a possible solution. If it is not feasible to reach an agreement between one’s desires for an LGBT Alliance (LGBTA) peer-to-peer interaction and the University’s necessity to remain Holy, why not merge the two concepts?

Catholics for Equality is a DC based non-profit for Catholics who support full civil equality for LGBT Americans. Perhaps AllianceND could create a group based on this organization’s platform to bring together LGBT Catholics who believe in both the fundamental teachings of Christ and the need for a more progressive Catholic Church which equally recognizes LGBT Catholics as God’s children.

My support goes out to Notre Dame’s LGBTA identifying students. May God be with you as you push forth for equality.

God bless.

Joe Corcoran
Washington, D.C.
Mar. 6

**EDITORIAL CARTOON**
Notre Dame students have always bonded over pop culture, whether it's watching TV shows together in dorm rooms, belting out Lady Gaga at parties or quoting comedies over dinner at the dining hall. That's what makes it all the more exciting when we hear our very own school mentioned on a show or know that a celebrity is a fan just like us. This guide provides the most well-known Notre Dame references in pop culture.

Beyond the classic football movies "Rudy" and "Knute Rockne, All American" (1940), Notre Dame has become a mini-star in Hollywood.

One way to impress visitors is to point out all the parts of "Shrek" that relate to Notre Dame. It's been said that the connection is a myth, but there are just too many coincidences: the outline of the Dome is clearly visible on the back of Shrek's vest throughout the film; the names of Duloc and Lord Farquaad seem awfully similar to everyone's favorite rule book and far-off men's dorm; Duloc's castle resembles Hesburgh Library, and chemistry professor Graham Lappin's Scottish accent is a spot-on Shrek.

In both the book and movie versions of 'Something Borrowed,' Notre Dame provides a pivotal plot line. Ра- bchel's dream was to be accepted to the law school. After perking up when seeing Notre Dame mentioned on screen, students get a rush to see celebrity fans on the sidelines of football games. In recent years, Jon Bon Jovi has appeared several times. He originally visited because Charlie Weis is a big Jon Jovi fan, but he even came last year after Weis had left. Vince Vaughn grew up in Chicago and has supported Notre Dame before getting a career-running injury. On "That 70's Show," Red wants Eric to attend Notre Dame.

Snoop Dogg is a professed USC fan, but after performing in a Notre Dame baseball cap, but further research shows that DiCaprio. DiCaprio has been spotted numerous times in a Notre Dame baseball cap, but further research shows that DiCaprio is really just a fan of sporting all college hats, representing North Carolina, Louisville, Long Beach State and more. However, none of these schools' hats had the distinction of being worn on DiCaprio's romantic re- union with Blake Lively in Venice.

At Club Fever for two years in a row sporting Notre Dame gear, he just may have converted.

Catholic actor Jim Caviezel ("The Passion of the Christ," "Person of Interest") turned to Notre Dame for its education, taking courses in Spanish here for a summer in 2006. It almost seems superfluous to mention super-fans Martin Sheen and Regis Philbin, but they have contributed to the most visibility of Notre Dame in pop culture yet. Sheen is a devout Catholic and received the Lantare Med- al at the 2008 commencement ceremony. His character President Josiah Bartlett on "The West Wing" was an alumnus of Notre Dame.

With Philbin retired and off the air, there will be a lack of Notre Dame's presence in on-air morn- ing discussions. His daughters and fellow alum- nes J.J. Philpin, TV producer and writer of shows such as "The OC," "Heroes," and Joanna Philbin, writer of young adult novels, will have to carry the torch.

Speaking of Philbin, when he interviewed George Clooney on the Oscars red carpet in 2008, the first thing Clooney mentioned was the Notre Dame basketball team, which continued to dominate the conversation. That may not be enough to convince anyone Clooney is a fan, but it’s enough to spark hope.

Fan ambiguity abounds, especially concerning Leonar- do DiCaprio. DiCaprio has been spotted numerous times in a Notre Dame baseball cap, but further research shows that DiCaprio is really just a fan of sporting all college hats, representing North Carolina, Louisville, Long Beach State and more. However, none of these schools’ hats had the distinction of being worn on DiCaprio’s romantic re- union with Blake Lively in Venice.

What does this all mean for our Catholic school in the middle of the Midwest? It shows how pervasive Notre Dame is not only the world of entertainment, but also in our world. Pop culture re- flects the views of society at any point in time, and with Notre Dame’s presence throughout the decades across various media, it just goes to show how relevant and recognized it really is.

There’s a Notre Dame mystique, and a reference to the school carries an inherent meaning that stands for some- thing more than just football. Above all, besides reaffirm- ing how much Notre Dame has permeated society, it’s just plain fun to notice these pop culture references.
Fun-loving spirit and focusing on things other than the ultimate than a mixtape band while maintaining their about how much they party and the drugs they smoke. A perfect example is "Undiluted: Paintings by Julian Alcantar and James Palmore," a show currently on view at Artpost Gallery featuring the work of two regional artists. The title is somewhat misleading, because although Alcantar is represented by a series of large-scale abstract paintings, Palmore contributed a number of mixed-media works that incorporate both found objects and common building materials. Most of Alcantar's paintings are untitled, giving viewers little hint as to how one might interpret these bold exercises in color. Sometimes his brushstrokes seem hap hazard and uncontrolled, while at others they seem much more intentional, creating organic shapes that are pleasing to the eye. In one particular painting, shades of bubble gum pink and baby blue predominate, and the viewer can discern a shape resembling a long-necked stringed instrument. "Katz," one of the only paintings Alcantar chose to name, is also the artist's personal favorite. When asked about the significance of this mysterious title, he acknowledged that the word is his own coined term, which he formulated letter-by-letter. The square canvas is filled with swooping curves, the largest of which calls to mind a yin yang, and pseudo-alphabetic characters scrawled in every direction. Although Alcantar intended for these symbols to evoke a system of writing, they also serve the practical function of filling up space. A diverse sample of Palmore's work is on display at Artpost. Many of his abstract paintings bear playful titles such as "Wasn't Me" and "You Can See It Too." These phrases inevitably arouse the curiosity of the viewer, who wonders what wrongdoing is being shirked or what object he should be seeing. One of Palmore's favorite motifs is a series of dots, usually in a single band of color. Sometimes the dots seem as though they might lead somewhere, but often they are purely decorative. Easily the most eye-catching piece by Palmore is a monumental painting of someone's right hand, set against a midnight blue background. At first glance, the hand covers up mental images of the humanoids Cuban artist Tom mas Esson is wont to paint. Below the canvas are three plates, covered with uncooked rice, rusty nails and len tiles, respectively. The hand and nails are meant to suggest mankind's incredible capacity to build and create, while the oxidation of the metal reminds us of the need to rebuild and begin anew. The rice and legumes signify the sustenance mankind depends on. Several of Palmore's mixed-media works draw upon traditional Christian iconography. "Redeemed Innocence" consists of a red apple laid atop a miniature altar and set within a roasted, wooden platform adorned with a vegetal frieze. Nails of varying dimensions point toward the fruit, an age-old symbol of Eve.

This spring, students should venture beyond the campus perimeter and explore the colorful arts scene in downtown South Bend. A good place to start would be "Undiluted" at Artpost, which will remain on view until April 29.

Contact Brigid Mangan on bmangan2@nd.edu

By KEVIN NOONAN
Associate Scene Editor

Chidera "Chiddy" Anamege and Noah "Xaphoon Jones" Beresin, better known as the rap duo Chiddy Bang, dropped their debut studio album, "Breakfast," February 22. The debut came after months of delays and eight months after the release of the album's first single, "Mind Your Manners." The album, while far from perfect, was worth the wait. At times it displays the limitations of both Chiddy as a lyricist and Xaphoon as a producer, but the bright spots are exciting and promising enough to make it a success. Fans of Chiddy Bang know their music is often light-hearted and fun, a sense of childhood innocence informing their sound. While the album suffers from a lack of focus at times, the general theme revolves around the two artists coming into the realization that they're currently living out their childhood dream. It is this concept that gives the duo their success. A few artists (i.e. Wiz Khalifa) have recently broken into the mainstream after years on the indie radar, only to lose their indie spirit and devolve into talking about how much they party and the drugs they smoke.

Chiddy Bang, however, manages to sound more legitimately than a mixtape band while maintaining their fun-loving spirit and focusing on things other than the party life. The songs "Mind Your Manners," "Ray Charles," "Handclaps and Guitars" and "Happening" will sound familiar to long-time fans of the group, and epitomize the spirit of the album. Chiddy's lyrics are fun but slightly introspective on closer listen, while Xaphoon is at his best producing songs that owe laid-back fun. These songs, in addition to being among the best on the album, mix the celebratory emotions the artists feel with a bit of the uncertainty they face not knowing what's next. It's when the duo drifts away from this core theme that they stumble. Their other songs deal with a sort of frustrated love that speaks to their punk-rock influence. Xaphoon says he was both a hip-hop and an alternative music fan growing up, and listening to The Roots put The Tipping Point on my Walkman and putting The Roots' 'The Tipping Point' on my Walkman and listening to The Roots put The Tipping Point on my Walkman and listening to The Roots put The Tipping Point on my Walkman and listening to The Roots put The Tipping Point on my Walkman... said Jones in an interview with The Daily Beast. "I remember putting The Roots 'The Tipping Point' on my Walkman, and listening to the opening tracks. I had grown up on punk, and when I heard that it was mind-blowing.

But their attempts to delve into the genre are shaky at best. Jones shows why he is criticized for being occasionally repetitive and unoriginal, as some of the beats sound similar at best and indiscernible at worst. Chiddy's fun-loving lyrics, which work perfectly in less serious songs, sound borderline childish and betray the songs' more serious ideas.

On the whole, the album is fun and has a happy-go-lucky sense about it that the hip-hop world seems to be lacking. It's not the album of the year by any stretch of the imagination, but for the debut album of two young and promising artists, this is a solid entry.

Contact Kevin Noonan at knoonan2@nd.edu

By BRIDGE MANGANO

On the whole, the album is fun and has a happy-go-lucky sense about it that the hip-hop world seems to be lacking.

Contact Kevin Noonan at knoonan2@nd.edu
Sports Authority

Entering a bracket pool is distraction from fun.

The approach of March Madness brings the assurance of something new, something unseen or unpredictable. New Cinderella teams wear the glass slipper, fresh phenoms earn college basketball’s biggest stage before heading to play for the Championship. Bobcats. Cruet. Rebounders lead their teams deep into the tournament and, ultimately, a new champion wears the crown.

Even in the midst of all the flux and fancy, there is one constant. Any single year, my failing bracket drags me down. I don’t like it, I eagerly accept a friend’s invitation to join a bracket pool. Before I even pay the entrance fee, I am already planning how to spend my winnings. You see, I make picks after half a hour of research and have not even seen some of the teams playing during the season, but why wouldn’t I win? How hard could it be right?

It is a small rebellion, really. Pick the Big East over everybody else, pick Notre Dame (or your own guesses), pick at least one five-12 upset, maybe a Final Four composed of mostly top seeds with no pro-seeded sneaking in from one region and, of course, have Notre Dame making the Elite Eight. Gut decisions? Great. Can’t name one player on either team? Fine. No justification is needed for anything.

And you, my friend, have a million picks with limited knowledge, or even in opposition to known trends and figures. I have as good a chance as anybody else in the field. It is March Madness, after all.

Eventually, after my accuracy dips below 50%, the majority of my Elite Eight teams go down or my Sweet 16 sleepers stumble in the Round of 32. I give up on the bracket that I had only several days earlier forged with such hope. Rather than torture myself by calculating possible points left as my bracket slides down the group standings, I abandon the choices that were supposed to deliver me to the Final Four title.

Last year, I was spot on for 21 percent of possible points, good enough for ninth out of 10 in a small pool. In 2009, I managed just 21 percent. 2008 must have been a miracle year, because I picked correctly enough to collect 56 percent of the points and finish 221st out of 506 entrants.

Due to my repeated failure, my annual entrance into a bracket pool predates only by a week or so my annual declaration to never create a bracket again. “What is the point?” I ask. I concern myself so completely with my picks that I am unable to enjoy the results as they unfold. Rather than being able to enjoy the amazing individual performances, the buzzer beaters and the jaw-dropping upsets, I instead am engrossed by how my big upset pick barely missed, how my mid-major just bounced my Final Four team and how generally awful my bracket is.

“Next year, I will save my money and skip the whole process,” I vow. No baseless picks, no finger-crossing and no stressing. I could be able to simply watch the games without a bracket.

What could be better?

And yet, every year, there I am filling out a bracket, reciting the rules of the tournament. This year is the year, and even if it isn’t, I am about to learn a few bucks.” As much as I complain about the intrusion of my printout’s failure on my enjoyment of the hardcourt’s action, I cannot make a bracket. To avoid brackets would be to avoid an integral part of the insanity of the season. It is, after all, March Madness, a time when the whole sports world revolves around dancing.

Contact Joseph Monardo at jmonardo@nd.edu

The Observer reserves the right to edit all classifieds for content without issuing refunds.

For next-day classifieds is 3 p.m. All classifieds must be prepaid. The charge is 5 cents per character per day, including all spaces. The Observer accepts classifieds every business day from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Notre Dame office, 024 South Dining Hall. Deadline for next-day classifieds is 3 p.m. All classifieds must be prepaid. The charge is 5 cents per character per day, including all spaces. The Observer reserves the right to edit all classifieds for content without issuing refunds.

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**NCAA Men's Basketball**

**UConn starts title defense with win over DePaul**

**Associated Press**

NEW YORK — Connecticut’s start to the 2012 Big East tournament looked a lot like the way the Huskies began last year’s incredible run that ended with a conference title and a national championship.

Coach Jim Calhoun was on the sideline again, just eight days after undergoing back surgery. And once again, his nine-game tournament’s ninth seed, had a guard leading the way, but this time it was Jeremy Lamb, not Kemba Walker, who led UConn against No. 8 DePaul.

Lamb scored 25 points and Ryan Boatright added 19 to lead Connecticut to an 81-67 victory over the Blue Demons on Tuesday in the opening round of the Big East tournament.

Calhoun missed eight games last season after being diagnosed with spinal stenosis, and the Huskies had only three of their go-to players this year.

He looked like his old self Tuesday, getting up and down from his seat often and making his way on the court at a whistle to make sure Boatright understood what he wanted him to do in running the offense.

It was a different kind of season. But through it all, somewhat by separation, I realized we had five great players, so I’m not walking with a cane anymore. I could walk without a cane on the sidelines because the officials might have been hit. There is a difference in the pain of some sort but to alleviate that pain was incredible,” Calhoun said. “Of course everybody wants to lead their team to championships but I’m just trying to do what’s best for this team. The whole team knows we’ve got five great players, so it’s a great team effort.”

As good as Connecticut was on offense, the Blue Demons were poor on defense. They started the night in the opening round of the Big East tournament Tuesday in Madison Square Garden.

Connecticut center Alex Oriakhi dunks the ball during the Huskies’ 81-67 win over DePaul during the first round of the Big East tournament Tuesday in Madison Square Garden.

**NBA**

**Heat top Nets in Bosh’s return to lineup**

**Associated Press**

MIAMI — LeBron James scored 21 points and capped his return from a one-game absence with a game-winning 3-pointer as the Miami Heat beat the Brooklyn Nets 86-82.

The Heat improved to 2-0 in the Southeastern Conference standings and where Miami’s season-best.

The Heat scored 20 points in the first quarter to pull away from the Nets.

Miami’s “Big Three” of James, Bosh and Wade combined for 54 points on 24 of 34 shooting. All 12 Heat players either scored or logged double-digit minutes and even little-used center Eddy Curry got into the act, getting into his 10th game of the season and playing the final 5:59.

Bosh had missed Miami’s last three games while dealing with the death of his grandmother, and had been listed as questionable in the game before the game.

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**NHL**

**Blue Jackets quiet Coyotes**

**Associated Press**

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Jack Johnson scored his first goal for Columbus, Steve Mason made 38 saves and the Blue Jackets beat the Phoenix Coyotes 3-2 on Tuesday night for their first three-game winning streak in more than a year.

Mason, who struggled all season until recently, has allowed just four goals in two wins over Phoenix and one over Colorado in the last six days.

R.J. Umberger and Derek MacKenzie also scored for the Blue Jackets. Johnson, acquired in the deal that sent Jeff Carter to Los Angeles just before the trade deadline, added an assist.

Antoine Vermette and Keith Yandle had goals for Phoenix, which has lost four in a row in regulation, its longest such skid of the season.

The Coyotes have been out-scored 14-7 during their slide, which has knocked them out of the lead in the Pacific Division.

Columbus started the night in seventh place in Western Conference and Arizona was short-handed with 7:35 left. Phoenix’s Radim Vrbata’s chest-high stoned Mason in the final seconds, but Columbus defenseman James Wisniewski cleared the puck from the crease.

Mason also made big saves on Shane Doan and Ray Whitney early in the final period.

The Coyotes had 20 seconds of 3 on 3 as the Blue Jackets killed all five penalties.

Oliver Ekman-Larsson was stymied on a hard shot glanced Mason while the Coyotes were short-handed with 7:35 left. Phoenix’s Radim Vrbata’s chest-high stoned Mason in the final seconds, but Columbus defenseman James Wisniewski cleared the puck from the crease.
Associated Press

HOUSTON — Arian Foster's mother finally got her fruit basket.

The Texans star running back and six-time All-Pro gave her a Christmas present in November, scoring twice in his return from a 10-month layoff in November.

"I was, like, 7 years old," Foster said at a news conference. "I was going to buy a house, I was going to buy a boat. But it's also so profound in so many ways." Foster's head is clear. The superstar's return, however, remains murky.

The Pittsburgh Penguins continue to perform with Crosby when he was young. At one point, Sizemore pawned her wedding ring to buy food.

"I just told myself that I wanted to do something with my life," Foster said before stepping away from a podium to gather his emotions. "I just wanted to do something with my life to make sure that when I have a kid, she never had to worry about the lights being on, she never had to worry about any of that. I didn't care if I had to work three jobs, whatever it takes."

Foster has a 2-year-old daughter, Zeniah, and thanks to the Texans, all the financial security he and his family will ever need.

"It's overwhelming," Sizemore said. "There were a lot of hard times along the way."

The contract also furthers validates the two-time Pro Bowler selection as one of the NFL's elite running backs.

An undrafted free agent in 2009, Foster made only $325,000 last season, even after leading the league in rushing in 2010 (1,616 yards). His agent, Mike McCartney, said Tuesday that the Texans told Foster that they needed to see him through three anxious months in November, scoring twice in his return from a 10-month layoff in November.

"It was just really flowered," Sizemore said in a phone interview from Austin. "It was really kind of surreal."

Foster's head is clear. The superstar's return, however, remains murky.

The ever-cautious Crosby insists there still is no timetable for when he'll be cleared to play in a game, but he looked crisp while spending more than an hour on the Consol Energy Center ice. It's a good sign, as far as Crosby is concerned.

"I'm going to give myself days, for sure, of contact," Crosby said. "If you look at our schedule, we have two more practices, I think, this week. No sooner than Sunday I would put a date on it. It would be total guesswork."

Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — Sidney Crosby returns to practice following medical clearance.

The 24-year-old former MVP of the New York Islanders and collecting 12 points in eight games before he woke up with an all-too-familiar feeling on Dec. 6.

During that initial comeback he was cleared for contact in early October and had to wait about six weeks before getting the OK to suit up for a game. It may not take that long this time.

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Sidney Crosby
Penguins center

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C o a c h

Dan Bylsma echoed Crosby's sentiments, but made sure Crosby got b o u n c e d around during a lively practice session.

"It was man-on-man type stuff, some puck battles," Bylsma said. "We had him get through today, we'll see where we progress on day three, four, five and six."

Crosby called the lineup "a dangerous place to be" and felt he was getting a lot of bumps out there.

It was a welcome feeling after three anxious months in which Crosby crossed the country visiting specialists in hopes of getting a better handle on his health.

The team's next major order of business is deciding the fate of outside linebacker Mario Williams, who will become an unrestricted free agent next week.

Another key unrestricted free agent is center Chris Myers, part of the offensive line that helped Houston finish second in rushing (153 yards per game) and set a franchise record for yards on the ground (2,448).

Myers, who just finished his fourth year in Houston, says he's hopeful that he and the Texans will get a satisfactory deal done.
Colts expected to release Manning after 14 seasons

Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — The Peyton Manning era in Indianapolis is expected to end Wednesday, according to a report.

Citing anonymous sources, ESPN reported Tuesday that the Colts plan to hold a news conference to announce the long-expected decision. Manning and team owner Jim Irsay are expected to attend, the network said.

Colts spokesman Avis Roper said he could not confirm the decision — or that a news conference would be held Wednesday — because Irsay was out of town and could not be reached for comment. Neither Irsay nor Manning's agent, Tom Condon, responded immediately to messages left by The Associated Press.

Manning has said in the past that all he wanted to do was finish his career in a Colts uniform, but an injured neck forced him to miss all of the 2011 season.

“I can’t tell you what an honor it is to go start-to-finish with the same organization here in Indianapolis. That is something I have always wanted to do as a rookie coming out,” Manning said after signing a five-year, $90 million contract in July. “Of course, you never know if that is possible, but after yesterday it is official that I am an Indianapolis Colt for my entire career. I will not play for another team. My last down of football will be with the Colts, which means a great deal to me.”

But things have changed since that summer. Now it looks like the NFL’s only four-time MVP, and a former Super Bowl champion, won’t be wearing No. 18 for Indy.

“This isn’t an ankle, it isn’t a shoulder. Often times the NFL is criticized for putting someone out there at risk, and I’m not going to do that,” Irsay said in January. “I think he and I just need to see where his health is because this isn’t about money or anything else. It’s about his life and his long-term health.”

Jim Irsay
Colts owner

With a $28 million bonus payment due Thursday to Manning, his neck problems, and the fact that the Colts own the No. 1 pick in April’s draft, the Colts seem to have deemed it too risky — and too pricey — to keep the longtime franchise quarterback, who will turn 36 later this month.

The twists and turns of a public debate between Manning and Irsay, who have been friends for more than a decade, created the sense the two had been fighting. Irsay twice issued statements to deny a rift.

Still, with the Colts in full rebuilding mode, Irsay has been expected by many to play for the future and let Manning try to chase a second Super Bowl ring somewhere else.

The Colts are expected to take Stanford quarterback Andrew Luck with the first pick in April’s draft.

Manning’s impending departure marks the end of a remarkably successful era that included the 2006 league title. He started every meaningful game for 13 seasons in Indy, 227 straight including the playoffs, and took the Colts from perennial also-ran to one of the NFL’s model franchises.

In the two decades preceding his arrival, the Colts won 116 games, one division title and made the playoffs three times. With Manning taking snaps, the Colts have won 150 games, eight division titles, two AFC championships and the franchise’s first Super Bowl since moving from Baltimore in 1984.

Indy broke the league record for most consecutive playoff appearances (nine) and the success changed Indy from a basketball town to an NFL town.

Manning is one of four players with more than 50,000 yards passing, one of three with more than 350 touchdown passes and one of two quarterbacks with more than 200 consecutive starts.

With Manning’s career passing records, previously held by Hall of Fame quarterback John Unitas, and the New York Jets have won one of the franchise’s two Super Bowls, have all been rumored as possible destinations for Manning land if he is no longer a Colt.

Still, with the nerve did not heal as quickly as anticipated, Manning had two vertebrae fused together in September, a wound up losing to New Orleans in the Super Bowl.

With the nerve did not heal as quickly as anticipated, Manning had two vertebrae fused together in September, a surgery that forced him to miss the first game of his career.

There are still questions about how strong Manning’s arm is.

Yet he has repeatedly insisted he plans to play football again next season.

“ ‘My plan hasn’t changed,’ Manning said during Super Bowl week. ‘I’m on track with what the doctors have told me to do, and I’m doing that. I’m rehabilitating hard.”

The question is where might Manning land if he is no longer a Colt.

Arizona, Miami, Tennessee and the New York Jets have all been rumored as possible spots, and Manning’s former longtime offensive coordinator Tom Moore did work with the Jets as a consultant last season.

It’s still possible, however unlikely, that Manning could return to Indy for a lower price if he can prove he’s healthy.

“This isn’t an ankle, it isn’t a shoulder. Often times the NFL is criticized for putting someone out there at risk, and I’m not going to do that, ” Irsay said in January. “I think he and I just need to see where his health is because this isn’t about money or anything else. It’s about his life and his long-term health.”
**NBA**

**Hawks capture third straight win**

Associated Press

**INDIANAPOLIS —** The Atlant-a Hawks are back on track, and Josh Smith is a big reason.

Smith had 27 points and nine rebounds, leading the Hawks to their third straight victory, 101-96 over the Indiana Pacers on Tuesday night.

Josh has been on a roll as of late,” coach Larry Drew said. “We’ve been going through him offensively and defensively. He’s been an anchor for us. Tonight I felt he played another phenomen- al ball game. He was just solid.”

Smith scored 13 points in the first quarter, 11 in the third, and fell three points shy of his season high. He passed the credit onto his teammates.

“It’s nice when your tea- mates lift you up,” Smith said. “That really helped in the third and fourth quarter. We’re com- ing together and figuring out a way to win.”

Jannero Pargo had 16 points, while Marvin Williams and Zaza Pachulia each scored 12 for the Hawks.

David West scored a season-high 24 points for the Pacers, who have lost two straight. Dan- ny Granger had 19 points and eight rebounds, and George Hill

**Stuckey leads Pistons in OT win over Lakers**

Associated Press

**AUBURN HILLS, Mich. —** Rodney Stuckey scored 34 points, and the Detroit Pistons overcame a tying shoot by Kobe Bryant at the end of regulation Tuesday night, beating the Los Angeles Lakers 88-85 in overtime.

Bryant’s basket at the buzzer forced the extra ses- sion, but he missed from 3-point range in the final seconds of overtime. Metta World Peace came up with the ball and dribbled back toward the top of the key, but his last-ditch turn- around around missed as well.

Andrew Bynum had 30 points and 14 rebounds for the Lakers.

Stuckey finished with 22 points on 8-of-26 shooting. He started the game with black mask protecting his injured nose but switched to a clear one while struggling through the first half.

In front of a rare sellout crowd, the Pistons won despite scoring only nine points in the third quarter.

Down 74-71 in the fourth, Stuckey shook free of Bryant with a nifty crossover dribble, stopping back to make a shot from near the free throw line. He then put the Pistons ahead with a driving layup.

World Peace stole the ball near midcourt and went the other way for a layup to put the Lakers ahead 76-75, but Stuckey’s 3-pointer with 9.8 seconds left gave the Pistons a two-point lead.

As the clock ticked down, Bryant calmly dribbled to his right and sank a shot from about 17 feet to Tayshaun Prince to force overtime.

Neither team led by more than three in the extra session, and the Pistons won by forcing the Lakers to take bad shots from the perimeter late. With the Pistons up 86-85, World Peace forced a 3-pointer with the shot clock running down.

After that miss, Stuckey drove hard to the basket and drew a foul, sinking both free throws with 36.8 seconds remaining.

Bryant missed a quick 3-pointer from the top, but the shot clock was still on for the Pistons, who had to settle for a perimeter shot by Jason Maxiell that missed badly. The Lakers rebounded and called a timeout.

The Pistons had a foul to give and used it immediately on Bryant. When the Lakers inho nded again, Bryant — perhaps anticipating another foul — tossed up a quick shot that didn’t go in.

Although World Peace had time for another try, it didn’t as well.

Bryant took the floor wearing a black-rimmed mask to protect the nose he broke in the All-Star game. As missed his last field goal, he switched to a clear mask that looked more similar to what he wore in a win over the Miami Heat on Sunday.

**SMC TENNIS**

**Belles get sweep in home opener**

By ISAAC LORTON

Sports Writer

Starting its home campaign with a strong showing, Saint Mary’s dominated Indiana Tech in a 9-0 victory. The Belles (2-1) won in five straight sets and gained a forfeit over the Warriors (0-4) in their single matches. They took doubles 8-1, and earned another forfeit.

They took up a few second sets that we gained a lot of strength, stepped up and won convincingly,” Campbell said.

Coming off a foot injury, Kjol- hede moved back to her normal No. 4 spot after playing in the No. 5 spot against Olivet.

“She was fighting a nagging injury and she won in straight sets. It was good to see that.”

With this newly gained confi- dence, the Belles are looking to heat up play in Orlando, Fla., for their annual spring break trip.

Contact Isaac Lorton at ilorton@nd.edu

**Follow us on Twitter @ObserverSports**
Irish coach Mik Aoki directs preseason practice in the Loftus Sports Complex on Jan. 27. In his second season with the Irish, Aoki has the Irish off to a 5-4 start.

“[I] would hope that we would have a number of more wins, (I) hope that we can be above .500,” Aoki said. “I hope that we can really compete to be in the upper-half of the Big East and potentially get into a regional. I think we have a long way to go to achieve that level of play, but I certainly feel like it’s within the realm of what this team is capable of doing.”

The Irish face Michigan this weekend. It’s within the realm of what this team is capable of doing.”

Aoki

McBride

“The kid is a hard worker, one of the hardest I’ve ever coached,” Kubinski said. “He’ll tell you that one of the areas of his game he has to work on is his short game, and he’s one of the best putters I’ve ever seen in college. He says that because his standards are so high.”

Not just a short-game specialist, Platt has executed his irons game with laser-like precision this spring. At one point, the sophomore hit 25- of-29 greens, a rate Kubinski says is above the PGA average.

“Our attitude has really improved,” Kubinski said. “He really has an all-around game. Lots of professionals don’t put up the numbers that he did a few weeks ago at the Match Play.”

With three seniors in the starting lineup set to graduate in May, Platt will soon be out of the shadows and in the spotlight. Until then, Kubinski says Platt is content to play an understated but essential role on this Irish squad.

Contact Conor Kelly at ckelly17@nd.edu
Irish center Riley Sheahan battles for a puck during a 2-4 loss to Michigan State on Feb. 25 in the Compton Family Ice Arena.

Sullivan continued from page 20

Sheahan continues to improve every day at the game he truly loves. A distinguished three-sport athlete in her native Garden City, N.Y., Sullivan also had opportunities to play soccer and basketball on the collegiate level, but said she could not be happier with her decision to pursue lacrosse.

"I think the game of lacrosse itself is progressing at such a high rate, and it offers many opportunities," Sullivan said. "I loved playing soccer and basketball, but I definitely made the right decision in sticking to lacrosse." Sullivan and her teammates will travel to Boston, Mass., on Saturday to face Boston University.

Contact Brian Hartnett at bhartnett@nd.edu

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Crossword

When this puzzle is completed, the 10 circled letters, read from top to bottom, will spell a name associated with 39-Across.

Across
1 7 on the dotted line (12)
5 Prefix with “from” in 2009 news (8)
9 Bay State sch. (4)
14 Tommie of the Miracle Mets (4)
15 Christmas Carol starter (6)
16 Soil enhancer (6)
17 Gerillas and others (6)
19 Manhattan’s ___ Place (5)
20 “No joke!” (3)
22 “Blowed alseran” (3)
23 January I sound (7)
26 Intersected (6)
27 Grapefruit choice (5)
29 “Managed” (9)
31 Courir d’ ___ (6)
33 Webinar era protest org (6)
34 Mention a “Q.E.D.” (5)

Down
6 44 (4)
28 Brown in the funnels (11)
30 First Buys (5) “who’s?” (6)
32 Place to room (9)
33 Give me an example! (6)
35 Oscar winner (5)
36 You’re fired! (10)
37 Article in rap (8)
39 Classic novel of 1,000 pages ___ a hint to the word ladder formed by the answers to the starred clues (12)
42 Columnist (5)
43 Earling shipo (6)
44 Contrari’s retort (5)
51 Center (6)
52 Brown in the funnels (11)
53 First Buys (5) “who’s?” (6)
54 Place to room (9)
55 Give me an example! (6)
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57 You’re fired! (10)
58 Article in rap (8)
59 Classic novel of 1,000 pages ___ a hint to the word ladder formed by the answers to the starred clues (12)
62 Columnist (5)

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

SQUALLS GOOD DOUBLE DOUBLED DADDY JUMBLE MYSA LATE ISLE POTTER TEA PLACATE BUNGLES MADCATS MALADIES RUN LEMONADES VOS STRIDE ALES

THE LONDON EXPRESS

LEE HAGGENJOS and ALEX GRISWOLD

The Clammy Handshake

JOE MILLER and KELLY LYNCH

The Observer

Published Monday through Friday, The Observer is a vital source of information on people and events in the Notre Dame and Saint Mary’s Community.

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Wednesday, March 7, 2012

EUGENIA LAST

Happy Birthday! Don’tcio do what you should be putting up and holding unnecessary. What do you like? You can determine whether you join good in the closing years or return. I can’t imagine what you like. Thank you, soil things went well and a budget that will not get your stress, not make it skyrocket. Your numbers are 1, 9, 13, 15, 20, 24, 41.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) Express your feelings and what you intend to do to make your life better socially, personally and emotionally. Don’t allow someone else to make choices for you. Remember that your work of watching will bring you stress. ****

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) Take precautions when it comes to your home and family. Protect your heart and reputation. Don’t become uninvolved because you’re waiting for the situation to occur. Learn from past mistakes and you will know which organization to place your children with. ****

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) You will anoint someone with your choices, but you must follow the path that you wish. Take care of any paperwork that might pique a problem of specialization. Follow all rules and regulations, and avoid false words about. ****

CANCER (June 21-July 22) Put your heart into your work and improvements you can make. Make no harm any harm to yourself and others. An aggressive and playful approach in your important personal relationships will give you a better understanding of friendship and love. ****

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) Stick to things, but be open. You can perform a step of what you wish your quick wit and charm to influence someone you’ll like to get to know better. Travel plans will lead to information that will help you make an important decision. ****

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Make your investments work for you. Don’t have anything to clean. Focus on getting the most for the least and not do what you wish. Love and romance are not in the stars, but there is money you should spend. ****

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) Look at your personal and professional relationships and make changes to strengthen the connections to aid yourself of the people who are holding you back. Don’t make a move when that’s required to move on. ****

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) Get your priorities straight. You may feel like having fun, but you must work in the responsibility of your life. You can make a relationship with someone depending on how you handle your share of the work. ****

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) Avoid mistakes or getting involved in a group. You should be focusing on your investments and contracts, and networking with people who can make important changes inside and outside of your domestic scene will pay off. Love is in the stars. ****

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) You may not want to receive a conversation about emotional matters, but you still need to keep your responsibilities free. You can make a relationship with someone no matter what. ****

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) Nothing is so bad or difficult as it might seem. Taking care of your mental and physical changes together with your mental changes is a help to your stress. Keep things simple and direct when discussing any martial matters in court. ****

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) Don’t go overboard or someone who can influence your future may see you as being stupid. Use your imagination, intuition and ability to get others into things for you, and you will show skills that impress and bring you rewards.****

Birthday Baby: You are imaginative, versatile and quick to juggle. You are bold and compassionate.

JUMBLE

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

KNIBL

MAIDT

FSIXUF

CREGRO

Thank you very much.

I’ll be right back with more that were this...

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

Thank you very much.

THE OBSERVER

| Wednesday, March 7, 2012 | THE OBSERVER | TODAY | ndsmobserver.com | page 19 |
Unlucky number seven

Irish fall to UConn in tournament final

By MOLLY SAMMON Sports Writer

Notre Dame fell short of winning its first-ever Big East tournament as it suffered a 63-54 loss Tuesday to Connecticut at the XL Center in Hartford, Conn. It was the program's seventh ninth in the title game, and all seven times the Huskies have defeated the Irish.

"I thought it was a hard fought battle and a really good game," Irish coach Muffet McGraw said. "I thought in the first half we were only down one without having [senior guard] Natalie Novosel in the game for a big chunk in the half. I thought we’d be better in the second half, and we just didn’t play well.

"We shot better from the 3-point line than 2-point [shotes], and could even make a free throw. I think we really did things that didn’t help us, but they came out and really won the game. It was a great game. They just played better.

Though the No. 3 Irish beat the No. 4 Huskies in the three games prior to Tuesday’s, once in the last year’s Final Four and twice during the regular season this year, Connecticut entered the streak and earned its fifth consecutive conference tournament championship and 18th in program history.

"It’s tough to beat a good team three times," McGraw said. "We won here Monday, so I don’t really think that we have to do anything different. I don’t think there was more pressure on us ... I just think they outplayed us."

Huskies coach Geno Auriemma noted the 800th win of his distinguished career with the victory. He became the sixth coach in NCAA women’s basketball to reach that number, doing so in the shortest amount of games.

Junior guard Skylar Diggins led the Irish in scoring with 16 points on the evening, but made only 7-of-19 shot attempts.

With 8:46 left in the game, a 3-pointer from sophomore guard Kayla McBride set-up the Irish for a potential come-back, but the Connecticut defense didn’t let the Irish score from the field for the next five minutes.

"I think they knew our offense, and they were just kind of keeping us out of it instead of doing anything different," McGraw said. "We won here Monday, so I don’t really think that we have to do anything different. I don’t think there was more pressure on us ... I just think they outplayed us."

Sullivan makes early impact

By BRIAN HARTNETT Sports Writer

With no current representation in the Olympics, women’s lacrosse players vie for one of 12 team spots every summer in the Women’s Lacrosse World Championship. Thousands of athletespine for the opportunity to represent their nation in the global challenge, but few are afforded the opportunity.

Last summer, freshman defender Barbara Sullivan got the chance to travel to Germany and compete with the United States U-19 squad.

Sullivan and her teammates made the most of their long journey overseas, going undefeated in the championship and defeating Australia 14-11 to take home gold. Sullivan made her mark on the team by helping anchor a tough defensive unit that allowed only 5.38 goals per game. Competing in the championship, Sullivan said, would rank as one of the top moments in her lacrosse career.

“It was an awesome experience,” Sullivan said. “It was so neat to be able to travel to Germany, meet new people and play against teams who were not easy to overlook the per-

Sheahan focuses on improving

By JACK HEFFERON Sports Writer

With a number of players that stand out to even the most seasoned hockey fan, Notre Dame is a team that definitely does not lack speed, size or excitement on the ice. Despite being one of the team’s most complete players and its only first-round NHL draft pick, junior center Riley Sheahan takes a faceoff against Bowling Green during Notre Dame’s 3-2 home loss on Feb. 4. 