ND admits students, ranks as “dream school”

University receives more applications, accepts fewer students

By TORI ROECK
News Writer

When most colleges see increases in applications, they admit more students, assuming a large number of them will choose to attend the schools.

But Bob Mundy, director of admissions, said the yield for admitted applicants who chose to attend the University last year was unpredictably high, leading to a decrease in the number of acceptances this year.

“Clearly we think we’ve become a more popular option out there,” Mundy said.

According to Don Bishop, associate vice president for undergraduate enrollment, 16,952 high school seniors applied for a spot in the Class of 2016 and 3,850 were admitted.

Last year, the University received 16,520 applications and accepted 4,019 students, Bishop said.

The number of international applicants and applicants of color also rose this year, he said.

Bishop said this year’s acceptance rate was 22.7 percent.

Parents rank Notre Dame as No. 4 choice for children

By ANN MARIE JAKUBOWSKI
News Writer

March saw Notre Dame rising in another set of rankings, as the Princeton Review survey “College Hopes and Worries” listed the University as parents’ No. 4 “dream college” for their children, up from No. 9 in 2011.

Notre Dame was ranked behind Stanford University, Princeton University and Harvard University.

According to the Princeton Review’s website, “dream colleges” are schools that parents wish they were sending their children to if cost and admission were not contributing factors.

A separate ranking listed the top ten dream colleges for students.

Bob Mundy, director of admissions, said the ranking speaks to the positive perception of Notre Dame nationwide.

“If you can step back and think about it as a parent might, I think it provides a nicely illustrative view of Notre Dame,” Mundy said. “Parents want great things for their children, and I think this is a statement that they see Notre Dame as a unique combination of education and undergraduate enrollment, which is something in place for transition and diversity in the number of acceptances.”

University leaders address discrimination

By KRISTEN DURBIN
News Editor

In the wake of last month’s incidents of racial discrimination against two student groups and the March 5 town hall meeting held to respond, Notre Dame student leaders, faculty, staff and administrators are formulating a “Plan of Action” for addressing discrimination on campus.

Senior Brittany Suggs, chair of the Black Student Association (BSA), said the decision to create the Plan of Action arose from the student body’s response to the town hall meeting. She said students called for “more direct involvement in change on campus” with regard to racial incidents and discrimination.

“The Plan of Action also came from the belief of students that we have meetings and forums and discussions of these issues, but people leave feeling like, ‘I said all this, but what happens next?’ What will be done? How will the words we share be transferred to actual change?” she said.

Suggs sent a campus-wide email last week alerting the Notre Dame community to the creation of the Plan of Action.

Town hall attendees submitted personal responses addressing the changes they wanted to see with regard to discrimination in specific areas of campus life. Suggs said. These responses will be used to formulate a formal proposal to be presented to the University administration in early May.

“The committee goal is to have something in place for transitioning officers [of student organizations] with regard to racial incidents and discrimination. “The bishops want to have the specific effects of the mandate on Catholic institutions eliminated so Catholic institutions will not be in the situation of providing things that go against Church teaching, even if there are varieties of opinions among Catholics about the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) contraception mandate, members of the Notre Dame community discussed the development of conscience in the Catholic faith Monday.

Led by David Clairmont, assistant professor of moral theology, the talk provided context for understanding the debate over the mandate requiring employers to include contraception in their insurance packages.

“The bishops want to have the specific effects of the mandate on Catholic institutions eliminated so Catholic institutions will not be in the situation of providing things that go against Church teaching, even if there are varieties of opinions among Catholics about the mandate.”

Professor discusses HHS mandate

By ABI HOVERMAN
News Writer

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

OFFBEAT

Divorce Expo is antidote to wedding industry

NEW YORK — New York City’s first-ever Divorce Expo is being touted as “one-stop shopping” for lonely hearts suffering through a breakup.

“Start Over Smart” will be held at the Metropolitan Pavilion this weekend. Its founders say the expo is an antidote to the nation’s mass-ive wedding planning industry.

Various exhibits will help people sort through recom-mended divorce attorneys, therapists and financial planners. There will be free makeovers and dating advice, personal shoppers, hairstylists and matchmakers. An evening “mixer” will allow people to socialize and perhaps meet someone new.

Divorce expo has been held in other cities, but this is billed as the first for New York.

Francine Baras, who co-founded the event, says they are hoping to show people that there really is a life af-ter divorce.

House candidate can note-astronont past on ballot

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — A congressional candidate in California’s Central Valley can note on ballots that he used to be an astronaut.

A Sacramento County judge ruled Thursday that Democrat Jose Hernandez can use the ballot designa-tion “astronaut.” Hernandez is challenging freshman Rep. Jeff Denham, a Republican from Turlock, for California’s 10th District seat.

A Sacramento law firm founded the event, says they are hoping to show people that there really is a life af-ter divorce.

In Brief

Saint Mary’s College stu-dents are selling $6 Silver Hawks tickets for the game on Friday, April 20. Proce-deds will go to the Cystic Fibro-sis Foundation. Help raise awareness and make CF stand for Cures Found. Con-tact Liz Leeuw at bleeuw01@ gmail.com to purchase tick-ets.

Dr. Harry Kolar, IBM Dis-tinguished Engineer, will talk about how his efforts with the SmartGrid/Galway project and IEON (River Es-tuary Observatory Network) are supporting IBM’s Smarter Planet Initiative utilizing advanced analytics and cross-industry technologies today from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. in 136 DeBartolo.

Peter A. Hall will deliver a lecture titled “The Euroerii-s: Its Origins and Implica-tions” today from 12:30 to 2 p.m. in Room C103 at the Hesburgh Center.

R. David Edmunds, Watson Professor of American Histor-ry at the University of Texas at Dallas, will discuss the Battle of Tannenberg and the opening bat-tle of the War of 1812, and will also discuss how the bat-tle changed the nature of the Native American resistance movement tonight from 7 to 8 p.m. at the Eck Visitors Cen-ter auditorium.

Campus-wide Stations of the Cross begin at 8 p.m. at the Grotto. In case of severe weather, Stations will begin at the Basilica of the Sacred Heart at 9 p.m., followed by Reconciliation.

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

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The news is reported as accurately and objectively as possible. Unsigned editorials represent the opinion of the majority of the Editor-in-Chief, Managing Editors, Assistant Managing Editors and department editors. Commentaries, letters and columns present the views of the authors and not necessarily those of The Observer.

Questions regarding Observer policies should be directed to Editor-in-Chief Allan Joseph.
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dsmcsobserver.com  |  page 3

The Observer

By JILLIAN BARWICK
Saint Mary's Editor

Through the Vivian Harrington Gray Notre Dame-Saint Mary’s Tax Assistance Program, students at both institutions are preparing tax returns for South Bend community members with less than $40,000 of income.

Saint Mary’s senior Karen Kama- ra Umbaugh, the program’s public relations director, said Notre Dame professor Ken Milani began the program as a volunteer effort in 1972 to meet a perceived need.

“Through his unceasing effort, this tax assistance program has really flourished under Milani,” Umbaugh said. “Our 3,900 tax returns were filed in 2011 with the program.”

The program prepares federal and state tax returns for families and individuals as well as tax-filing services for international students, Umbaugh said. She said the program’s office is in the Mendoza College of Business.

“Participants are Notre Dame or Saint Mary’s students who have completed a tax class at those institutions and have further passed an IRS [Internal Revenue Service] examination,” Umbaugh said. “Students successfully complete both the basic and intermediate level examinations conducted by the IRS to become involved with the program.”

Notre Dame and Saint Mary’s students receive two academic credits for taking a lecture course in individual income tax preparation and participating in the program, Umbaugh said.

“When I heard of this, I immedi-

ate was interested,” she said. “I highly value philanthropy and being able to utilize my knowledge to offer services that benefit those in the community.”

As public relations director, Umbaugh is responsible for scheduling, staffing and assis-
ting with television and radio promotional activities.

“I try to promote the pro-
gram throughout the commu-
nity and make sure that oth-
ers are aware of this free tax preparation service we pro-
vide for them,” Umbaugh said.

In addition to this position, Umbaugh said she is also part of the SWAT-2 subsection of the program, which visits indi-

vidual homes of senior citi-
zens to help them with their income tax preparation. These services are provided at nine locations in the South Bend-Mishawaka area, she said.

“This allows for us to pro-
vide services at their conve-
nience,” Umbaugh said. “We have been to St. Paul’s Retire-
ment Community as well as other nursing homes or senior living communities as well to provide services to individu-
als at those locations.”

Umbaugh said she is grateful for the chance to partici-
pate in the program.

“Business majors should take Federal Taxation or an-
other tax class their junior year so that they can be in-
volved in the program for both their junior and senior years,” Umbaugh said. “Luckily, I have gotten the opportunity to participate in the program both years, and it truly is a rewarding experience.”

For more information about the program, visit taptax.nd.edu.

In the last meeting before Eas-
ter break, Campus Life Council (CLC) members discussed the surcharge students pay for single dorm rooms and the bike shop resolution.

Sr. Carrine Etheridge, rector of Farley Hall, said she recently became aware of the new charge to students that opt to live in single rooms in residence halls.

“If they are said to be for sin-
gles, why isn’t there one for air conditioned dorms, or brand new ones versus others?” she said.

“Also, are the students aware of this, and are their parents?”

Many students only become aware of the surcharge when moving into their room or after entering a study abroad program, Etheridge said.

“When they came back from overseas and got a single, they found out when they got the bill,” she said.

Etheridge said the University should inform students of the extra cost, especially before room pick.

“If they’re going to have it, it needs to be before the bill,” she said. “And if they’re going to take that money, it should go back to air conditioned dorms for things like paint and carpet.”

Pat McCormick, former student body president, said student gov-
ernment should consider if such a change could occur.

“It could become a resolution as well if we had more information, if there’s an interest,” he said. “That would definitely be something to look into.”

McCormick said voting on the bike shop resolution was post-
poned again because not enough senators were present at CLC to allow anyone in the group would vote on the resolution with-

in the next few weeks.

“We continue to look for every possible way of supporting the bike shop and were pleased the Student Senate passed a unani-
mous resolution in support of it last year,” McCormick said. “All the members of the CLC will also vote in favor of the resolution.”

McCormick closed the meeting with congratulations to the new student body president, Brett Rocheleau.

“I would be remiss if I didn’t ac-
knowledge our new student body president, Brett Rocheleau,” he said. “And thank you to everyone who worked hard on the efforts that got our new student body president elected.”

Contact Nicole Toccazar
ntoccazar@nd.edu

Group aids locals with tax returns

By NICOLE TOCCAZUER
News Writer

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ntoccazar@nd.edu

Applicants continued from page 1

by the filing of their FAFSA’s in early March, the University’s financial aid staff has also been working to determine how much in aid to give our new student body.”

“Federal aid is very important in helping students to afford college,” Bishop said.

Contact Jillian Barwick at jbarwill@stmaries.edu

In response to recent acts of discrimination on campus, the Notre Dame community is invited to come together in prayer and unity.

Join us at the Grotto
Wednesday, April 4, 8 pm
Together, we can ensure all feel at home under the Dome.
IS THERE A CRISIS IN PUBLIC EDUCATION?
Address by Diane Ravitch, Research Professor of Education at NYU

APRIL 10, 2012
McCARTAN COURTROOM
ECK HALL OF LAW
ADDRESS BEGINS AT 7:00 P.M.

Some states are including student academic performance in teacher evaluations and merit pay programs for administrators and educators.
Ravitch believes these reforms do more harm than good.
The former assistant secretary of education and best-selling author is working hard to ensure that every neighborhood in the United States has a good public school that meets the needs of its community.

LET’S IMAGINE TOGETHER.
This event is free and open to the public with first-come, first-served seating.

More information:
FORUM.ND.EDU
By CAROLINA WILSON

31 Lengths raises money for Uganda

Through the 31 Lengths Campaign, a team of passionate Notre Dame students is using its business skills to create an entrepreneurship center at the Luzor Secondary School near Gulu, Uganda.

Freshman Emily Mediate, undergraduate project leader, said the center’s resources will benefit the entire community of Gulu.

“We are working on implementing a variety of programs at the center, including a speaker series, training of the librarian at the entrepreneurship center and implementation of entrepreneur teaching materials and an MBA internship program,” Mediate said.

MBA student Conor Evans and his wife Lauren Evans used their talents in construction design and their interest in the role of business in emerging economies to found the campaign, Mediate said. She said Conor spoke with several non-governmental organizations in developing countries during the first year of his master’s program.

Mediate said the story of Secretariat, a racehorse that won the 1973 Belmont Stakes by a staggering 31 lengths, inspired the campaign. According to the campaign’s website, Secretariat serves as a metaphor for people’s ability to achieve when they are empowered.

“It has been amazing to see the project grow from an idea to a plan to a structure and an implementation,” Emily Mediate, freshman.jpg

Mediate said some of the campaign’s most successful fundraisers so far have been small.

“We actually held an undergraduate dodgeball tournament event earlier in the month to raise awareness and funding for the project,” she said. “The event was a huge success.”

Members of the campaign helped construct the entrepreneurship center during Notre Dame’s spring break, Mediate said. She said they will collaborate with the Invisible Children organization and Ugandan professionals to train the staff members that will run the center.

“I heard from MBA students who went over spring break that there was a huge response from the children at the school. They are more than thrilled to be getting an entrepreneurship center at their school available with numerous resources to them.”

Mediate said the campaign’s mission extends beyond raising money to construct a building.

“This project is about using each individual’s talent in a way that unlocks the potential of others,” she said.

The entrepreneurship center’s grand opening is scheduled for late August, Mediate said. She said she thinks the center’s inception will mark the beginning of educational growth in Gulu.

“It has been amazing to see the project grow from an idea to a plan to a structure and an implementation,” Mediate said. “Not only is this project about building a center, but it has also contributed to the growth in educational opportunities in the region.”

Mediate said the campaign’s mission extends beyond raising money to construct a building.

“The project is meant to strengthen education in Gulu and requires $90,000 a year in dollars to complete,” Mediate said. “We are finishing raising the last part of funds for the library and will finish construction and begin implementation of business programs over the summer.”

By AUBREY BUTTS

HolyVotes explores politics and Catholicism

Four political science professors will share the Washington Hall stage April 12 to exchange and debate their opinions about the intersection of Catholicism and politics.

HolyVotes, an event seeking to open a pathway for political discussion on campus, will replace the God Debate, held in past years.

Senior Malcolm Phelan described HolyVotes as a “light-hearted and rational political debate” that needs to take place at Notre Dame in order to counter the political dialogue currently dominating the media.

“Most news outlets and political commentators seem to be acting out some form of grotesque tragedy about the death of reason and discourse,” Phelan said.

“That’s exactly why we are hosting HolyVotes. We want to lay out our civic beliefs as Catholics, and then discuss which form of government best helps us to achieve those goals,” Phelan said.

HolyVotes will feature professors Sebastian Rosato, Eric Simm, Vincent Munoz and Michael Desch. Junior Arzad Butt, a coordinator for the event, said he was grateful for the faculty members’ willingness to voice their opinions outside of the classroom.

“In a way, these professors chose themselves,” Butt said. “All three were brave enough to tackle the issue in a public forum.”

Rosato, a professor of political science specializing in international relations, said he will represent the Democratic position, which is often considered more controversial because of the Catholic tendency to vote Republican.

“In a very complex issue, one that many people view as black and white,” Rosato said. “The assumption is if you are a Republican, you are going straight to the pro-life argument, and if you’re a Democrat, you’re going straight to the social justice issues. I think there is a lot of crossover, and I think that the parties are internally divided, and therefore, this is a debate that really needs to occur on campus.”

Rosato said defining the Democratic stances on abortion and gay marriage represents the most difficult task, but he believes his arguments can counter the opposition if received with an open mind.

“In these types of debates, people typically tend to give the party line or the Catholic stance, and there is no one on the other end of the line,” Rosato said. “I think the other professors involved in this event are well-intentioned, and I believe most people in the room will be open to treating it as a debate, but I fear it may devolve into name calling.”

Despite advice not to participate in HolyVotes, Rosato said he believes it is his duty to ask the charged questions and contribute to overturning the paradigm of asserting truths rather than debating issues.

“I believe I was put on this earth to make arguments and to make them regardless of what people thought,” Rosato said. “As a privileged professor at Notre Dame, I’m meant to inform and continue to raise the level of discourse. My job is to think, and that’s why I said yes.”

Dutt said the event is meant to encourage contemplation and dialogue.

“Students should expect an intense and stimulating debate conducted at a high volume,” he said.

Phelan agreed HolyVotes should make attendees think.

“My hope is that we all stumble out of Washington Hall, slightly dazed at the brilliance of ideas,” Munoz, Sims and Desch while considering what duties we owe our country and our fellow citizens.”

Contact Carolina Wilson at cwilson16@nd.edu

Contact Aubrey Butts at abutters@nd.edu

HolyVotes explores politics and Catholicism
**Dream continued from page 1**

We believe Notre Dame is best able to provide these new educational opportunities in providing an extraordinary undergraduate educational experience in areas such as religious education, sterilization and education on family planning. These activities serve a vital purpose in addressing the conscience of Catholic employers, including university, parishes and hospitals, she said.

[The mandate] requires individuals to perform immoral acts against their consciences, Daly said.

The survey, which was cosponsored by Campus Ministry, the Center for Ethics and Culture, the Center for Social Concerns, the Gender Relations Center, the Institute for Church Life and the University Life Institute, seeks to improve understanding of the key assertions in the debate over sterilization and education on family planning.

"People were coming at this from different angles of not understanding what the Church was teaching," she said. "We thought that the helpful thing we could provide for the students was what it means to form your conscience, and that would be the best starting point for students for thinking and responding to these issues.

Clairmont referenced one of the most frequently cited descriptions of conscience, the Second Vatican Council, which describes conscience as human beings' attempts to live in ways that bring them ultimate happiness with God. "Deep within his conscience, man discovers a law which he has not laid upon himself, but which he must obey," Clairmont said. "His voice, ever calling him to do what is good and to avoid evil."

Clairmont said people must work to improve this conscience by studying witness testimonies, by examining the Church's teaching authority, and in her thirst to learn from the Church's teaching authority.

"If conscience needs to be developed throughout one's whole life," she said. "It's never fully formed. It's a lifelong work. There are always possibilities we can develop our moral conscience."

Clairmont contrasted this Catholic understanding of conscience, rooted in never-ending improvement based in the Catechism, with the modern secular belief that conscience is entirely individual.

Formation in conscience comes through studying the teachings of the Church on the matters pertaining to human happiness, and by studying the lived examples of other Christians," she said. "Formation in happiness requires one to be constantly open to having one's own experiences interrogated."

Addressing the pro-mandate argument that many Catholics do not adhere to the Church's anti-contraception values and so do not oppose the mandate, Clairmont said conscience can always change and be improved.

"It's not as if conscience wets up in a pure judgment, saying, 'This is what I must do.' " he said. "This is a judgment at this time, in light of what I know."

And of those experiences I have already had. Those experiences might change."

Clairmont said he hoped the conversation about Catholic conscience would have some significant positive effects.

"We have opportunities to shift the discussion slightly... as an opportunity to teach people in the various areas of how Catholics understand religion and religious freedom, how we understand conscience," Clairmont said. "Conscience is a critical place in the logic of the faith's presentation. And that is something that is present to the public discussion."

Contact Abi Hovemar at ahovema1@nd.edu
Burger King updates menu with new items

Associated Press

MIAMI — Burger King is trying to revive its alluring empire with a rival’s recipe for success.

After years of lackluster sales, the Impossible Whoppers and fries, the struggling fast-food giant on Monday launched 10 new items in an effort to regain the public’s attention since the chain was started in 1954.

But there are unmistakable similarities between Burger King’s new lineup and the offerings its much bigger rival, McDonald’s, has rolled out recently in an effort to fend off the upstart since the start was the chain’s first major overhaul in 2001.

One of the most unmistakable similarities between Burger King’s new lineup and the offerings its much bigger rival, McDonald’s, has rolled out recently in an effort to fend off the upstart since the start was the chain’s first major overhaul in 2001.

Burger King doesn’t eat its own chicken strips, wraps coffee frappes, Caesar salads and seven-layer brownies sound pretty close to those on McDonald’s popular menu. But execution is a big company that came up with its marketing.

“Consumers wanted more

choices,” said Steve Wiborg, president of Burger King’s North America operations. “Not just healthy choices, but choices they could get at the competition.”

The menu additions are part of Burger King’s plan to abandon its nearly single-minded courtship of young men, who were once the lifeblood of the industry but were hard hit by the economic downturn. Competitors were steering toward newer menus with far-healthier fare — think salads and fresh fruit — when Burger King’s menu got stale. As a result, Burger King for the first time was edged out by Wendy’s as the nation’s No. 2 burger chain. McDonald’s solidified its hold on No. 1.

To strengthen an already-weak Burger King executive last year decided to modernize the 7,200 restaurants’ aging stores, modernize the 7,200 restaurants’ aging stores, modernize the 7,200 restaurants’ aging stores, modernize the 7,200 restaurants’ aging stores, modernize the 7,200 restaurants’ aging stores, modernize the 7,200 restaurants’ aging stores. As a result, Burger King for the first time was edged out by Wendy’s as the nation’s No. 2 burger chain. McDonald’s solidified its hold on No. 1.

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INSIDE COLUMN

Big Blue Nation

Even though it’s April, I still have March Madness, which is strange because I hardly ever follow basketball (this coming from the girl who asked her sister-in-law if player fouls were called after the half time). I have never filled out a bracket, so it’s just another game — it’s a way of life.

I do not claim to understand rotoworld. My classmates who fill out brackets do, but I respect them and will not stand them, I salute you. If I could buy the T-shirts wondering if any game on either campus would underwrite the way to the national championship and SEC, picked Kentucky to go all the way not just because they are our players don’t get up right away and “No hoop for you.”

I’d say “Davis — he will, he will block you” (sorry about that guys). Likewise, I’ve put up with the unibrow jokes and occasionally, Ashley Judd.

I am not sincere, even though the championship game will be over by the time you read this. I cannot thank the Wildcats enough for such a great season, win or lose.

If you see, for some, the teams in last night’s game were just two bracket fillers. For me, the Kentucky Wildcats are my constituency because: As a Kentuckiana, I turn on the games when I move home. It’s not the same as the arena filled with blue and white and, occasionally, Ashley Judd. Although I can’t be in beautiful Rupp Arena during the season, my family helps me feel like I’m right there through texting. Throughout the games, I receive texts from my brother asking if I saw the previous play or from my mom giving me a score update every two minutes. I wear my UK jersey to work each day before a big game (my two favorites including the “Fear the Brow” and “We Invented Swag in the '90s” shirts), and it’s my little tribute to home.

I love that my friends now know the names Michael Kidd-Gilchrist, Darius Miller, Kyle Wiltjer and (my favorite) Anthony Davis. During the tournament, they’ve put up with my constant talking about the team, the love of Davis and my Twitter updates from Wiltjer (sorry about that guys). Likewise, I’ve put up with the unibrow jokes and have formed my defenses including, “Davis — he will, he will block you” and “No hoop for you.”

I think Coach Cal is the cutest coach out there, and no matter where I am, I still clap every time I witness a block or an awesome dunk. I cringe when our players don’t get up right away after a fall and I think the “three goggles” are hilarious. I filled out my bracket, saying UK would make it all the way not just because they are ranked No. 1, but because they have the skill to go all the way, and they have fun with the game.

We can’t have the Naismith Trophy winner, the defensive player of the year and quite possibly the No. 1 pick for this year’s draft, but we also have heart — a necessity for any champion.

So for all you Kentucky fans at Notre Dame and Saint Mary’s, for all you who witnessed the blocks, threw the remote at the TV when we lost in the SEC, picked Kentucky to go all the way to the national championship and bought the T-shirts wondering if anybody else on the other campus would understand them, I salute you.

For me, Kentucky basketball isn’t just a game — it’s a way of life.

Contact Caitlin Housley at chaos10@saintmarys.edu.

The views expressed in the Inside Column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.

How to finish a semester in under a month

Over the past four years here at Notre Dame, I’ve found myself spread thinly among multiple classes and mastering none of them. I’d begin semesters compelled to genuinely dive deep into my curriculum, but would become inundated with an intense workload impossible to champion. We’re urged to eliminate the distractions of our lives — the likes of socializing, extracurriculars, and the passions that make us who we are — in order to rehallow ourselves around academia. However, the biggest obstacle in the way of genuine learning is simply school itself.

This semester, I found myself fed up with the typical tempo of an education system that is far too inefficient. Instead of business as usual, I sought to completely rework how I consume my education, becoming a test dummy in an experiment that would challenge how education is fostered. I believed that I could complete my entire academic semester in less than one month. And I succeeded.

Here’s how I did it.

Almost every class I’ve taken has been fundamentally rooted by textbook readings. That is, textbook chapters are the foundations of assignments and lesson plans, which then become the underpinnings of projects, papers and exams. But there, the textbook defines the class. I broke down all of the deliverables for each of my classes into their overarching categories — reading, assignments, projects, exam prep, etc. — and organized them together by category in order of their due date.

By prioritizing class deliverables according to how material is consumed, I could effectively complete a class in less than one week. I attacked each class one at a time, beginning with every reading assignment for that class and working my way to the next category. It would take about a day and a half to finish each category, and under a week to finish an entire semester’s worth of class deliverables. Then wash, rinse and repeat for the next classes.

The benefits of this kind of system are astronomical. By completing assignments in order — instead of hastily scattered and intertwined around unrelated tasks throughout the year — we gain the benefits of contextual recall and focused learning. As most textbook chapters are built off one another, a clean read without stagnation makes for a more effective understanding of progressive concepts. Similar assignments call for similar actions, and consolidating them together reduces the total completion time by a major fraction. And instead of quickly forgetting material, this system actually reinforces content throughout each category, as well within class discussions, where content is no longer freshly new but reiterative.

It seems like all of this makes sense, but as you probably guessed, its execution is a nightmare. Classes have due dates for deliverables, and there’s little time to fit a program like this into a normal schedule of classes. To complete a class in less than a week is to operate within a 12-hour workday that is simply impossible to maintain ordinarily. A student must make a major tradeoff between academic efficiency and personal participation, and there’s no question that participation factors and submission deadlines discourage many from even trying something like this.

So what did I do? I chose the classes with the smallest participation component attached to the final grade, with the fewest deadlines in the initial month, and with all deliverables and deadlines outlined for the semester. I then spent the first two weeks of school locked away in my room, working from 9 a.m. to 11 p.m. every day for what was the most intensive academic session of my life. In that time, I had managed to complete a total of three classes for the entire semester, a feat that still amazes me.

After spending those two weeks knocking out half of my semester deliverables from sunrise to sundown, I returned back to class and organized my assignments around class periods. I found that my time wasn’t scattered between three classes a night per usual, instead, I was able to devote my focus to the major projects and class assignments for my remaining classes. I was able to finish the rest of my assignments for the entire semester in less than a month.

What’s the ultimate takeaway of all of this? While I’m certainly not urging you to commit to this system, what I am suggesting is that we must become better consumers of our own education. I’ve completed my deliverables and prepared for exams and for the first time in my life, I’m also mastering it all. It’s a win-win scenario in which my schedule and academic enrichment is infinitely more governable. But this luxury doesn’t come freely.

We can’t continue to blindly accept rules of a system where courses are engineered irrespective of how we learn. If we wish to continue having faith in the university system, we can simply deprivatize everything else important in our lives en lieu of University Demands. We must be willing to make tradeoffs and challenges part of our daily attitude towards academia. An education in which success comes at the expense of the passions and opportunities in our lives is simply no education at all.

Marc Anthony Rosa is a senior management entrepreneurship major. He can be reached at mrosa@nd.edu.

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QUOTE OF THE DAY

“I am not sincere, even when I say I am not.”
— Jules Renard French author

Weekly Poll

Is Haley Scott DeMaria Commencement speaker?

Yes — she’ll be inspiring
No — she’s too low-profile

Vote by 5 p.m. Wednesday at ndsmcobserver.com

The Observer | ndsmcobserver.com

Tuesday, April 3, 2012
All the Girls Around Me

The title of this editorial could be accurately described as a misnomer. I have heard from every corner of campus that dating does not occur at Notre Dame. The lack of dating is not just relegated to Notre Dame, but is present on college campuses across the country. Regardless of what might be the mechanism driving our inability to create an environment where healthy relationships can flourish, my conversations with those students this week about their Level One dating experiences have been enlightening. In addition, you must own the fact that the current condition is not so bad. After all, the omnipresent hookup does offer some fun and emotional release from the mountain of academic obligations. Unfortunately, there are no free lunches and frequently those involved pay either a physical or emotional cost; a cost that few are willing to discuss honestly. So how do we begin to carve out the time necessary to foster and develop relationships that are authentic, respectful, and healthy? Fundamentally, if we are to foster healthy, meaningful relationships, the first step most of us are looking for. First, let's begin by lowering our expectations of what it means to date someone. Level One Dating (as described by Kerry Cronin when she visited our campus) is an opportunity for you to have a conversation with your date which will do one of two things. At the conclusion of the conversation you will know that (a) there may be potential here and you would like to have another conversation, or (b) this was not someone you wish to spend more personal time with. This does not take as much time as you might imagine and this type of intentional dating is just that — intentional. It is not for those who use alcohol as a lubricant to engage others socially.

In addition, you must own the fact that you find the other person interesting (maybe even attractive) without the aid of goggles. You are not just hanging out with a group of friends, but actively engaged in learning about the person you are with. These dates also have a time limit. Should there be no five hour conversation, there will be another conversation on a Level One date. They should last about an hour and no more than 90 minutes. It really should not be that intense and you will have opportunities for more conversation later. If you came to Kerry Cronin’s presentation at Notre Dame (No Dating) you were given a voucher to go on such a date at Starbucks. I am looking forward to talking with some of those students this week about their Level One dating experiences.

To continue the momentum of this authentic style of interaction, the Gender Relations Center and Student Activities will be engaging students in an old school remix of the date — the picnic. So don’t be surprised when spring time welcomes a new activity on the Quad. We hope you will join us as we redefine social interaction with an intentional twist.

Dr. G. David Moss is the Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs and the Interim Director for the Gender Relations Center

Tech- Lust

I’m eating lunch on the outdoor patio at a restaurant on the 3rd Street Promenade in Santa Monica, Calif. Hundreds of people are flowing in and out of storefronts, restaurants, theaters and where there is a line of different devices. I am currently performing a rendition of “Don’t Stop Believing” by Journey that what appears to be a mobile app is playing on a good a time as any to test the failed iPhone app “Girls Around Me”. The reason for this is that being on a couple of meters away.

The splash screen disappears and a map loads showing the images of 40 girls in proximity to me. Real people who are just sitting on a predating map. There are plenty of apps using this geo-location technology. Open up Yelp and you’ll be centered in a map that shows all the people who are eating around you. Check in to Foursquare and it’ll do the same. The only people who will tool as well. The only people who will be public, there was nothing stopping them from the Apple App Store. But there is nothing stopping them from releasing their technology. Open up Yelp and you’ll be centered in a map that shows all the people who are eating around you. Check in to Foursquare and it’ll do the same. The only people who will be public, there was nothing stopping them from releasing their technology.

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The Girls Around Me website describes it as “the perfect complement to any pick-up strategy. And it essentially improves your odds of chicks checking in daily, there’s never been a better time to be on the hunt.” So much for the next decade as follows. I walk down to the store she is at and introduce myself. I could pretend I went to Harvard-Westlake as well, tell her she was a senior when I was a freshman. But the school is a bit too small for that. I could do the same for Tuffs. Lead off a conversation about silly school colors and whisk her away with an Emerson quote: "I don’t wish to expiate, but to live." But I do none of that, because objectifying women with the aid of hyper-personalization technology has never been my fancy. Instead, I put my phone down and do what I was doing all along: stare at the sky. The waiter asks if I’d like another Coke. I nod, but my mind is still on Sarah. Poor Sarah whose life is an open book. Poor Sarah who is not more than 20 meters away.

This is suspect as the name. It displays GPS-located Google Maps. And it does all what appears to be a mobile app is playing on a good a time as any to test the failed iPhone app “Girls Around Me”. The reason for this is that being on a couple of meters away.

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Wading through the excessive amount of horrible films on Instant Netflix can be daunting for any subscriber. To ease the process, Scene has graciously provided a list of the best Netflix has to offer.

1. “True Grit”
   This superbly acted remake of the John Wayne classic is definitely worth the watch. The Coen brothers’ film was nominated for 10 Academy Awards and although it didn’t end up winning any, the film was still very impressive. Jeff Bridges’ portrayal of Rooster Cogburn pays homage to John Wayne’s character and yet, he makes the role entirely his own. The Coen brothers rarely make a bad movie, and “True Grit” doesn’t disappoint.

2. “Take Me Home Tonight”
   This isn’t “The Artist.” It isn’t even “Hot Tub Time Machine.” But this tribute to ’80s culture is a fun and hilarious — if not very smart — comedy. Topher Grace graduated from MIT and now is out of college and not sure what he wants to do with his life. He and his friend Dan Fogler embark on a night-long journey of debauchery that leads them all over Los Angeles, helping Grace discover himself in the process. While the plot sounds cliché — and is — it’s still a decidedly funny movie.

3. “Trainspotting”
   Before he made “Slumdog Millionaire” and “127 Hours,” Danny Boyle made a name for himself in Britain with visually intricate films that captured the tragedy and, often, the majesty of nitty gritty ’90s life. Following the exploits of a group of aimless drug addicts in Edinburgh, “Trainspotting” stars such future successes as Ewan McGregor (“Moulin Rouge!”), Johnny Lee Miller (“Dexter”), Robert Carlyle (“Once Upon a Time”) and Kelly Macdonald (“Boardwalk Empire”). The film is equally funny and serious, uplifting and depressing, heavy and light-hearted, but always features Boyle’s eye for capturing the nuances of life through visual style.

4. “Waiting for ‘Superman’”
   This documentary about the state of the education system in America is a moving story outlining the gaps students face and improvements that need to be made. Masterfully shot, produced and edited, the film focuses its attention all over the United States. It follows students in lotteries for charter schools in Los Angeles and New York City, interviewing big names like Michelle Rhee, former chancellor of the D.C. public school district, and Geoffrey Canada, an education reformer in Harlem, N.Y. The film provides an inside look at the failures of the American public education system, meant to energize and accelerate the change needed.

5. “Never Say Never”
   Netflix has perfect timing when selecting and submitting their new movie arrivals to their website, and this week’s picks are no exception. With his new single “Boyfriend” just out, what better movie to watch than Justin Bieber’s “Never Say Never” documentary? The film recounts his story and path to stardom while listening and watching him perform some of his most popular hits in his sold-out concert in Madison Square Garden. For all of you Bieber fans, this is a must see.
Andrew Bird has pegged himself as one of the apologist indie singer-songwriters of our generation. With his sixth and latest solo studio LP “Break It Yourself,” he delves into social, religious and geopolitical issues, often all in the same song.

Bird gives the album opener “Desperation Breeds” a haunting sound as he points towards the problem of rapidly decreasing bee populations. In “Dance Caribe,” he mixes an unexpected Afro-Caribbean beat with traditional fiddling and the token whistling for which he is best known, as he sings “Then one day you’d had / Exiled your closest advisors” before the problem of rapidly decreasing bee populations and the ocean like a violin.”

By Andrew Bird

“Break It Yourself”

The Observer | ndsmcobserver.com

By ALEX KILPATRICK

By BRENNA WILLIAMS

Scene Writer

I spend holidays with my boyfriend’s family and I feel the need to make a peace offering or prove that I can cook whenever I see his mother, a plight that most significant others can empathize with. This Easter, I’m coming armed with a secret weapon: baked goods. With a recipe that’s easy and delicious, “Toffee-Like Bars” are sure to please everyone from picky in-law-types to the confection connoisseurs we call five year old cousins.

When I say I want recipe ideas, I’m being serious. This week’s idea came from a professor’s family recipe, and I am so glad that I solicited it. It’s hard to go wrong with butter, brown sugar and chocolate, so I thoroughly recommend these for a family-tested and approved treat.

Ingredients:
1 cup butter, softened
1 cup brown sugar
1 cup flour
1 egg yolk
Tip: Egg whites are an acceptable substitute
12 oz bag of chocolate or butterscotch chips
Tip: Use half of each and get the best of both worlds
1/2 cup of chopped nuts
Tip: I used walnuts, but you can use whatever is available/favorite

Instructions:
1. Preheat the oven to 300 degrees Fahrenheit. Combine butter, brown sugar, flour, and egg in a bowl. Spread the resulting dough in a 13x9 pan.
2. Bake at 300° for 25-30 minutes or until light brown and set.
3. Take the pan out of oven, and sprinkle chips on top. Return to the oven for two to three minutes, or until chips are melted.
4. Remove the pan from the oven and use a rubber spatula or knife to spread the chips. Sprinkle nuts on top and cut into squares.

Tip: The professor who gave me the recipe advised me to put nuts on half and leave the rest plain. It makes them delectable to people who aren’t crazy about nuts

I will admit, somehow I have never had real toffee in my life, but I got a good idea about what I am missing out on after making this recipe. I would like to think that my boyfriend’s mother is going to be quiet this Easter because she likes me, but I will secretly know it’s because she’s savoring this delicious treat. I’ll take whatever help I can get.

Thank you to Professor Dreyer in FTT for this recipe! To everyone reading, I’m always willing to try to do justice to your favorite treat, so send me my next challenge!
A look at baseball’s unwritten standards

All I can imagine is a dark room filled with shadowed figures sipping whiskey on the rocks. They trade guips and threatening stares. They each wear power suits with dapper ties. They are respected, feared, wise. They are gentle- men and scholars and … baseball players.

Okay, so maybe that isn’t exact- ly how baseball’s unwritten rules were decided upon. Odds are they were de- cided by a handshake between captains after the first home- run. Okay, sorry. That isn’t either, give me a break.

No matter how these rules were decided, there is no doubting their existence even within the confines of a rulebook.

Despite the existence of these guidelines in America’s pastime, it seems like the past year has involved more and more code-breaking plays.

The ever-escalating pitch to shortstop Erick Aybar bunting in the eighth inning in an effort to break up Ti- gers pitcher Justin Verlander’s no-hit bid in August. Ver- lander said he was surprised by the attempt and called the play “Bush league.”

So the question is: why do these rules exist and why are they so religiously followed — and consequently violated when they are broken?

Maybe all boils back down to the dark room with the shadowed men. Or the fistfight-following handshake between captains. It’s all about respect.

This isn’t football where players hit after the whistle and aim to injure. This isn’t hockey where a ski- mish breaks up a pass after every held puck around the rink.

Written in the players’ code is a section that forbids opposing batters. Do it in the ribs. Do it in the back. Let him know they are unhappy with a high and tight pitch that has broken a tooth. tulowitzki, Jimenez stepped.

So the question is: why do these rules exist and why are they so religiously followed — and consequently violated when they are broken?

Associated Press

GOODWIN, Ariz. — Cleve- land Indians pitcher Ubal- do Jimenez was suspended and fined by Major League Baseball Monday for intentionally throwing at Colorado’s Troy Tulowitzki during a spring training game.

Jimenez will serve his suspension during the first five games of the season unless he asks the players’ association to ap- peal the decision by MLB senior vice president Joe Garagiola Jr.

Indians manager Manny Acta expects an appeal.

“He’s starting the second game of the season,” Acta said. “It’s disappointing, but I’m not surprised.”

Before the penalty was announced, Jimenez said he wasn’t going to apolo- gene to Tulowitzki after hitting his former Rockies teammate on the left el- bow Sunday.

Jimenez didn’t think he should be suspended for drawing the star shortstop and said his primary con- cern was being ready for the season.

“Players are hit by pitch- ers every day,” Jimenez said. “With a guy like him, you have to get inside. I can’t get the ball to go where I want every time.”

Jimenez said he would not reach out to Tulowitzki. Earlier this spring, Jimenez revealed he was天上 Colorado be- fore being traded to Cleve- land last July. Tulowitzki later was quoted as saying he didn’t think the former All-Star should get over it.

“I was calling me names,” Jimenez said. “I already said I didn’t want to hit him. I had five walks. It’s not the first time somebody (was) hit.”

Both benches emptied Sunday, but no punches were thrown. Tulowitzki went to a hospital for X-rays, which were negative.

“He walked five guys. Where do you draw the line? Last year, we had guys hit. No suspensions,” Acta said. “I think it is time everybody stops re- lying on what guys write in the newspaper. It is too bad they get swayed by the press.”

Fans booted Jimenez dur- ing his five-inning stint and ballpark officials pro- vided extra security for him after he left the game.

There were no reported inci- dents.

Rockies manager Jim Tracy said in the past, the most gutless act he had seen in 35 years in the game and called for a suspension.

“I can’t control what peo- ple say,” Jimenez said. “Yes, I was surprised he said that. But that’s OK.”

Commissioner Bud Selig attended the game.

“Guys do not play differ- ent if the Commissioner is at that game,” Jimenez said. “The majority of the guys didn’t even know he was there.”

Two years ago, Jimenez was 15-1 for the Rockies at the All-Star break and was the NL starter for the Midsummer Classic. He has gone 14-20 since. He was not sharp this spring, going 1-4 with a 7.43 ERA. In seven Cactus League starts, he had as many walks as strikeouts, 15, and allowed 30 hits in 23 innings.

After a bad outing against Cincinnati on March 17, Acta said, “It’s time to get it in gear,” about Jimenez, whose velocity was lagging.

Jimenez’s fastball was clocked at 95 mph in his next start against San Diego but his overall performance has not ap- proached what the Indians expected when they traded for four minor league pros- pecs, including two first- round draft picks, for the 28-year-old right-hander.

“I feel good. I’m ready to pitch,” Jimenez said. “Hopefully, I can get off to a good start.”

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 $1 cents per character per day, including all spaces. The Observer reserves the right to edit all classifieds for content without issuing refunds.

SPORTS AUTHORITY

Jimenez to appeal suspension

Rocks’ Troy Tulowitzki and Indians starting pitcher Ubaldo Jimenez are restrained by Indians catcher Lou Marson and home plate umpire Clint Fagan. (Image)

Matthew DeFranks

Associate Sports Editor

Contact Matthew DeFranks at mdefrank@nd.edu

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PERSONAL

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This Day in History

On this day in 1800, the first Pony Express mail, traveling from St. Joseph, Missouri, to Sacramento, California. Ten days later on April 13, the westbound rider and mail packet completed the 1,800-mile journey and arrived in Sacramento, setting a new standard for speedy mail delivery.

The Rebel capital of Richmond, Virginia, falls to the Union, the most significant sign that the Confederacy is nearing its final days.

Jesse James, one of America’s most notorious outlaws, is shot to death by Robert Ford, a member of his gang who hoped to collect the bounty on Jesse’s head.

U.S. President Harry S. Truman signs the Civil Rights Act and the Housing Act, two acts that are often considered to be the most significant pieces of legislation passed in the 20th century.

The Unabomber, the elusive terrorist who has kidnapped and killed three people and injured 23 during an 18-year period.

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The Observer | SPORTS

Cycling
continued from page 14

onds. On Sunday, wide and fast roads inhibited breakaway attempts for the first 30 minutes of the criterium, with riders from most schools attempting to lose the field. Finally, a group of five took to a 15-second gap and with the race going down the road, Magro again found himself crossing a gap to the leaders. After making contact, the breakaway began to put significant time into the field, and once joined by another five Marian and Lindenwood riders, the contest was over. Nearly lapping the field, Magro took another top-10 finish while O’Donnell scored valuable national points qualifying points with a pack finish.

Only two riders, sophomore August Kunkel and junior Rob Picatosta, represented the Irish in the men’s D category for the weekend. Kunkel was able to navigate an inexperienced field to secure a top-10 finish in both the road race and the criterium. He finished strong in the criterium even though he punctured his front tire during the last lap.

After the weekend’s results, Notre Dame traveled to Naperville, Ill., to compete in the Chicago Invite last weekend. The team rowed to some strong results — the best the Irish have seen in years.

Ultimate women’s team
Notre Dame traveled to Naperville, Ill., to compete in the Chicago Invite last weekend.

The A squad opened the tournament Saturday against rival Illinois and won with a��

strong in the cold temperature Chicago Invite last weekend. Individual standings.

his lead in the Men’s Division II conference ranking and moved closer to Purdue in fifth place conference ranking.

Notre Dame held steady to the last lap.

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After the weekend’s results, Notre Dame traveled to Na -

13-6 to finish second in the pool and improved its confidence. On Sunday, the team found itself in the ninth-place bracket and was determined to claim victory. In their first match against Winona State, the Irish played efficiently to win 13-1. Katie Shout, senior Abby Dukart and junior Alexandria Reddy all played well the entire weekend and improved their finishes.

The B squad played games against Northwestern B, Western -

tucky and Beloit on Sat-

The women came out strong against a-newly-formed Northwestern B squad, losing by a mere point, 10-9. Junior captain Elizabeth Villafuerte sent beautiful lobs long while sopho-

more Mary Kate Scavo nearly perfected her hammer throws. Although the women did not see any more wins on Saturday, they maintained a high level of spirit and improvement. On Sunday, the women produced excellent play. Senior caption against Western Kentucky 10-8, fol-

her Kumau 9-7. Sophomore Kim Kowal-

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The B team won games against Michigan State B, Washington University B and Washington University B, dropping down by open water about 300 meters. The team quickly regained its rhythm and began moving up the field, consequently winning by a lead of a couple of seats with about 300 meters left. The tremen-

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Men’s water polo goes undefeated in Alumni tourney

Member of Equestrian team heads to national finals; women’s rugby dominates in March Madness

Special to The Observer

In a hard-fought game to start the season, the men’s water polo team, the Irish, pulled out a 10-9 victory last weekend to finish third at the National Collegiate Club Championships. The Irish went on to win comfortably and take an early lead against the Irish. But with only 18 seconds remaining, junior Chris Jenkins and freshman Donal O’Donnell added to the overall lead. At the end of the contest, great defense provided by sophomore Trevor Finlan and junior Dan Geisman proved to be the difference.

In the next match, where the Irish faced some of the most prolific players in recent Notre Dame history, the team took on an Irish alumni team composed of elite water polo players, never once leading in regulation. The team tugged up the contest at 1-1 in 30th second奈 ing in the game. After missing five shots, the contest entered another round of five shots, and the Irish suffered in opening on the second contest. They went on to the win and the chemistry for the Irish. Defensive play by freshman Kevin Balhoff was key in keeping the contest close enough for the Irish to be able to win.

Coming back after a hard fought second round, the Irish met the Fighting Scots, the third place team at Division III club nationals. Never really being challenged by the opponent, the team dominated most aspects of the game in a 10-6 win. Great defensive play by junior Donavan, sophomore play by Hanke led the Irish.

After a grueling weekend of matches, the Irish finished the weekend 4-0 with a 8-6 win against the fourth-ranked Michigan. Timely shooting at the end of the game by Turek sealed the victory in the final minutes.

Equestrian

After qualifying at the regional finals in March, four members of the Notre Dame Equestrian Squad traveled down to Mar- ion, Ind., for the competitive zone finals last weekend. Junior Mia Genereux started the day in the open fences class, laying down a lovely course in sixth place, with sophomore Katie Walsh finishing closely in eighth.

In the flat class portion of the day, sophomore Donlan Donavan, junior Mia Genereux started the day in the open fences class, laying down a lovely course in sixth place, with sophomore Katie Walsh finishing closely in eighth.

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Maldonado leads underclassmen on and off the field

By ERNST CLEOFE

Senior outfielder Alexa Maldonado hopes her career can begin just how it started: with a Big East championship.

Maldonado, the team’s captain, was not the same leader she is now when she started her career. As a highly-rated player coming out of Short Hills, N.J., she had experience as a four-year letter winner and a two-time team captain in high school.

The college level, however, is a completely different challenge.

Maldonado had success early as a freshman, but there was still room to grow. Irish assistant coach Kris Ganeff said the growth came quickly.

“I would definitely say...her game has always been at the top. She’s always been able to play at 100 percent. She doesn’t know any other level,” Ganef said. “What she has done over the four years is her mental side of the game has really come along. As a freshman, you saw her go from a freshman to a senior, you saw her go from being a little concerned to being the best in the country.”

That growth has helped her become the leader that the team looks to for support. Ganeff points to Maldonado’s mentality and playing style as part of her success as a leader.

“She’s definetly a leader. She does a great job being a captain. A lot of it [is because] she has come very far in her mentality. She’s been able to lead the team in all aspects,” Ganeff said. “She always kind of leads by example with her play, and now she can lead with her words and people follow her because she does the right thing consistently on and off the field.”

In line with Ganeff’s perspective, Maldonado looks to lead with her performance on the field. After her second consecutive first team all-Big East performance last season, she is again performing well on the field. Maldonado is leading the team in on-base percentage, while second in batting average and total hits. Her success has not only provided tangible results, but has set an example for her teammates, as well.

“I use my confidence and my demeanor on the field to guide them and make them look up to me.”

Alexa Maldonado

Senior

“I just want to do better than I have in previous years. Everything I’ve gotten in previous years should be expected.”

Alexa Maldonado

Senior

“My success has not only provided tangible results, but has set an example for her teammates, as well. “I use my confidence and my demeanor on the field to guide them and make them look up to me.” Maldonado said. “I lead by example, mostly.”

On top of the growth during her freshman year, Maldonado experienced one of her top moments in softball during her rookie campaign when the Irish won the Big East championship. In her final year, she’s looking for the opportunity to help bring back that feeling.

“Winning [the] Big East [championship] my freshman year was my favorite moment so far,” Maldonado said. “It was an awesome team win and it was really exciting once that last out was made on the field, sprinting in from the outfield and jumping in with your team.”

The team has a long way to go to win the Big East and make the national tournament, but Maldonado said “I just want to do better than I have in previous years. Everything I’ve gotten in previous years should be expected.”

Maldonado said “I want to be the best I can for this team and hopefully lead them to regionals and hopefully the World Series.”

In order to make a serious run at the NCAA tournament, Maldonado and the Irish will have to continue the level of play they’ve established during their current six-game winning streak.

The Irish hope to keep consecutive hot-strake when they host Northwestern on Wednesday.

Contact Ernst Cleofe at ccleofe@nd.edu

MLB

Greinke flops in final game against White Sox

Associated Press

GLENDALE, Ariz. — Zack Greinke was hoping to end his spring training with a strong outing. It didn’t happen.

Greinke surrendered six runs — five earned — over three innings in his final spring start Monday at Camelback Ranch, but the Milwaukee Brewers still walked away with 13-7 win over the Chicago White Sox.

Greinke was left shaking his head after the right-hander gave up five hits, struck out two and walked three.

“It was such a mess you can’t really think about it too much,” he said. “I felt like not a baseball game really going on out there.”

Greinke, who coming in had allowed only two earned runs in 19 1-3 innings this spring, downplayed the windy conditions.

“It was more getting behind in the count and throwing meatballs, and letting them crush the ball,” he said. “It was just a bad one. They were taking a lot of pitches.”

Greinke, who coming in had allowed only two earned runs in 19 1-3 innings this spring, downplayed the windy conditions.

“I was looking forward to making a good start,” he said. “It was just a bad one. They were taking a lot of pitches. I was getting behind then not making quality pitches.”

Manager Ron Roenicke was also unconcerned.

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However, Greinke said he isn’t too concerned.

“I was looking forward to making a good start,” he said. “It was just a bad one. They were taking a lot of pitches. I was getting behind then not making quality pitches.”

Manager Ron Roenicke was also unconcerned.

“He’s been so lights out in the spring, let’s get this one out of the way and he’ll get back on track and do what he’s been doing,” Roenicke said.

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**BASEBALL**

Irish focus on fixing flaws in non-conference matchup

By VICKY JACOBSEN
Sports Writer

Notre Dame’s game against Toledo on Tuesday won’t be a match up of undefeated or top-ranked teams. The novelty of a geographical or historical rivalry is often taken up on either team’s conference record.

But Irish coach Mik Aoki said the Irish (16-10, 4-2 Big East) are taking the contest as seriously as any other game on the schedule.

“A tougher one that you could run into is that the players think that the game is less important because their team is not in our conference,” Aoki said. “That’s one of the things we have to make sure we stay on guard about because every single game counts. It’s really important in order to make in the NCAA tournament at the end of the season.”

To make sure that regardless of who the opponent is, conference or non-conference, will bring a same intensity and attention to detail to every game.

Although the Rockets (12-2, 3-5 MAC) have been a respectable team in recent years, Aoki pointed to the past.

“Not a whole bunch of years ago they were 3-0 in conference,” Aoki said. “They were a very strong team. They were a strong team and that is a story that I’ve told them about, let’s keep that in mind.”

Aoki expects most of the players to be ready to go if need be.

“The only guys who would be unavailable are the three starters and then (freshman) Patrick Connaughton. Everyone else would be available,” Aoki said. “They were used in small bursts here and there except for (Connaughton), and threw five or maybe six pitches or something like that. Outside of (senior Will) Hudgins, (junior Adam) Norton, (sophomore Sean Fitzgerald) and Connaughton, we should have everyone in our bullpen available, so we’ll try to get guys in there as the situation dictates.”

Aoki said a midweek win also improves the team’s trajectory as they head into their weekend series.

“It helps your team to feel good about itself,” Aoki said. “It either continues or starts hopefully a little bit of momentum, a little something to build upon.”

Veerkamp will throw out the first pitch against Toledo at 5:35 p.m. Tuesday at Frank Eck Stadium.

Contact Vicky Jacobson at
vjacobsen@nd.edu

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**Men’s Tennis**

Pecor overcomes old injuries to dominate his sophomore year

By PETER STEINER
Sports Writer

If facing adversity only makes one stronger, then sophomore Billy Pecor is the perfect example.

After facing injuries during his freshman year and a brief period at the end of February during matches against Marquette and Indiana, Pecor has now won four straight singles matches at No. 4 singles and three of his last four doubles matches with partner Sam Keeton at No. 3 doubles.

“He has two bad knees that bothered him all last year and he didn’t play a single dual match last year,” Irish coach Bobby Bayliss said. “Then, perhaps from over compensation on the serve by not wanting to use his legs, he got an injury around the scapula. That was a problem because he couldn’t raise his hand higher than his shoulder for a while.”

Because he missed significant time due to the injuries last season, Pecor was granted a medical redshirt by the NCAA, giving him three more years of eligibility this season. After missing the match against the Hooligans victories against Ohio State, Billy Bayliss delivered.

“I’m just looking for him to become a little more proficient around the net and more consistent,” Pecor said. “I’m just trying to use the same energy that I had and pass that onto my singles. I was able to do that and finish well.”

Pecor’s victory not only handed McCarthy his third loss of the spring season, but also displayed Pecor’s potential if he is able to maintain a high level of play, Bayliss said.

“With Billy’s game, the sky is the limit,” Bayliss said. “He hits the biggest ball on the team. There are not many people he can’t overpower. Devin McCarthy is a big, strong guy that knocks people off the court and Billy knocked him off the court. I’m just looking for him to become a little more proficient around the net and more consistent in general.”

While Pecor has battled injuries throughout his collegiate career, there is another challenge that he must continually overcome. As a civil engineering major, Pecor must balance his heavy academic workload with the time commitment that comes with being a varsity athlete.

“Billy’s taking a really hard class this semester,” Pecor said. “I’m just trying to use the same energy that I had and pass that onto my singles. I was able to do that and finish well.”

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**The 2012 Natural Law Lecture**

Human Rights, Legitimacy, and International Law

John Tasioulas
Quain Professor of Jurisprudence
In the Faculty of Laws
University College London

Tuesday, April 3, 2012
4 p.m.
Eck Hall of Law - Room 1140
Perfect season through 40 basketball. If there is ever a moment that will pass and the likelihood is never to be again, this is it. The Irish can add another title to the 2001 championship only decreases the likelihood of winning the national championship. And yet, this is Brittney Griner's year. The 6-foot-8 junior has lead the Bears to the road. If the Lady Bears did not see any particular reason the early season matchup would have an effect on either team's tournament play, they knew us and they know them. A n o t h e r key matchup will be the battle of the point guards between Diggins and Sims. In the first game against Baylor, Sims scored 25 points and had six assists. "Odyssey is what makes them go," Diggins said. "She's a great point guard. She does a great job getting to the line." She's 40 percent from the three-point line, so you have to honor that. And she's also good at getting to the basket. Both coaches agreed that all the preparation, all the practice and all the coaching would eventually lead down to execution. "It's going to be players making plays," Baylor coach Kim Mulkey said. "I'm not going to be anything that Muffet does or I do. It's going to be those guys on the floor making plays. Whoever makes the most plays will win the basketball game." - Muffet McGraw Irish coach

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The Irish get pumped up before Notre Dame's 80-49 victory over Maryland in the Elite Eight on March 27. Notre Dame will take on Baylor in the national championship Tuesday at 8:30 p.m.
Defensive ends will make all the difference

By ALLAN JOSEPH
Editor-in-Chief

Irish graduate student safety Jamoris Slaughter races down the field during a March 30 practice. Slaughter recorded 45 tackles in 2011.

It started back on Feb. 2, 2011 — National Signing Day — when highly-recruited defensive linemen Stephon Tuitt and Aaron Lynch signed to play for Notre Dame and Irish coach Brian Kelly. It continued during the 2011 campaign, when Tuitt and Lynch saw plenty of playing time, especially after senior defensive end Kapron Lewis-Moore went down with a knee injury.

“It’s momentum. And if Lynch and Tuitt are to be believed, the Notre Dame defensive front has a lot of it heading into the 2012 season.

“We know that we have the ability to really do some magic here,” Tuitt said. “When it comes down to it, it’s all practice, practice, become a better player. When the fall season comes, we do our talking with our pads.”

Tuitt said he and Lynch thrive on a friendly competition that pushes each to be better.

“Lynch is a great player. He has some stuff that I can’t do, and I have some stuff that he can’t do,” Tuitt said. “Competing against each other, through the bads and goods, being by each other’s side, it always pushes our game to the next level. Being able to go play with each other, we learn stuff from each other.”

That competition has been intense at times, but Lynch said that has formed the defensive front into a group of leaders.

“If you don’t play with an intensity and a passion, I feel like you shouldn’t be on the field,” Lynch said. “If you’re on the field, every person has to be a leader. Everybody has to push everybody.”

Despite the competition, the defining characteristic of the defensive line, and the defense as a whole, has been unity, Tuitt said.

“Everybody here has respect for each other,” he said. “Everybody here has loyalty towards each other. Everybody here plays their butt off for each other. That’s one thing I’m learning — having fun with my defense.”

Tuitt missed the end of the 2011 season with a bout of mononucleosis, but fully recovered by the spring semester and will play more snaps after graduation of senior defensive end Ethan Johnson. Despite his increased workload, Tuitt said he is ready for the grind.

“When it comes down to it, I’m ready to answer the bell,” he said.

While Tuitt will see plenty of action on the defensive front, Kelly said there will be plenty of depth behind him.

“We’ll like to be able to be at least six (deep),” Kelly said. “(Playing) seven on the defensive line is great depth and we think that we can get there. We’re giving guys a lot of chances and we know that they can be number one. We’re getting a lot of guys into action.”

Tuitt said he thinks all of those players will come together to form a cohesive unit.

“It’s all going to fit together like a puzzle, and we’re going to take off,” he said.

Irish need leaders to emerge for success

Spring represents a fresh start across college football. The days get brighter and the snow melts away. So too does the negativity of the previous season.

Regardless of perceived momentum heading into the season, a team is only one 99-yard fumble return for a touchdown away from the top.

For the Irish to truly turn the page and have a strong 2012, players need to step up. There are enough quality coaches that the groundwork is being laid for success. If the program is to evolve into the elite contender that has been promised but not delivered for several years, the players need to take the next step.

Veterans like graduate student safety Jamoris Slaughter and junior receiver TJ Jones need to mentor Notre Dame entering 2012. Not only does Notre Dame need to mentor Notre Dame’s youth at receiver, they first need to elevate his game and realize what type of player he wants to be. Michael Floyd is gone. With it is the offense’s ability to rely on one player when the unit is struggling (though senior tight end Tyler Eifert will have something to say about that). Slaughter has shown signs of developing into a big-play defensive back primed for a terrific final season donning the blue and gold.

On opposite sides of Slaughter and fellow starting safety senior Zeke Motta are two new starters at the cornerstone position who need to grow up quickly before facing the likes of Matt Barkley and Landry Jones.

This is before you even factor in Notre Dame’s lack of a proven quarterback. It’s a gargantuan — though not impossible — task to overcome the lack of a leader at the quarterback position.

Where would one of the four signal-callers contending for the starting job will surprise everyone. Confidenc is almost as contingent on confidence, and half the battle is finding a quarterback on whom to depend.

Notre Dame could be very top-20 team. Unfortunately for the Irish and their fans, patience needs to be their second most important virtue. Not turning the football over is the first.

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The views expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.
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Irish junior guard Skylar Diggins said, "She gets out, she gets steals and she's going to be aggressive. I think we have to make sure we pay attention to her. We have to shade her side. We definitely have to be able to pressure her too and not give her as easy looks to pass." 

Sims averages 14.7 points and 4.5 assists per game, while shooting a blistering 40 percent from 3-point territory. Her ability to spread the floor, penetrate the defense and find the open shooter has drawn comparisons to Diggs, Notre Dame’s own point guard. “Playing with Odyssey, she’s growing and she’s maturing into a fine basket player,” Diggins said. “I think Odyssey’s defending her.”

"They’ve played together on [Team] USA basketball this summer. Odyssey was the youngest player on the team,” Baylor coach Kim Mulkey said. "I think you’ll see two of the finest point guards in the country. I anticipate that it won’t be any different than when Odyssey guarded [Diggins] and played against her at our place.”

Baylor junior forward Destiny Williams, who played with both Sims and Diggins last summer on Team USA in the Women’s World University Games, said the two point guards’ similarities are remarkable, but still gives the advantage to Sims. "Playing with Odyssey, she’s growing and she’s maturing into a fine basket player,” Williams said. "I think Odyssey’s defending her. When she picks it up, I think the whole team picks it up. I think their roles are the same, just two point guards that are great players going at it. I enjoyed playing with both of them, but I’d rather have Odyssey.”

Diggins also had an outstanding performance in the southpaw’s last meeting, finishing with 25 points, six assists and three steals. After defeating Diggins in the regular season, Baylor entered the season as early favorites to win the National Championship and became the favorites to win the National Championship. Throughout the course of the tournament, the Irish changed “Connecticut’s year,” or “Tennessee’s year,” to “Notre Dame’s year.”

But then they lost, and the year was over. The moment passed and the Irish were left with nothing but runner-up status.

This year, on the other hand, has been Notre Dame’s year from day one. Returning all-world junior point guard Skylar Diggins, whose popularity skyrocketed to idol status during the 2011 tournament, the Irish entered the season as early favorites to reach the national championship game. Along with Diggins, the Irish welcomed back two graduate students in forward Devereaux Peters and guard Brittany Mallory, who seemed to be using their final year of eligibility in 2012 as a result of some act of fate rather than of unfortunate injuries. Even more, senior guard Natalie Novosel was back to make another run at a title. Novosel’s toughness and versatility on the offensive end have sustained the Irish all year, none more so than when she forced overtime against the Huskies with a put-back layup in the final seconds of the national semifinal game.

Sophomore guard Kayla McBride and sophomore forward Natalie Achonwa performed admirably in supporting roles all season, as did senior guard Fraderica Miller.

Irish coach Muffet McGraw has referred to Peters, Mallory, Novosel and Miller as possibly the best outgoing class to come through Notre Dame during her 25-year coaching career. McGraw said, "There is no other outgoing class that has done as much as these four young women."

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