Third Eye Blind returns to campus
Student Union Board's spring concert welcomes one act back, introduces another

By AUBREY BUTTS
News Writer

This Saturday, Notre Dame students will get a blast from the past when, for the third time, Third Eye Blind headlines the Student Union Board’s spring concert.

SUB concert programmers Lauren Keating and Meagan Guerin, both seniors, spoke enthusiastically about the decision to host Third Eye Blind for a third time.

“When we began the programming process, we went in with a completely open mind. We know the Notre Dame student body has such a diverse musical taste,” Keating said. “Third Eye Blind have stayed popular for so long that it shows they are a great band and will generate a lot of interest.”

Keating and Guerin both acknowledged the difficulty of choosing an artist that would appeal to the entire student body, especially in the wake of last year’s sold out concert featuring Chiddy Bang and O.A.R.

“We started by asking ourselves who we believed would appeal to most of the Notre Dame student body,” Keating said. “Ultimately, we decided that we wanted to entice the overall group enough that they will go to the show and end up having a great time rather than pleasing a small group a lot.”

Hoodie Allen, an independent rapper from New York, will open the concert before Third Eye Blind takes the stage. By pairing an up-and-coming opener with a more established headliner, Keating and Guerin believe this year’s concert will match the success of last year’s.

“I think we did a good job of lining up the best acts we could,” Keating said. “Last year’s was perfect because it paired two very different bands and appealed to two different groups. I think we have the same thing going this year. Third Eye Blind is so popular, but we also have Hoodie Allen, a pretty prominent up and coming hip hop artist.”

Allen, a one time Google employee, left his career at the Internet powerhouse to pursue a music career after generating significant interest during his side gigs, Keating said.

“He is someone various people mentioned that they would love to see as an opener,” Guerin said. “I wasn’t too familiar with him, but he is already generating excitement.”

Based on students’ reactions thus far, Keating and Guerin expect the concert to sell out.

ND plans for games at night

By ANNA BOARINI
News Writer

After the success of last year’s night game against USC, the Notre Dame football team will add two home night games to the upcoming season. According to a University press release, Notre Dame will host Michigan on September 22 at night, while the game against Miami at Chicago’s Soldier Field will also be held at night.

Mike Seamon, the associate vice president for campus safety, said the game day operations team started to prepare for this season’s night games as soon as they were confirmed.

“We’ll look to build on the successes of last year’s night game, while trying to identify any new opportunities to improve the game day experience,” he said. “Last year, we had additional staff, fire department personnel, medical teams, parking personnel, police, on hand throughout the day and the night to help all the fans and guests.”

Sophomore Kristen Jackson said she is most excited for the night game against Michigan this coming season.

“I’m excited for the Michigan game because my parents went to Michigan for college,” she said.

Professor publishes paper on Fukushima

By DAN BROMBACH
News Writer

On March 11, 2011, the world held its collective breath as the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power station in Japan melted down after being incapacitated by the devastating earthquake and tsunami that left over 19,000 people dead or missing.

A year after the tragedy, Notre Dame professor Peter Burns and his colleagues at Michigan and the University of California, Davis have published a paper in which they discuss the interaction of nuclear fuel on the environment following such an accident.

“The paper looks at what is known, and then lays out a research agenda for understanding how radioactivity is released from damaged fuel in different environments that can happen after an accident,” Burns said.

Burns said his paper seeks to build knowledge of the interaction of undamaged fuel with geological repositories. The paper also examines existing knowledge related to the issue of offerin users a “third-person perspective” on social media by featuring a “page about you created by your friends”.

Alumnus to launch new website

By KRISTIN DURBIN
News Editor

Notre Dame is not often associated with the phrase “tech startup.”

But the Notre Dame–bred creators of the social media website Wikify.me hope to put the University on the tech world’s radar with the site’s March 26 launch at Notre Dame, Saint Mary’s and Holy Cross.

“We’re trying to put Notre Dame on the map for a tech startup, to become known as ‘that tech startup that came out of Notre Dame,’” founder and 2011 alumnus James Ingalli said. “Seeing a tech startup out of Notre Dame is pretty unusual, so the idea of the startup being successful would bring the school into a new domain.”

Ingalli founded Wikify.me in the fall of 2010 with the goal of offering users a “third-person perspective” on social media by featuring a “page about you created by your friends.”

O.A.R. (Of a Revolution) performs during last year’s spring concert on April 8 at the Stepan Center. The concert, which featured hip hop duo Chiddy Bang as the opening act, was sold out.

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OAR360 by SHANNON LUND photo Observer Graphic

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To submit information to The Observer, email detailed information about an event to obnews.nd@gmail.com.

The Notre Dame baseball team will play IPFW at 5:35 p.m. tonight at the Eck Baseball Stadium. Student tickets cost $5.

A discussion and networking session on “Making a Living and Making a Difference” will take place at 7:30 p.m. in the Gedes Hall Coffee House.

An optional information session about Pod Squad Auditions will be held at 7 p.m. tonight in the Dooley Room of LaFortune.

Signs up for the Super Smash Bros. tournament sponsored by the Japan club will be held from 5:30 to 8 p.m. in LaFortune. Cost is $3 for one event or $5 for both.

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By KAITLYN RABACH
News Writer

To kick off the Saint Mary’s Diverse Students’ Leadership Conference (DSLC), Cambodian genocide survivor Arn Chorn Pond shared his story of survival and healing under the rule of the Khmer Rouge.

“When I was just nine years old the Communists took over the country,” Pond said. “My parents were executed and I was forced to watch my siblings crawl … to a death of starvation. It was very hard for me to feel so powerless and know that I could not help them.”

While in the camps, soldiers forced Pond to partake in some of the murders. Pond said, “I was a prisoner, and they could force me to push others into the graves. If I showed any emotion with the victims I would have been killed.”

Pond said his love for traditional Cambodian music, specifically the flute, helped him through his difficult experiences. He and four other prisoners in the camp started a music group; only two members of that group are alive today.

“Music got me through,” Pond said. “Even today, it still helps me to heal.”

In 1980, after living several months alone in the Cambodian jungle, Pond was rescued and adopted by Reverend Peter L. Pond who brought him back to New Hampshire.

“I felt very lucky, but very scared at the same time,” Pond said. “It seemed as though no one in the United States understood me or where I came from.”

After coming to the U.S., Pond said he felt anger, depression, resentment and even suicidal at times. His adopted father encouraged him to speak out and share his story to help deal with his feelings. “I didn’t know what it meant to be heard,” Pond said. “I never thought that white Americans would care about me, but I was wrong.”

He started speaking at local churches and today his voice has been heard by Amnesty International groups, the United Nations and even former President Jimmy Carter. After sharing he began to share his experience, Pond stepped into a new role: human rights activist. He is the recipient of many international humanitarian awards and founder of several organizations, including Children of War, Cambodian Volunteers for Community Development and Peace Makers.

“His story is very capturing and embodies everything that DSLC represents,” Quintana said. DSLC represents sharing stories that would otherwise go unheard and learning of differences that would often go unnoticed.

Pond expressed the importance of embracing one’s roots and one’s own unique stories. “It is our life and our story,” Pond said. “Don’t deny your differences or your stories, because then you will be denying your culture.”

Pond ended his talk by encouraging the members of the audience to go out in the community and share their voices for social change. “Do not underestimate one person,” Pond said. “Everyone has their own story to share. Everyone has their own pain. Do not spend time comparing pain, just live united. One by one you are the angel that the world needs. Go fly and be that angel.”

Contact Kaitlyn Rabach at krabac01@saintmarys.edu

Arn Chorn Pond, Cambodian genocide survivor, speaks during the opening day of the Saint Mary’s DSLC about his experiences in concentration camps as a young child.

Photo Courtesy of Hannah Ziegeler
Legends holds focus group for Saint Mary’s students

By JILLIAN BARWICK
Saint Mary’s Editor

Legends of Notre Dame is a restaurant, bar and club that serves as a gathering place for the Notre Dame, Saint Mary’s and Holy Cross communities. On March 8, the Legends marketing team held a focus group at Saint Mary’s for students to voice their opinions and concerns.

Catherine Flatley, a Notre Dame junior and marketing research manager of Legends, is in charge of coordinating focus groups.

“We try to get a better insight to specifically what students want to see at Legends,” Flatley said. “Focus groups and surveys are held for Notre Dame, Saint Mary’s and Holy Cross students so that we can find ways to better serve our customers’ needs.”

By holding a Saint Mary’s focus group, Flatley hoped to learn how Saint Mary’s students looked at Legends differently from Notre Dame and Holy Cross students, she said.

“I am the only Saint Mary’s student on the marketing team at Legends, so we felt that my presence in this focus group would be very important to maintaining our goals,” Williams said. “A big part of my job is to make sure we can extend the olive branch to Saint Mary’s students and remind them that while Legends is on Notre Dame’s campus, we cater to the whole community of students.”

Over the past four years, Williams noticed there has only been one promotion driven by handing out flyers, as opposed to posting them in dorms, for a Legends event on Saint Mary’s campus.

“There are usually three to four members of the marketing team on campus [Notre Dame] who hand out promotions for our events happening each weekend,” Williams said. “Saint Mary’s has not seen this much.”

Williams said this type of promotion can help bring people to events.

“The one time I saw this type of promotion for an event at Legends, it struck me so much that I actually went to the event and enjoyed myself,” Williams said.

By holding the Saint Mary’s focus group, Flatley and Williams hoped to gain constructive criticism to make changes where needed.

“We use more of guideline questions to steer our focus groups so that the participants have a chance to get the dialogue really flowing without being pushed in different directions,” Flatley said. “This is what leads to the constructive criticism, which is what we are looking for.”

When building the focus group, the participants tended to be juniors and seniors, Flatley said.

“Most common thing we heard was Legends being compared to other bars around town and the differences between Legends and other go to places in the community,” she said.

To maintain the constant input from Saint Mary’s students, Williams hopes the marketing team at Legends will have at least one or two students from Saint Mary’s on future teams.

“I know there have been Saint Mary’s students on the team in the past, but currently I am the only one on the marketing team,” Williams said. “It would be truly beneficial to maintain a working relationship between Saint Mary’s, Notre Dame and Holy Cross students in the future.”

Contact Jillian Barwick at jbarwi01@saintmarys.edu

Legends of Notre Dame, a popular restaurant, bar and club on campus, held a focus group March 8 to allow Saint Mary’s students to voice their opinions and concerns.

SHOW SOME SKIN
The Race Monologues
7:30PM
CAREY AUDITORIUM
Hesburgh Library
March 23 I 24
no ticket required

proudly sponsored by:
Center for Undergraduate Scholarly Engagement | Notre Dame International | Center for Social Concerns
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Center for the Study of Languages and Cultures | Hispanic Alumni of Notre Dame
Nuclear continued from page 1 of the physical processes that occur during a meltdown and instantaneous release of gaseous radioactivity. "There's a lot of unknown in between these two scenarios," Burns said. "We don't have any real studies of the interaction of water with damaged fuels when the radiation field is intense." Although he said it can be useful due to its high melting point, Burns said nuclear fuel is also extremely hazardous to people and the environment if improperly released. "The fuel going into the reactor is pretty much harmless, but the fuel coming out is at least a million times more radioactive," Burns said. "Once containment is lost, bad things happen to the population."

As director of a federal Energy Research Frontier Center focusing on actinides, Burns said he wants to support research that could not cite any unpublished work, and thus served to provide new analysis without utilizing new data, Burns said. "For this type of article, it was more about combining knowledge than it was creating knowledge," Burns said. "We had to distill all the literature on the subject." Burns said he dislikes getting into political discussions about the continued usage of nuclear fuel, preferring to deal with the facts and leave the debating for others. "I would imagine that developing nations are going to build a lot of new nuclear reactors, so I don't see much point in engaging in a debate about whether it's a good idea, or whether it should happen, because it is happening," Burns said. Ultimately, Burns said he hopes the paper will serve as a springboard for future research to address the lack of knowledge of water's interaction with damaged fuel, thus putting the world in a better position to deal with a future nuclear accident. "We want to better equip society to deal with the next serious nuclear accident and to minimize its impacts," Burns said.

Games continued from page 1

Sophomore Matt Hayes said he is most excited to watch the Irish play in a large venue in a big city. "I got to go to the Army game, so I'm really pumped to see us play in a legit stadium at night," he said.

"The energy is just a lot better. You have more time to get into the game." Noah Rangel sophomore

"The concept of the site involves everything out there in social media, which revolves around the first-person perspective," Ingallinera said. "You are the moderator of your own page, but others can contribute to it. You have complete control of everything on your page, from who can contribute to it to who can see it." After editing the original version of the site, Ingallinera recruited 2011 alumnus Trey Griffin and seniors包括 Kyle Buckley and Bobby Thompson and sophomore Mi-

Our games are all fan favorite, they are not going to be heavily integrated into future Notre Dame football schedules, senior associate athletic director for media relations John Heider said. "For a variety of reasons, the University is not looking for a steady diet of home football night games," he said. "However the response to the Notre Dame-USC game last year proved favorable and that certainly played a major role in consideration of another home night game for 2012." Even though night games are a fan favorite, they are not going to be heavily integrated into future Notre Dame football schedules, senior associate athletic director for media relations John Heider said. "For a variety of reasons, the University is not looking for a steady diet of home football night games," he said. "However the response to the Notre Dame-USC game last year proved favorable and that certainly played a major role in consideration of another home night game for 2012." Even though the University does not plan on adding more night games in the future, many students would like to see more on the schedule. "The energy is just a lot better," sophomore Noah Rangel said. "You have more time to get into the game." Freshman Max Brown also wants to see more games played at night. "A night game is a really cool experience," he said. "I mean, they already have the lights there."

Wiki_contined from page 1

"We had a lot of requests for Third Eye Blind," Guerin said. "We did usual polling and asked students to name five bands they would like to see come to campus. They were included in a list of people's list." Even though there are not many popular songs, Keating believes the band's energy will capture the audience. "They don't play hits, but you don't have to know every single song to enjoy their concerts," Keating said. "The fans paint their instruments and sing live, and the lead singer walks around the stage the entire time and really engages with the audience." Guerin said Third Eye Blind has a reputation for engaging concerts. "They are known for putting on really good, fun shows," Guerin said. "I've heard neither but good things about their concerts from friends who have attended their shows before."

"Tickets go on sale today at 7 a.m. in the location bank of all for Notre Dame undergraduates. At 9 a.m. Thurs-
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SCHAUMBURG, Ill. — Front-runner Mitt Romney sailed to an easy victory in the Illinois primary Tuesday, overshadowing Rick Santorum in yet another industrial state showdown and padding his delegate lead in the race for the Republican presidential nomination.

What a night,\textsuperscript{a} Romney told cheering supporters in suburban Chicago. Turning his attention to victory in the next big test between Romney and Restore Our Future launched last month. He also gave $2.5 million to the pro-Romney super PAC.

The Associated Press

\textsuperscript{a} Romney said at one point. “We’re not even at halftime yet. The race is just getting started.”

The Associated Press

\textsuperscript{a} Romney told his supporters on Tuesday to “saddle up like Reagan and the cowboy movies” and close this gap and then on for the rest of the week, then organize.

The Associated Press

\textsuperscript{a} Romney and Restore Our Future outspent Santorum and a super PAC that backs him by $3.5 million to $500,000, an advantage of 7-1.

\textsuperscript{a} Romney’s victory was worth at least 13 delegates.

\textsuperscript{a} That gave him 335 in the overall count maintained by The Associated Press, out of 1,144 needed to clinch the nomination.

\textsuperscript{a} Santorum is the only delegate on the ballot in the nation’s capital.

\textsuperscript{a} Private polling shows Romney winning in contests across the Deep South.

\textsuperscript{a} A 10-day break follows Louisiana day primary elections. Romney, ahead in the count of Republican delegates, was aided by more than $29 million worth of ads paid for by Restore Our Future, the super PAC that backs him.

\textsuperscript{a} That $29 million figure is higher than spending by any other Republican super PAC or campaign, including Romney’s own campaign.

\textsuperscript{a} Super PACs, like Romney’s and Rove’s groups, are not permitted under federal law to coordinate directly with candidates, but they can often pay for media campaigns that allow the candidates to concentrate on registering voters and making political statements.

\textsuperscript{a} Romney has lost several Southern states of Alabama and Mississippi, where Santorum won narrowly. Despite an unusually lengthy race for the nomination, less than a third of those voting said in the polling-place survey they hoped the primary season would come to a quick end even if that meant their candidate might lose the nomination.

\textsuperscript{a} Santorum said he was outspent in advertising by rivals Ronald Reagan, but he was not insurmountable.\textsuperscript{b} Romney and Restore Our Future have spent more than $200 million in contributions as of Feb. 29.\textsuperscript{c} The political committee supporting Obama, Priorities USA Action, collected $2 million last month.

\textsuperscript{a} Santorum won $50,000 to answer.

\textsuperscript{a} Santorum argued that to qualify for the GOP’s big money may be starting to flow into the campaign, and overwhelm the economy was the top issue in the television advertising wars, as and as his chief rival struggled to overcome self-inflicted political wounds in the marathon to pick an opponent to Obama.

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Office of Sustainability hosts energy competition

By ANN MARIE JAKUBOWSKI
News Writer

This March, the Office of Sustainability is working to make sure the buildings on each quad are just as green as the lawns and trees around them. The fourth annual campus energy competition is taking place from March 10 to 30, splitting the 29 residence halls into four teams to collectively “go green.”

Rachel Novick, outreach program manager for the Office of Sustainability, said the project’s goal is to build awareness about energy conservation among students on campus. The office has projects aimed at reducing energy in classroom and facility buildings, but Novick said the residence halls are also an important target.

“We definitely want to work with buildings across campus to conserve energy, but students have the most opportunity to impact the places where they live,” Novick said. “It’s a great educational tool and provides a way for them to think about sustainability and making more sustainable choices.”

The four teams are South Quad, North Quad, West Quad and Mod/God Quad. The competition takes into account the varying number of dorms on each team, as well as each dorm’s respective size and characteristics.

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The competition’s progress can be tracked online through the Energy Dashboard on the Office of Sustainability’s website, which updates the energy use data for each dorm regularly and shows each team’s current ranking.

Novick said the dashboard data will continue to be updated even after the competition so interested students can keep track of how their dorm consumes energy compared to the others on campus.

“The dashboard is a fantastic tool because people can really see the impact of the energy they’re using and see the use in their dorms change day by day,” Novick said.

Similar competitions have been held each year since 2008, but according to Novick, the decision to group the dorms in teams was new for this year.

“We teamed the dorms up in quads instead of having everyone on their own because we thought it would be fun to have quad events as part of the competition, and we also wanted to see more cooperation among the dorms,” Novick said.

Sustainability commissioners from each dorm are in charge of posting flyers to spread news of the competition, as well as to tell their hall mates about opportunities to conserve energy.

“We definitely encourage students to think about those things or items that sit around the dorm, like a freezer or refrigerator in a break room that might be rarely used,” Novick said. “Clothes dryers might be the biggest energy user in the dorm.”

According to the energy dashboard, South Quad leads in the competition with a 30.6 percent energy reduction as of Tuesday night, closely followed by Mod/God Quad, which attained a 28.4 percent reduction.

Contact Ann Marie Jakubowski at ajakubo1@nd.edu

Storms sweep through south central U.S., destroy towns

Associated Press

OKLAHOMA CITY — Storms shuffled through parts of the south-central United States again Tuesday, bringing more heavy rain, damaging winds and thunder so loud some people in Oklahoma mistook it for an earthquake.

Forecasters said the slow-moving storm system that socked the region Monday could cause more flash floods, hail, strong winds and possibly tornadoes in a corridor stretching as far north as Missouri.

The National Weather Service issued tornado watches for parts of Arkansas, Texas and Louisiana, though the watch in the latter states expired by Tuesday evening. Two tornadoes in the San Antonio area injured at least eight people and damaged about 30 buildings Monday. A twister injured four people and damaged homes near North Platte, Neb., on Sunday.

In central Arkansas, strong winds Tuesday afternoon caused extensive damage in the town of Morrilton and contributed to at least one injury when a tree fell on a home, authorities said.

“Anytime a tree falls on a house, someone is going to get hurt, but no one went to the hospital by ambulance,” deputy emergency manager Brandon Baker said, adding that “we have lots of houses with trees right through them.”

The city parks complex was destroyed along with the concession stand and exhibit buildings at the Conway County Fairgrounds, Baker said.

In Baxter County in northern Arkansas, several people were hurt, but no one went to the hospital by ambulance, he said.

People search through the debris of flipped trailers and vehicles after a storm passed through Gardendale, Texas on March 19.

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Questions? Contact Maureen Clark (mclark9@nd.edu) or Stephanie Nguyen (snguyen4@nd.edu)
The defense at first argued that there is a number that will account for my recommendations. There has been no number mentioned. There has been no number that has been specifically implied," Allen said. "There’s an excellent, I believe, strategic conversation that is going on, that will account for my recommendations, the recommendation of the theater commander, and the Joint Staff in this process. I'm very pleased, frankly, with where we are in that conversation now.

**Three online dating sites screen for sex offenders**

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Three online dating giants agreed to screen out convicted sex offenders to avoid taking other safety steps after a woman was assaulted on a date, the Los Angeles Police Department's homicide bureau announced Tuesday.

Match.com, eHarmony and Spark Networks signed a joint statement of business principles intended to provide an online safety net for the industry and help guard against sexual predators, identity theft and financial scams.

Consumers should use websites without the fear of being scammed or targeted," Attorney General Kamala D. Harris said in a statement.

Among other things, the companies agreed Monday to check suspects against national sex registries, supply members with online safety tips, and prohibit members from reporting abuses. Some of the companies already are using some of those practices.

The dating services also will provide consumers with the option of listing their work office with reports of suspected criminal activity, she said.

"We can't be used by private persons in a nonbinding and carrying no enforcement power unless they have to hold dating sites to account for their members' safety," said Lyn da Dodgson, a spokesperson for the attorney general's office.

The companies said they will provide consumers with a way to report the screen for sex offenders.

**Allen testifies before Congress**

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Republicans looking for a political opening to challenge President Barack Obama on national security got little help Tuesday from the top military commander in Afgh-istan, who insisted that the White House is heeding his advice.

In his much-anticipated appearance before Congress, Marine Gen. John Allen said shifting the security responsibility from U.S. and coalition troops to Afghan forces is on track more than 10 years after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks and after more than a decade of war. The on-going conflict has divided Con-gress and increased the public demand to bring the 90,000 U.S. troops home, a call that grew louder in recent weeks after burnings of Qurans and a shooting spree that killed 16 Afghan citizens stoked anti-American rage.

The current plan calls for the U.S. to withdraw its surge force of 23,000 American troops by the end of September, with a complete drawdown by December 2014. Allen told the House Armed Services Committee that track forces earlier this year before recommending the pace of fu-ture withdrawals — a step that pushes past the Novem-ber elections.

The top U.S. commander in Afghanistan, Gen. John Allen, testifies before the House Armed Services Committee.

The focus fell Tuesday on three paratroopers who had been ex-elled from their regiment near Toulouse in 2009 for neo-Nazi sympathies, a police official said.

The prosecutor said that track was among those being studied. Investigators also are checking the hypothesis that the killer could be a former soldier with psychologi-cal issues or with racist and anti-Semitic motives.

The killer has shown he can handle large-caliber guns with expertise, leading some to suspect he had a military or police back-ground.

France was reeling Tuesday af-ter the school attack, the deadli-est school shooting in the country and the bloodiest attack on Jewish targets in decades. Schools across the country and French schools around the world held a moment of silence Tuesday to honor the vic-tims.

The French Football Federation said that a minute of silence in memory of the victims was being observed before each match in the French Cup quarterfinals on Tues-day and Wednesday night.

In Monday’s shooting, the at-tacker first gunned down a rabbi and his two young sons, then chased down the daughter of the school principal, shooting her dead at point-blank range. Reports of the children’s ages varied, with the Israeli Embassy saying Tuesday the boys were 3 and 5 and the girl was 8.

**Mourners follow the hearse carrying coffins of the victims after a ceremony at Ozar Hatorah Jew-ish School, where a gunman killed four people Monday, including a father and his two sons.**
Feeling lonely? Try Lent

Most of us know that we enter into the 40 days of Lent, in part, in imitation of Jesus, who before beginning his public ministry entered the desert for 40 days, where he was tempted by supernatural powers (as recorded in the Book of Matthew). Perhaps Jesus' greatest temptation was to overcome Satan. I always begin each Lent with this image of Jesus battling in the desert. Perhaps imagining Jesus duking it out with Satan provides a bit of a spiritual adrenaline rush as my 40 days begins, but like most adrenaline rushes, it wears off soon after.

So here we are, halfway through Lent, with some Lenten resolutions perhaps already by the wayside while others are badly leaking. We stand in need of some motivation, a halftime pep talk, a reinvigorated purpose for persevering in the Lenten promises and self-denials to which we committed with such determination way back on Ash Wednesday.

Recently, I discovered one such source of mid-Lenten motivation. I found it in the Gospel of Luke, chapter 5, verse 16. The verse reads simply: “Jesus often withdrew to lonely places to pray.” Despite their simplicity, those words left me empty and me throughout the day, stirring up something in my soul that I struggled to grasp. It seems Jesus didn’t enter the desert just once at the beginning of his ministry but frequently, defeated him and then get on with his life. Rather, says Luke, he “often withdrew to lonely places to pray.” Why this continual disruption of the normal rhythm of his daily life? The question is important to our purposes because if Jesus had to constantly withdraw to the desert, might there not be some motivation for us, in the middle of our forty days, to seek our own withdrawal and disruption (giving up sweets, meat for whatever) as well?

“Jesus often withdrew to lonely places to pray.” For someone who, according to the Gospels, so fully revealed in the company of others and was so fully immersed in a life of active service, it’s curious and almost counter-intuitive description. I think in the past I have conveniently missed the line, choosing a more comfortable reading than perhaps is warranted. I usually have interpreted it to mean, “And Jesus would frequently get so tired by his service and the busyness of life, that he needed to withdraw from time to time in order to rest and reenergize.”

But there’s a problem with this reading. There are many times when Jesus needs precisely to rest and reenergize, which Luke describes differently, without that stark phrase “withdraw to lonely places.” The most conspicuous is after the feeding of the 5,000 people, an obvious point when Jesus would have needed a break. Luke 9:10 reads, “After they had fed the crowds, Jesus took his disciples with him, and they withdrew by themselves to a town called Bethsaida.” He goes with friends, and there’s no mention of that haunting phrase “lonely withdrawal,” with all its Lenten connotations of separation, self-denial, discomfort and longing. No, when Jesus needs to rest and rejuvenate, he normally withdraws with his friends, not alone.

So, I wonder if Luke is being very deliberate about his word choice when he says, “And Jesus often withdrew to lonely places to pray”? If Luke is being deliberate, then I wonder if Jesus is not engaging in a continuous spiritual act of Lent in these moments. That is, for Luke to say he frequently withdraws to lonely places precisely to feel lonely. Not so that he will become depressed and gloomy, for which the Gospels give no evidence, but so that he can recall and stay in touch with one of our most basic human realities, especially before his death and resurrection.

A reality that was hammered home during his initial 40 days in the desert: that at some level, we are all living with our deepest desires as yet unfulfilled and realize that we all live with our deepest loneliness and longing for God and respond more compassionately when we encounter the lonely and alienated in our lives.

This week’s column is written by Fr. Lou DelFra, director of Pastoral Life for ACG and member of Campus Ministry. He can be reached at delfra.20@nd.edu.

The views expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.
Warren Buffet, America’s most famous investor, often says: “You don’t know who is swimming naked until the tide rolls out.” The Great Recession has revealed many different policy shortcomings in America that were hidden during the 1990s and 2000s by a relatively strong economy. Some such shortcomings are the massive unfunded obligations that states face due to their retirement obligations for public sector workers. While it may not seem interesting or important, this situation is already having a devastating effect upon the states. If left un-reformed, it could even lead to a new economic crisis.

According to the Pew Research Center, the 50 states have a combined $1.26 trillion in unfunded liabilities owed to retirees for pension and health care benefits. This crisis has materialized over past decades as state legislatures, eager to gain the support of public sector employee unions, voted to increase pension and health care benefits while lowering the contributions that workers had to make and the age at which they could retire. Meanwhile, most states did not properly fund these benefits increments and promised unrealistic returns on investments made to pay for the benefits.

My home state, Illinois, is a prime example of how retirement benefits have not only put the state in a bad situation but have also paved a road towards bankruptcy. Currently, the state can fund about 51 percent of its benefit promises, much lower than the 80 percent that the Government Accountability Office recommends. The situation was so bad in 2009 that Illinois was forced to borrow money through bond sales to make the 2010 contribution as mandated by law. Recently, it was projected that the Illinois retirement fund would go bankrupt in 2018, meaning that in 2019, Illinois would be forced to allocate one-third of its budget to make its mandatory retirement benefit contribution. For Illinois and other states, these obligations may have been appropriate decades ago, but are already unaffordable today.

The most important reform states can take is switching retirement plans from defined benefit (pensions) to defined contribution (401k). A defined benefit plan calculates future retirement benefits based on final salary, years worked and cost of living. Thus, it is possible for state legislators to promise huge benefit increases without allocating funding for them, creating future unfunded liabilities. A defined contribution plan is based on an employee making ongoing contributions to a retirement fund that the employer then matches. Because of the matching formula, it is not possible to create unfunded liabilities with defined contribution plans, because if state legislators decide to increase retirement benefits for their employees, they must cut spending or raise taxes in the present.

Other necessary reforms include raising the retirement age on state workers (some can retire as early as 50), amending state constitutions so that at least 80 percent of all benefit increases are covered by tax increases or spending cuts and having public employees pay more for their retirement benefits. The recession and weak recovery has led many Americans who work in the private sector to lose their jobs or take pay and benefits cuts. As more Americans have learned about the perks that public sector employees receive due to the political clout of public sector unions — whether it is early retirement, protection from pay or benefit cuts, lush retirement packages or a job for life — many have begun to harbor bad feelings toward the public sector. This dissent will most likely increase as state raises taxes to pay for the cost of past unfunded promises.

Public sentiment against public sector unions helped propel Republican governors like Chris Christie (New Jersey), Scott Walker (Wisconsin) and Terry Kasich (Ohio) into power. Even some Democratic governors, like New York’s Andrew Cuomo, have taken on the perks and benefits that public sector workers receive. Tough choices will be forced onto states concerning public sector employee benefits that have been decades in the making, whether states choose to embrace them or not. Public sector employees should work with state governments to solve the crisis. If citizens see this effort, they will be more willing to pay more in taxes. Fighting tooth and nail to protect outdated and unaffordable retirement benefits could be a tragic political miscalculation. It could create a road for bankruptcy for states like Illinois and California and produce more anti-union politicians like Scott Walker. My guess is that the public sector employees will not take this advice. Even still, it is important for them to remember (especially as states begin to make unpopular and painful decisions) that if you do not come to the table, you will eventually be placed on the menu.

In his 2008 book In Defense of Food: An Eater’s Manifesto, Michael Pollan advised people to stop thinking simplistically about food practices. Pollan’s message, clearly encapsulated as “Eat food. Not too much. Mostly plants,” resonated strongly with the myriad groups and differentiated movements that have morphed into “the food movement.” In stressing simplicity, these recent efforts at food reform have differed from their predecessors by moving past the politics of food production, regulation, and inspection. They focus instead on the diverse ethico-political returns on investments made to support agriculture at home and abroad. This dissent will most likely increase as state raises taxes to pay for the cost of past unfunded promises.

The politics of food program, where ensuring positive health outcomes is more important than ever, given that one out of every seven Americans currently uses the program. In these instances, the food movement has stressed the importance of fostering positive relationships with healthy food. Elsewhere, there is concern about how governments impact agricultural practices. From subsidies in the U.S. Farm Bill to preferential trade policies for European agricultural producers in the EU’s Common Agricultural Policy, debate as to which crops should be supported and what effects those preferential policies have on developing foreign markets. Genetically modified crops, and their potentially controversial environmental effects, are also included in this discussion. Furthermore, political moves to support agriculture at the expense of natural resources have recently come under fire, as with the Florida Everglades. Ultimately, moves towards sustainable, grass-grazed, cage-free, and organic foods, as well as improved food access and culture, form the backbone of the modern food movement. Still, as China’s example shows, oversight is still necessary, particularly when considering the deceptive food-marketing tactics of corporations in the developing world. If there is one overarching goal that everyone in the food movement agrees on, it is avoiding repeating past mistakes of the United States’ unsustainable and unhealthy food practices abroad.

This article was published in the Spring 2012 issue of the Harvard Political Review, a quarterly magazine published by Harvard University. The views expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.
Sweet Sixteen

No. 4 Indiana Hoosiers vs. No. 1 Kentucky Wildcats

Who dat say they gon’ beat them Hoosiers? That’s not right ... Earlier in the year Indiana pulled off one of the biggest upsets of the season beating Kentucky on a last-second shot. This time around, the Wildcats’ athleticism in the paint will cut muscle Indiana’s reliance on the 3-point shot in a hard-fought defensive struggle. Just kidding, I just pulled some of the most overused headlines from the sports pages of The Observer. Indiana Hoosiers, because Indiana grows corn and I like cornbread. Plus, that Kentucky kid’s unibrow is revolting. Let it out.

No. 10 Xavier Musketeers vs. No. 3 Baylor Bears

Man has had a longstanding conflict with the bear. Despite years of peace talks and deliberation, bears remain ruthless even with their cuddly appearances. In this battle between man and wild, we must side with the Bears. We could hardly imagine a present-day militia being able to take down a pack of grizzlies, let alone these so-called “musketeers” from the 1800’s. Baylor Bears by a claw-ful.

No. 4 Louisville Cardinals vs. No. 1 Michigan State Spartans

Every March people remember those overused lines from the movie “300” and proclaim, “This is Madness!” when referring to March Madness. While the immediate reply in the movie is, “This is Spart!”, people forget that the Spartans died at the hand of Xerxes. We’re siding with the Persians on this one. Louisville Cardinals by 300.

No. 7 Florida Gators vs. No. 3 Marquette Golden Eagles

The problem with Gators playing basketball is that they aren’t very tall nor can they jump very high. Gators are very scary animals and not a good choice to play against in a game of water polo, but for basketball I’m going with the Golden Eagles — they can fly and are golden. Plus, this guy playing for Marquette looks like a robot version of Kanye West. Now, I’m gonna let Florida fight to the finish, and I’m really happy for them, but Marquette will win in one of the greatest NCAA games of all time! Marquette Golden Eagles by 5 platinum albums.

Elite Eight

No. 4 Indiana Hoosiers vs. No. 3 Baylor Bears

It’s a matchup of the new upstarts versus the traditional powerhouse. Not the teams themselves, of course, but the uniform styles. Indiana plays it classic and simple, with the same maroon and white look they’ve used for decades. It calls back to the good old days of Indiana basketball, when Bob Knight threw that chair at that kid. On the other side, you have Baylor, the flying highlighters. Seriously, the neon yellow needs to go. It’s frightening. Indiana wins, mercifully.

No. 4 Louisville Cardinals vs. No. 3 Marquette Golden Eagles

In a classic matchup of the Catholics versus Rick Pitino, I think God wins. Rumor has it the Louisville players didn’t even give anything up for Lent. Plus, we flipped a coin ten times and it came up for Marquette on six of the ten. Clearly God is on their side. Marquette wins, by 40 days and 40 nights.
like many others this year, got a weekend of games. UNC-Asheville killed us. But the Scene staff picked its bracket based on the re-balanced prophetic sports knowledge. Here are yet another chance to reinforce section has about us. Below is somewhat unconventional re-pack next week for the Final Four.

Syracuse

Wisconsin

East

Cincinnati

Ohio State

No. 4 Wisconsin Badgers vs. No. 1 Syracuse Orange
Since they’re known as the “Orange,” Syracuse should have a mastery of orange colored spheres. Contrarily, badgers are probably more inclined towards woodland matters and other small animal things. Syracuse by a bushel.

No. 1 Syracuse Orange vs. No. 6 Cincinnati Bearcats
It’s a slugfest fit for the MGM Grand, with the hideous bright orange of Syracuse up against an upstart challenger, the black and red camo outfits of Cincinnati. No clear loser there. A bearcat versus the color orange? Sounds like a win for the bearcat, until you realize that a bearcat is really just a glorified possum. Well, our editor’s roommate is from Cincinnati; he’d love it if he’d get some quiet about it for a day or two. Syracuse by a Loaded Chili Bowl.

No. 11 North Carolina State Wolfpack vs. No. 2 Kansas Jayhawks
Go Irish! Beat Wolfpack! SUCK IT, WOLFPACK! Go, Irish, go! At least one of us on staff remembers the chants from her first football game freshman year, and now that Charlie Weis is a Jayhawk I like the chances of their offense putting up a lot of points. Kansas Jayhawks by a Golden Tate touchdown.

No. 6 Cincinnati Bearcats vs. No. 2 Ohio State Buckeyes
Skyline Chili trumps any food that has come out of Columbus, Ohio. I mean, has any famous food come out of Ohio (not including Cincinnati, that is)? The Bearcats, fueled by this food of champions, will overcome the odds to beat OSU. Plus, it’s no longer the Ides of March, so Brutus and his Buckeyes are doomed to fail. Cincinnati by a Loaded Chili Bowl.

No. 13 Ohio Bobcats vs. No. 1 North Carolina Tar Heels
Michael Jordan played for the Tar Heels. And he played for the Toon Squad. The Monstars, aka Bobcats, don’t stand a chance, particularly without Mike’s Secret Stuff. My money’s on Bill Murray coming in the second half to lead the Tar Heels to victory. North Carolina Tar Heels by a montage of Michael Jordan dunks.

No. 1 North Carolina Tar Heels vs. No. 2 Kansas Jayhawks
What’s a Tar Heel? What’s a Jayhawk? Nobody really knows for certain. But what I do know is the fighting force in Kansas called the Jayhawkers resisted the Southerners who tried to make it a slave state in the pre-Civil War era. Score one for Freedom. Kansas by four score and seven.

Sweet Sixteen

No. 1 North Carolina Tar Heels vs. No. 2 Kansas Jayhawks
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Denver transitions from Tebow to Manning

What have you done for me lately?

The age-old adage continues to apply more and more to the modern world of sports business, which looks very much like business than sports today.

Football fans have witnessed an extreme case of the brutality of business in sports with the Peyton Manning saga.

After 14 seasons with the Colts, the last 13 of which were injury-free, Manning was let go by Indianapolis in early March.

During the past couple weeks, several teams courted the future Hall-of-Famer, before he eventually decided to continue his illustrious career with Denver, which will likely displace another starting quarterback from his perch: the eternally polarizing Tim Tebow.

Tebow won over the hearts of the Broncos' fanbase with a late-season surge (was it Tebow or was it the Broncos' fanbase with a late-season surge?) that resulted in a playoff berth and a thrilling overtime win (was it Tebow or was it the Broncos' fanbase with a late-season surge?) that set off a whirlwind of activity. Manning was introduced as the Denver Broncos quarterback after he was let go by Indianapolis in early March.

After 14 seasons with the Colts, the last 13 of which were injury-free, Manning was let go by Indianapolis in early March.

Regardless, Manning's signing shows Denver has moved on from its young quarterback, whom executive vice president of football operations John Elway never fully embraced.

It's hard to argue with the decision made by other organization.

The Colts have the opportunity to select Andrew Luck with the first overall pick, a player who is irrefutably ranked by many as the best signal-caller in the draft since Manning or Elway. The team's roster moves over the past couple weeks revolve around trading for a franchise quarterback, who redefined the quarterback position after he was 14 years ago that Bowlen stood on the podium in San Diego, elated at the franchise's first Super Bowl victory and proclaimed: "This one's for John."

But this franchise hasn't been anywhere near what it was when Bowlen retired a year later with a second title in tow. His return to the front office last year was nothing short of a surprise at an organization which had seen so many of the names change so quickly.

On Elway's rule in leading him to choose Denver over other suitors, the most serious of which were the Titans and 49ers: "I'm not sure I wish him the best."

On Elway's rule in leading him to choose Denver over other suitors, the most serious of which were the Titans and 49ers: "I'm not sure I wish him the best."

One thing is for sure. For all of those signal callers trip up, the teams will already be on the phone once Manning's contract is signed.

Contact: Andrew Owens at owens2@nd.edu

The views expressed in this Sports Authority column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.

Manning, who turns 36 on Saturday, said he made a quick connection with Elway, who won his first two Super Bowls in Denver after his 57th birthday. Since No. 7's retirement, a long list of potential candidates have come to Denver, trying in vain to replace the unreplaceable. If anyone can get out of that shadow, Manning could be the man.

He's got two trips to the Super Bowl and one title, 11 Pro Bowls and was the fastest player to reach 50,000 yards and 4,000 completions.

Long known as a master student of the game, there are hours of highlights available that begin with Manning standing at the line of scrimmage, surveying a defense, checking out of a play — or two — then calling the right one and getting the ball.

It's expected he'll be able to run his kind of offense in Denver, which reverted to a run-style system to maximize Tebow's potential last year.

One other factor in Manning's decision to play outdoors in the Mile High City. The nearly $40 million in salary cap room the Broncos have, putting them in the mix for quality free agents, possibly including Manning's former teammates Jeff Saturday and Del...
Georgia Tech, Duke defeat Georgetown, Vanderbilt to advance to Sweet 16 of NCAA tournament

Baylor's Brittney Griner scores on a layup during the second half of the Lady Bears' win over Florida on Tuesday in Bowling Green, Ohio.

Associated Press

BOWLING GREEN, Ohio — Brittney Griner took a pass from a teammate, stepped toward the basket, stretched out her right arm and slammed the ball through.

Then the Bangkok native reacted in typically modest fashion.

I think my team got fired up a little bit more than me. I got a little bit more fired up, I think, on one of the blocks I had," Griner said. "But it definitely felt good throwing it down."

Griner became the second woman to dunk in an NCAA tournament game Tuesday night, and top-seeded Baylor rolled to a 76-57 win over ninth-seeded Florida. The 6-foot-8 junior phenom went near 12 minutes without scoring at the beginning of the game, but she finished with 25 points.

The highlight, of course, was Grier's dunk early in the second half.

That wasn't just a hardly-over-the-rim type of dunk. That was a monster dunk," Baylor coach Kim Mulkey said. "I think Brittney is so conscious of people writing good things about her, or bad about the dunk, that she's going to be exposed and we will score. If you guard her with one — you saw what happened tonight when they guard-ed her with one.

Griner began the second half with a turnaround and a layup. Then Kim- metria Hayden came up with an offensive rebound near the basket and passed to an open Griner, who dunked for the first time since Feb. 14, 2011, at Texas Tech.

The Lady Bears led 41-28, al- though Florida wasn't really cumber-

"We talked about it in the locker room. We know she's capable of do- ing that. She's does it in warmups," Stewart said. "We said that if they make a big 3 or she dunks, we have to get the ball in and out quickly. It didn't affect us. I don't think. It's a great play — most women can't do that.

Baylor hasn't lost since falling in the quarterfinals of last year's NCAA tournament. The Lady Bears will face fourth-seeded Georgia Tech in the round of 16 on Saturday in Des Moines, Iowa.

Griner began this tournament quietly, playing only 21 minutes in the first two games. She had 14 points on 16-for-13 shooting.

"Heaven knows, we just wanted to leave our mark on this program," said Goodlett, a senior.

"We came in thinking, 'We have to do something special. We wanted to do something special. We wanted to leave our mark on this program," said Goodlett, a senior.

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SMC SOFTBALL

Belles split doubleheader on road against Wheaton

By NICK BOYLE
Sports Writer

Saint Mary’s split its doubleheader on Tuesday, coming from behind to win the first game 3-2 while falling just short in the second, losing by a score of 5-4.

“I am really pleased with how we played against Wheaton. They are an excellent team and they did a great job defensively for the most part. (We made) just a couple of mistakes that cost us game two.”

The first game featured a late inning rally by the Belles (10-2), who scored all three of their runs in the sixth inning. Due to the six-inning limit, all of the Belles’ opening unit victoria Fielder Connelly drew a leadoff walk and advanced to second on a fielding error that set up Emily Sherwood. Junior catcher Morgan Bedan doubled, driving in the Belles’ first run. Sophomore pitcher Callie Celler and senior second baseman Angela Gilliss followed with RBI hits, giving the Belles a 3-0 lead.

That proved to be all the Belles needed, as Saint Mary’s finished off her complete game to earn her fifth win of the season. Saint Mary’s next will take on St. Louis Saturday in its MIAA opener.

Contact Nick Boyle at nboyle1@nd.edu

SMC TENNIS

Belles get shut-out by Indiana Wesleyan

By AARON SANT-MILLER
Sports Writer

After falling to Indiana Wesleyan 9-0 on Tuesday, Saint Mary’s will need to prove its ability to bounce back for the second time this season. Earlier this season, the Belles (6-3) suffered a 9-0 loss in their season opener to Case Western Reserve University. Following that shutout loss, the Belles were able to put together a five-game win streak, showcasing their ability to move past tough defeats, something that Saint Mary’s will look to do again following its sec- ond loss of the season.

The Wildcats (15-0) were undefeated entering the match, and in line with their opponents’ impressive record, the Belles were somewhat optimistic heading into the contest.

“This thought would be a closer match, but it’s hard to know the level of competition when you don’t have a lot of common opponents,” Belles coach Dale Campbell said.

As the match began, the Wildcats and the Belles took to the court and played a set, where Campbell said he was impressed.

“We were better than I thought today,” Campbell said. “They were a very good team.”

The Wildcats demonstrated their talent at the top of the lineup and defeated the Belles’ talented No. 1 and No. 2 singles players, sophomore Mary Catherine Falier and freshman Kaylee Sexton. According to Campbell, however, what makes Indiana Wesleyan stand out as a team is its depth.

“They had a lot of depth throughout their lineup,” Campbell said. “They were good at all positions.”

Still, the Belles said they took away some positives from the tough loss, according to Campbell his squad played better than the re- sults convey.

“I thought we performed fairly well,” Campbell said. “Everyone gave it their best. We learned from it and it was a good test for us. It was good for us to see this.”

Campbell said his athletes were able to maintain a similar sense of perspective and optimism following the loss.

“It’s sure they’re a little bit upset, because you’re always upset with a loss,” Campbell said. “Yet, overall I think they feel it’s good to see such good competition.”

St. Mary’s will look to use this optimism to kick off another streak on Saturday, when the Belles will take on Wheaton at 1 p.m. and Judson at 5 p.m.

Contact Aaron Sant-Miller at asantmiller@nd.edu

Novosel continued from page 24 onBuilt to handle.

“We’ve got three really good guards, they can do so many things,” McGraw said. “Novosel and [Diggins] really took over.”

The Irish and the Bears were evenly matched through the first 10 minutes of play. Diggins hit a shot with 10:00 remaining in the first half to give the Irish a narrow edge, 3-2. The Irish managed to go on short 4-0 and 5-0 runs. But every time Notre Dame looked ready to pull away, the Golden Bears hit a big shot to quell the fire.

Novosel started hot, scoring 17 points in the first half. She also knew her time was running out, driving aggressively and getting to the charity stripe often. For the game, Novosel made more free-throws than the entire Golden Bears squad attempted.

“My shots weren’t falling for me at first, so I started attacking the basket,” Novosel said. “I was able to get comfortable that way.”

California freshman forward Ami Enayati hit a layup with 53 seconds remaining in the first half to pull the Golden Bears up 31- 29. Notre Dame answered at the other end with a jumper from the free throw line, sending the teams into the locker room all knotted up at 31. Novosel had her way with the California defense all night.

“Their trying to get up and pressure the ball made it a little easier,” Novosel said. “It was easier for me to get a step on them.”

The Irish broke out on an early 10-2 run in the second half on a orthodox by graduate student forward Devereaux Peters, a pair of free throws and a jumper by Diggins. Peters was overall happy with her performance.

“We had to pick up the hustle and I think we did a good job of that.”

With 12:29 remaining in the sec- ond half, Diggins was fouled hard on a breakdown layup. An intentional foul was called and Notre Dame was awarded two free throws and the ball. On that possession, the Irish pulled ahead by 17 and never looked back. California made a few runs, but the Irish never lost control.

“I was just so pleased with the way we came out in the second half,” McGraw said. “I thought we gave ourselves the win.”

On the other end, whenever the Irish offense seemed sluggish, Big- gins was able to catalyze scoring with a drive, a steal or a quick pass.

“When you’ve got [Novosel] attack- ing like she is and so many people pacing attention to her, I’m surround- ed by good shooters, and I can throw anything to [Peters] and she’ll catch it,” Diggins said. “That opens up stuff for me. I think tonight, in particular, my teammates did a good job of feed- ing me.”

Peters had perhaps her most com- plete statistical line of the year, finishing with 13 points, 14 rebounds, a career- high seven blocks and a game-high five assists.

“To be able to count on her for so many rebounds, and her assists today I thought were phenom- enal,” McGraw said.

Peters said Notre Dame’s experience helped them withstand the Golden Bears’ challenge.

“We’re an older team, we’ve been here before,” Peters said. “I think we play a lot better when we keep our composure. We know what we have to do to execute.”

The Irish travel to Raleigh, N.C., on Saturday for a matchup with No. 5 St. Bonaventure on the road.

“We’ve got three really good guards, they can do so many things,” McGraw said. “Novosel” and [Diggins]...
Just four days after playing in the NCAA men's basketball tournament, Irish freshman pitcher Pat Connaughton took the mound for his collegiate debut in Notre Dame's 11-4 win over Eastern Michigan on Tuesday.

On a limited pitch count of 31 pitchers, Connaughton impressed in his 1 2/3 innings pitched, topping out at 94 mph in front of his basketball teammates, Irish coach Mike Brey and Notre Dame basketball coaching legend Digger Phelps. All five of the fresh- man's outs came from strike- outs, often blowing past op- posite hitters with a steady diet of fastballs and the occa- sional, deceptive curve.

"I was really excited, and I know coach Brey and all the basketball kids were coming," Connaughton said. "I tried not to think about the loss with basketball and this tried not to think about the loss with basketball and this.

The Irish (11-7) gave Connaughton the early lead with a 3-for-5 afternoon from senior left-hander Steve Sabatino. The Irish pulled out a two-run double to deep left center. The Irish went through 10 batters in the inning. Notre Dame will try to win their NCAA men's basketball game against IPFW on Tuesday night.

"I thought Pat did well," Aoki said. "I don't know if [Eastern Michi- gan] ever took control of the game. It was a big part of us starting to pull away from them a little bit."

In the bottom of the sev- enth, Notre Dame exploded for a six-run outburst to put the game out of reach, assisted by two errors and a wild pitch. Freshman left fielder Connor Biggio opened the inning with a two-run double to deep left-center as the Irish went through 10 batters in the inning. Notre Dame will try to build a winning streak with a 4:05 p.m. home game today against IPFW at Frank Eck Stadium.

Contact Andrew Gastelum at agastel1@nd.edu
**ND WOMEN’S TENNIS**

Big Redbird off Irish, team’s time in Hawaii

By KATIE HEIT and VICKY JACOBSEN

Spring break may have brought welcome relief from the cold weather, but that didn’t mean Notre Dame’s women’s tennis team was ready to start singles or doubles there were some "...
ROWING

Irish win 10 at opening invitational

By JOE WIRTH
Sports Writer

The Irish showed no signs of rust in their first spring competition, as they came home with 10 wins from the Oak Ridge Invitational at Melton Lake in Oak Ridge, Tenn.

The team recorded seven wins Saturday and registered three more in Sunday’s races. With the likes of Louisville, Tennessee and Virginia competing, the Irish came out on top against some of the strongest programs in the country.

“The competition was definitely intense this weekend,” junior Abby Meyers said. “Because this was the first round of racing of the season, we didn’t have any idea how fast the other teams were going to be. Especially towards the end of the weekend in our races against Tennessee, our competition was faster, but in most cases we were able to ultimately come out on top and really show our speed and our mental toughness.”

Meyers was on the first four-team regatta against Purdue, Indiana and Louisville. She was then on Notre Dame’s last boat to win on Sunday afternoon, with a six-second victory over Tennessee.

“The first competition of the year always brings many unknown factors. Meyers said, however, there were mostly positive surprises in the opening races and she was impressed to see some of the improvements in the team since the fall season.

“Overall, I think the team had a great start to the season,” Meyers said. “We raced well against some tough competition and individual boats gained a lot of valuable experience racing together. I was very pleased with how well the rowers in the varsity eight and I worked together. I think we surprised ourselves a little with just how strong we can be both mentally and physically when we are down off the start of a race.

“It’s a great feeling to know all the hard work that the whole team put into training outdoors during the winter is producing positive results so early in the season. We still have a lot of speed to tap into, and that will be the team’s focus as we move forward and prepare to face even tougher opponents.”

Meyers said the success the team had this weekend gives Notre Dame an opportunity to ride some momentum into the upcoming races and beyond.

“As a team, we still have a lot of potential to tap into,” Meyers said. “We were successful this past weekend, but there is always room to improve. Each boat will use the experience they gained racing together, whether or not that experience involved winning their individual race, to continue to improve and prepare for another intense round of races against Ohio State, Louisville, Indiana, and Purdue this weekend.”

Meyer said she hoped Notre Dame’s success would just be the start to a strong season.

“Every race is an opportunity to show just how fierce, aggressive and fast we are as individual boats and as a collective team,” she said. “We need to take advantage of every single opportunity we have to show the NCAA selection committee that we deserve a bid to this year’s national championship regatta. I think our team has a lot of talent and strength, and I’m excited to see what we can accomplish together this season.

“The Irish will travel to Columbus, Ohio on Saturday to face Ohio State and then to Indianapolis, Ind., on Sunday to compete in a four-team regatta against Purdue, Indiana and Louisville.

Contact Joe Wirth at jwirth@nd.edu

MLB

A-Rod has three RBIs in Yankees victory

Associated Press

TAMPA, Fla. — Alex Rodriguez kept rolling. Michael Pineda made a quick change and the New York Yankees beat the Pittsburgh Pirates 10-3 on Tuesday night.

Rodriguez had two hits — raising his batting average to .333 — and three RBIs, while Pineda impressed manager Joe Girardi with his response after a tough start.

Andrew McCutchen hit a two-run homer in the first inning on a slider from Pineda, who allowed two runs and five hits in 3 2-3 innings. Jo-Jo Reyes relieved and allowed three runs, three hits and two walks without recording an out.

“They all my pitches, trying to get the pitch count up,” Bedard, who made 68 pitches, “I just tried to mix it up, and you’ve got to work on everything. (I feel like) I’m in the middle of spring training. When you’re not at 100 (pitches) yet, it’s hard to say.”

Bedard split last season between Seattle and Boston, going 5-9 with a 3.62 ERA in 24 starts after missing 2010 with a shoulder injury.

Yankees closer Mariano Rivera struck out one during a 1-2-3 outing.

“Threw all my pitches, tried to put everything. (I feel like) I’m in the middle of spring training. When you’re not at 100 (pitches) yet, it’s hard to say.” Bedard split last season between Seattle and Boston, going 5-9 with a 3.62 ERA in 24 starts after missing 2010 with a shoulder injury.

Yankees closer Mariano Rivera struck out one during a perfect fourth and extended his streak of not allowing an earned run in spring training to 25 consecutive innings dating to 2008.

New York shortstop Derek Jeter remained sidelined by a stiff left calf. Jeter, who hasn’t played since last Wednesday, could return on Friday.
FENCING

Irish stand out at Midwest Regional

By MIKE MONACO
Sports Writer

For the second consecutive tournament, Notre Dame got on top early on their regional foes and for the second consecutive weekend the Irish were turned in a slew of top results.

After hosting the Midwest Fencing Conference championships on March 3 and 4, the Irish took a look at their top-three results at the NCAA Midwest Regional in Cleveland, Ohio on March 10 and 11. Irish coach Janusz Bednarski said he was satisfied with the results given his team's youth and inexperience.

"We did pretty well for such a young team like us, where about three-quarters of the team are starters who have never been through NCAA qualification," Bednarski said. "They fenced with a lot of potential and that's impressive experience, so [the results] are great for them."

The women took to the strips on day one and a quartet of Irish fencers finished in the top-three of their respective events.

The fowlists led the way, as freshman Madison Zeis and junior Grace Hartman claimed second and third, respectively. Sophomore Adriana Camacho, senior Hadnima Sarkisova and sophomore Rachel Beck accompanied them in the top half of their respective events, finishing in sixth, seventh and eighth, respectively.

In day two, Freshman Ashley Severson and Nicole Amelini continued their strong rookie campaigns by placing third and fifth, respectively, in the women's epee. Bednarski said both fencers are "on the list" to consider for the national championships.

"They are our leaders," Bednarski said. "We expected a good showing but you never know on any given day. They showed what good form and they showed our younger fencers how to fence.

The Irish sent four epeeists to Cleveland, and all four finished in the top 10. Sophomore Michael Rose did not compete.

Following the Regionals, the NCAA qualifying committee announced the Irish qualified the maximum 12 fencers for the NCAA championships, although this is the fifth straight year Notre Dame has qualified 12 fencers for the championships.

Bednarski said this year is different since his squad is certainly not one of the favorites. "We are the underdog (this time around)," Bednarski said. "We are really the only favorite for this competition. We are the underdog who can bite other teams when we will and whenever we have a chance."

The NCAA championships begin with the women's competition Thursday and Friday, followed by the men's events Saturday and Sunday in Columbus, Ohio.

Contact Mike Monaco at mmonaco@nd.edu

ND WOMEN'S SWIMMING

Reaney and Ryan lead ND at NCAAs

By BYRAN HARTNETT
Sports Writer

The Irish concluded their season with a strong showing at the NCAA Swimming and Diving championships, on March 15-17. Led by the performances of sophomore swimmer Kelly Ryan and freshman swimmer Emma Reaney, the Irish finished the meet in 22nd place, the best showing for a Notre Dame team since 2002.

Competing in the NCAA championships for the first time, Ryan excelled in the 200-yard backstroke, finishing the race in a time of 1:53.67 to shatter her personal record in the event by two seconds and finish seventh in the event.

For her performance in the 200-yard backstroke, she earned prestigious All-American accolades, awarded to swimmers who finish in the top eight of the finals for an event.

Ryan also competed in the 100-yard backstroke, finishing 27th in the overall field, and in the 100-yard freestyle, finishing 44th in the event. Ryan contributed her success in the championships to enthusiastic support from her teammates, especially her counterpart in the championships.

"I think one of the keys to my success was definitely the support of my teammate, Emma Reaney," Ryan said. "We were the only two swimmers that made it, but she's one of my best friends on the team and her support really helped, since we always train together and she's pushed me throughout the year. I also felt really prepared by my coaches and confident that my training would help me be in the same level as some of the fastest swimmers in the country."

Reaney turned in a stellar showing of her own, as the freshman wracked up three Honorable Mention All-American accolades, given to swimmers that finish anywhere from ninth to 16th in an event. Reaney began her championships by finishing ninth in the 200-yard individual medley on March 15, breaking her own school record with a time of 1:55.67.

Reaney finished 11th in the 100-yard breaststroke the following day with a personal best time of 59.81, and capped her streak of impressive performances by finishing 14th in the 200-yard breaststroke on March 17.

Ryan said that Reaney's top-notch showing on the national level is only a small part of her contribution to the team, as she has also developed into a key leader in her first year. "Emma is a really big asset to the team," Ryan said. "She is a leader by example and by word who has really helped our team improve this year, so it's been great to share this season with her."

The combined performances of Ryan and Reaney helped the Irish earn 30 points overall, allowing the team to finish 22nd in the field of 49 teams.

Junior diver Jenny Chiang also competed in the championships for the Irish diving team, finishing 17th in the 1-meter dive event with a score of 289.50. Chiang missed qualifying for the 16-person finals by a narrow margin of two points, but her performance represented the highest finish for an Irish diver since 2005.

Chiang qualified for the NCAA championships after placing second in the 1-meter event at the NCAA Zone C Diving championships on March 9. She earned an impressive score of 598.05 points to place second in the talented field of 61 divers.

Contact Brian Hartnett at bhartnett@nd.edu
Hot Off The Press!

Do you know?

The University of Notre Dame has a new booklet available to help students understand the university's policy against Sexual Harassment in every form. Check it out today at:
http://csap.nd.edu/policy/sexual-harassment-policy-and-grievance-procedures/
Kelly continued from page 24

in a timely fashion, coming out accurately, and then good decisions made with the football (is what I'm looking for).”

Kelly said protecting the football is even more of a concern in the red zone, where Notre Dame often struggled last season.

“We're looking at good decisions but aggressive deci-
sions, as well,” he said. “I don't want them to have to tuck it run every time because they're afraid to make a mis-
take.”

In order to give all four can-
ididates — sophomores Tom-
my Rees and Andrew Hen-
drix and freshmen Gunner Kiel and Everett Golson — an equal footing in trying to win the starting job, the staff will simplify the playbook, Kelly said.

“We've kind of taken a step back and really looked at our offensive structure, and we're going to make it so all four of the guys that are here can compete at a fair level, because [Rees] has got, as you know, the best knowledge base,” he said. “But if we started the spring with page 50 of the playbook, Tommy would be ahead of every-
body. So not to put him at a disadvantage but to give it an equal footing for all, we've kind of simplified the back, so the
spring, it's going to give all the quarterbacks, including a midyear in [Kiel] and of course [Hendrix and Golson], an op-
portunity to truly compete for the position.”

While there is no timetable for a starter to be named, Kelly
told the goal is to have one
quarterback named the start-
er, as opposed to a rotation, once the season begins.

No tee party

Kelly said he is unable elabo-
rate on what the reasons were for early enrollee cornerback Taylor Shepard to leave the Uni-
dersity due to federal privacy laws. Shepard returned home to Florida due to a family concern and will not return to Notre Dame.

“You know me, I'd love to talk for 45 minutes on it, I'm just not allowed to,” Kelly said.

“From our standpoint we love the way that he’s played the last couple of weeks and it’s fortunate for us that he's not going to play this year.”

Injury updates

Notre Dame suffered a blow after Indians star Amir Carlisle broke his ankle in a non-contact drill last week and will miss all of spring practice, though Kelly said he should be ready for summer conditioning in June.

Kelly said freshmen linemen-
backer Anthony Bobasza and fresh-
man offensive lineman Tate Nichols have both been cleared to practice with the team after suffering injuries last season.

Sophomore running back Cam Robinson is out of spring practice, but Kelly said he will participate in spring practice at some point after missing all of 2011 with a knee injury.

Kelly said senior defensive end Kapron Lewis-Moore has been fully cleared and has no restrictions.

Sophomore center Braxton Cave is progressing to the point where he might be able to play in the Blue-Gold Game on April 21, though the staff will be cautious with him.

Freshman defensive end Epunen Joseph has also been cleared for spring prac-
tice 8 a.m. Wednesday at LaBar Practice Field.

Contact Andrew Owens at owens22@nd.edu

Tide continued from page 24

with aggregate scores be-
low par. The Irish finished at 15 over par, beating out Minnesota and North Caro-
olina State.

Friday saw the Irish sit-
ting in ninth place after 18 holes, led by senior Andrew, who fired Scodro’s three-under 69, but the team failed to improve over the final two rounds. Saturday, the Irish carded the field’s highest score at five over par and were particu-
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Contact Andrew Owens at owens22@nd.edu

Freshman Tyler Wingo hits a shot during the Warren tournament on Sept. 26. The Irish finished 12 in last weekend's tournament.

“Obviously we were pret-
ty disappointed with the performance,” Platt said. “It was one of those weeks where we didn’t play hor-
ribly, but we needed our best to win, and we didn’t have it.”

Scodro finished in the top 25 for the sixth straight tournament, but the most encouraging performance might have come from an Irish golfer whose score was not counted. Sophomore Andrew Lane, who has been on the fringe of Notre Dame’s lineup all year, carded an even par three-round score of 216, good for 27th place individually. Competing as an individual, Lane’s score was second only to Scodro among the Irish golfers.

“We’re all pretty happy for Andrew,” Platt said. “He played pretty well when most of us didn’t. Coach [Irish coach Jim Kubinski] said he’ll definitely be in the lineup next year.”

The Irish will return to Georgia on Friday for the Linger Longer Invitational at Reynolds’ Plantation Great Water’s Course, a course the Irish played in the week leading up to the Schenkel.

“We’re just looking for-
ward to getting more rounds outside,” Platt said. “We haven’t played that many tournaments outside, and it really showed this week-
end. We played rounds in at the Warren this week, and we’ll be ready to go.”

Contact Conor Kelly at ckelly17@nd.edu

Tide continued from page 24

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Contact Conor Kelly at ckelly17@nd.edu

Cheerleading & Leprechaun Tryout Information Meeting

5:30-6:30 p.m., March 22, 2012
Gym 2, Joyce Center (above Gate 10)

We will teach you how to Stunt!

Please pick up forms to complete at Gate 3 Reception Desk with Jennifer. You may complete and return them to Jennifer or bring them to the Information Meeting on March 21st.

Questions? Contact Coach C. E. Leader, E. M. Cahill, or (Nick) I. N. Tafur (newly added) at caleder@nd.edu
Horoscope

EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Alizee Weber, 48; Bruce Willis, 67; Glenn Close, 63; Tom Hanks, 65.

Happy Birthday: Don’t be hectic this year unless you have really checked out all the potential consequences. It’s important to know what you are up to. Even if you don’t know how to face setbacks, work out a plan with people who have something to offer you in return. Help for equality and you will find the happiness you deserve. You will notice on 7, 15, 22, 29, 36, 43.

Aries (March 21–April 19): Embrace change and let your creativity guide you. Understanding other realms will make it easier for you to make choices that will influence your future and bring you greater success. Don’t be afraid to use little forces to get your way. **

Taurus (April 20–May 20): Stick to what you know and do best. You’ll find a different level of focus if you avoid taking advantage of others. You’ll be able to make choices that will influence your future and bring you greater success. Don’t be afraid to use little forces to get your way. **

Gemini (May 21–June 20): Don’t let others slow you down, size up your situation and push through with your plans. The influence you have will help you make decisions that will cut down unnecessary effort and allow you to do what you can’t afford to do. Help for equality and you will find the happiness you deserve. You will notice on 7, 15, 22, 29, 36, 43.

Cancer (June 21–July 22): Don’t be a last-minute change agent to speed up your own or your future. Be considerate and you will come up with plans that will help you stay on course. You can learn a lot about how others handle responsibility. **

Leo (July 23–Aug. 22): You’re attracting unexpected money and health matters. Follow your gut feeling and be the responsible child, when it comes to health and beauty. Stick to a budget and keeping things simple and moderate will pay off in the long run. **

Virgo (Aug. 23–Sept. 22): Be more interested in how you treat others and what you can do to help them. Networking will bring good results, and a partnership with someone special will help you achieve your goals and personal future. Love is highlighted. **

Libra (Sept. 23–Oct. 22): Find ways to compromise. Avoid overcomplicating your problems. Make your solutions simple and you will make choices that will help you make decisions that will cut down unnecessary effort and allow you to do what you can’t afford to do. Help for equality and you will find the happiness you deserve. You will notice on 7, 15, 22, 29, 36, 43.

Scorpio (Oct. 23–Nov. 21): There is love in the heart, and a lot of finding you can make alternatives that will add to your comfort and security. Love is on the rise, and making special plans proves toward a better partnership will pay off. **

Sagittarius (Nov. 22–Dec. 21): Don’t give up. It’s crucial to be absolutely sure before you take a major risk. Be careful to see the light in dark from reliable people. Domestic changes will give you new areas to live in. **

Capricorn (Dec. 22–Jan. 19): Take your time. Staying at a conclusion will lead to a more usually effective own or your movements. Concentrate on building your equity and adding more time and effort into your surroundings and relationships. Love is on the rise. **

Aquarius (Jan. 20–Feb. 18): Someone important will show you how to move on in the right direction. Don’t change your goals and make your moves carefully. Keep your head clear and you will find that you can make decisions that will cut down unnecessary effort and allow you to do what you can’t afford to do. Help for equality and you will find the happiness you deserve. You will notice on 7, 15, 22, 29, 36, 43.

Pisces (Feb. 19–March 20): Dreams and little dreams come through a reality. The creative and intuitive side of your personality will be supported. Be careful of not feeling too much and feeling too much or feeling too little and feeling too much. Help for equality and you will find the happiness you deserve. You will notice on 7, 15, 22, 29, 36, 43.

Birthday Baby: You have power, charm and good work ethics. You are adaptable and progressive.

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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Happy Birthday!

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Happy Birthday!
Bearing down

Irish get a scare, but advance to Sweet 16

By MATTHEW ROBISON
Sports Writer

Led by a 28-point, nine-rebound performance by junior guard Skylar Diggins, the top-seeded No. 4 Irish took down California by a score of 73-62 Tuesday in Purcell Pavilion to advance to the NCAA tournament’s Sweet Sixteen.

California gave the Irish a run for their money in front of more than 6,000 fans, but Notre Dame was able to build a lead and maintain it.

"We knew this game was going to be a challenge," Irish coach Muffet McGraw said. "They gave us everything we could handle."

Junior guard Layshia Clarendon led the Golden Bears with 17 points, while sophomore forward Gennifer Brandon added nine points and 12 rebounds.

But on the defensive end, the combination of Diggins and Novosel was simply too much for the Gold-Billion to advance to the NCAA tournament's Sweet Sixteen.

Irish prepare for midweek game against Buckeyes

By MATTHEW ROBISON
Sports Writer

Coming off a thrilling triple overtime home victory over No. 9 Denver on Sunday, the No. 7 Irish hit the road today to take on Ohio State. The midweek showdown is a change of pace for the Irish (4-3), as all of their other regular season matchups fall on either Saturday or Sunday.

In that case, the Irish usually have a full week to prepare for an opponent. This time around, Notre Dame had only one day between games, which makes preparation a much more condensed exercise.

"The biggest thing is it means most of your preparation is mental, because you don't have the time between recovering from this game and trying to prepare for that game," Irish coach Kevin Corrigan said. "You just don't have the field time and the ability to get your guys out there and go full speed against the stuff they're doing."

The majority of preparation happens in the film room reading through scouting reports, and on the field in walk-through exercises. Corrigan said.

"Hopefully our guys can handle that kind of preparation because it's different than what we've been able to do for every other game," Corrigan said.

The Buckeyes (3-4) started the season strong, going 3-0 with victories over Detroit, Mercer and Denver. Since then, the Buckeyes have dropped four straight, losing to No. 3 Massachusetts, No. 17 Penn State, Robert Morris and No. 1 Virginia.

But the slide is not indicative of a weak team, Corrigan said. The Buckeyes are consistently one of the top teams in the country, and this season is no different.

"They're a very, very good team and a team we went down to the last seconds with last year," Corrigan said. "So we know we've got another dogfight on our hands on Wednesday."

Last year, senior attackman Sean Rogers netted the game-winning goal with 33 seconds left to give the Buckeyes a 12-11 win over the Irish.

Spring has arrived at Notre Dame, and so has another battle for the starting quarterback position.

After a turnover-plagued 8-5 season in 2011, the coaching staff will emphasize fundamentals on offense, Irish coach Brian Kelly said at Tuesday’s press conference to officially begin the spring season.

"We threw way too many interceptions last year for me to be comfortable with," Kelly said. "I'm not used to seeing that kind of turnover rate, and it certainly affected our win-loss record. The ball coming out of the pocket felt..."