University prizes green initiatives
Office of Sustainability unveils its plans for the academic year

By MEL FLANAGAN
News Writer

The Office of Sustainability has opened the school year with several initiatives, some new and some continued from last year, to keep Notre Dame on track to become a more sustainable university.

Rachel Novick, education and outreach program manager for the office, said the group is promoting recycling on football weekends again this year. Through the program, groups of student volunteers distribute recycling bags to tailgaters. Novick said the people at tailgates enjoy the game day recycling program immensely.

“They’re really excited for students to come around,” she said. “Tailgaters look for their blue bags. They love seeing that students are excited about this.”

The initiative also serves as a fundraiser for student groups on campus, Novick said. Students volunteer on behalf of a club or residence hall, and the group earns money based on the number of students who assist.

Student body president Brett Rocheleau said the program has been a huge success in past years. “If you ever walked by the recycling bins on game days last year, they were filled to the brim,” he said. “The Office of Sustainability is also expanding on its dorm energy competitions this year, Novick said. The office is utilizing a dashboard system on a website where students can track their dorm’s electricity usage and check how their residence hall ranks compared to others. “The system is going to automate our competition and make it easier and more engaging for students,” Novick said.

There will be four competitions this year, each lasting between one and three weeks. Novick said the first contest would begin Sept. 23. One of the office’s new initiatives is the Green Event Certification. Through this program, anyone who is running an office event to be certified as sustainable will be treated to series of lectures, workshops and a live show when two veteran comedy writers visit campus this week.

Persky is a five-time Emmy Award winning director, producer and writer for famous television shows such as “That Girl,” “The Cosby Show,” “Who’s the Boss,” “The Dick Van Dyke Show” and “Kate and Allie.”

He visited Saint Mary’s last week.

Comedy writers visit SMC

By BRIDGET FEENEY
Associate Saint Mary’s Editor

Students at Saint Mary’s will be treated to series of lectures, workshops and a live show when two veteran comedy writers visit campus this week.

Tom Leopold and Bill Persky will visit the College on Sept. 12 and 13 to teach and discuss writing and comedy.

Persky is a five-time Emmy Award winning director, producer and writer for famous television shows such as “That Girl,” “The Cosby Show,” “Who’s the Boss,” “The Dick Van Dyke Show” and “Kate and Allie.”

He visited Saint Mary’s last week.

Club celebrates Eid Al-Fitr

By SARAH McCARTHY
News Writer

The Muslim Student Association (MSA) celebrated the end of Ramadan, a month-long period when Muslims fast between sunrise and sunset, on Friday evening with the festival of Eid Al-Fitr, often abbreviated to Eid. The festival of Eid Al-Fitr in the Coleman-Morse Lounge on Sept. 7.

The MSA club gave a presentation on the traditions of the Muslim holiday Eid Ul-Fitr in the Coleman-Morse Lounge on Sept. 7.

The MSA club gave a presentation on the traditions of the Muslim holiday Eid Ul-Fitr in the Coleman-Morse Lounge on Sept. 7. Members of MSA gathered together to eat traditional Middle Eastern foods such as falafel, hummus and rice with vegetables, while a PowerPoint presentation taught them about the Islamic holiday.

According to the presentation, there is a great diversity of Muslims at Notre Dame. Muslims students hail from various countries, including Lebanon, Syria, Turkey, France and Bangladesh. The Eid Al-Fitr celebrations in these countries typically include giving gifts and sweets to children and coming together to rejoice in the special occasion.

Sophomore MSA vice president Liyana Syahirah said Eid is both sad and joyous, as it is a celebration of the end of a fast, but also an end to Ramadan, which is full of generosity.

Lunch discussion examines lawsuit

By CHRISTIAN MYERS
News Writer

The second installment of the Professors for Lunch series featured a presentation on the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) healthcare mandate and the issue of religious liberty.

Director of the Center for Ethics and Culture and law professor O. Carter Sneed delivered a talk titled "The HHS Mandate and Religious Freedom" at Friday’s event.

Sneed said the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act requires group health care plans to cover certain preventative services without cost sharing, which means the services are free to the individual.

The details were delegated to various administrative agencies, including the HHS, Sneed said. The HHS then further delegated the task to the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA),
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Question of the Day:
Who should be the Irish starting quarterback?

Emily Migliore
Freshman
Ryan Hall
“Golson, because I think some fresh, young energy on the field wouldn’t hurt.”

Brian Campbell
Junior
Kearough Hall
“Golson, because I just don’t want Tommy Rees.”

David Fleming
Junior
Kearough Hall
“Golson, because Brian [Kelly] doesn’t like Tommy Rees.”

Jared Schneider
Senior
Kearough Hall
“Tommy Rees. YOLO.”

Sarah Claeyns
Sophomore
Breen-Phillips
“Prince Shembo, because he’s the best.”

Matt Stewart
Sophomore
Dillon Hall
“Tommy Rees, because last drive was heroic.”

THE NEXT FIVE DAYS:

Monday
Work Off Your Weekend
Roifi’s Sports Center
All Day
Take 10% off all personal training.

Panel Discussion
Geddes Hall
7 p.m.
The CSC hosts “From Battleground to Common Ground.”

Tuesday
Man with a Movie Camera
DeBartolo Performing Arts Center
8 p.m.-9:08 p.m.
Silent film by Vertov.

Library Workshop
Hesburgh Library
4:30 p.m.-5:30 p.m.
Tutorial on bibliographic citations using RefWorks.

Wednesday
International Open House
Hesburgh Center
4 p.m.-6:56 p.m.
Discover programs around campus.

Benjamin Balthaser
Reading
Hammer Bookstore
7:30 p.m.-9:00 p.m.
Focus on Modernism and Anti-imperialism.

Thursday
Barack Obama and the Crisis of Liberalism
Law School
12:15 p.m.-1:15 p.m.
Lecture by Dr. Charles R. Kesler.

The Merchant of Venice
Washington Hall
7:30 p.m.-10 p.m.
Actors from the London Stage.

Friday
National Catholic Invitational
Notre Dame Golf Course
9:30 a.m.-6 p.m.
Cross country event.

Damsels in Distress
DeBartolo Performing Arts Center
7 p.m.-9 p.m.
Film on girls helping depressed students.

Have a question you want answered?
Email obsphoto@gmail.com

Want your event included here?
Email obsnews@gmail.com

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Online tutoring expands toND

By CATHERINE OWERS

News Writer

Apparently, technology can be a teacher’s best friend.

Using webcams, chat, and a virtual whiteboard, tutors at InstaEDU, an online tutoring portal, assist students with their studies through a computer.

InstaEDU CEO Alison Johnston said she was inspired to create the company after working as a tutor herself. In her role, she realized private tutoring could be both expensive and exclusive.

Our general goal is to make high-quality, one-on-one tutoring universally accessible to every student … to let any student work with a tutor at any time,” Johnston said. “Also, we realized that the time when many high school students are in need of homework help, say 11 p.m., is when many college students are available.”

Sophomore InstaEDU tutor Jordan Stella said she tutored in high school and also tutors at the First Year of Studies Learning Resource Center.

Stella said tutors connect to InstaEDU through Facebook or Google chat and receive notifications whenever a student asks for help. Students can view tutors’ profiles to see areas of expertise and interests. They then select an individual tutor, or can be matched randomly with an available tutor whose tutor’s time is logged, he said, and are paid by the minute.

“We’re not paid for the hour we’re on,” Stella said. “InstaEDU allows tutors to decide how they want to work.”

The students looking for tutoring “could be [in] high school, could be [in] college, could be [in] middle school,” Stella said.

Stella said she heard about job opportunities at InstaEDU through an email from the Anthropology Department, and the pay-per-minute of tutoring was appealing.

“Tutoring online does not inherently pose a significant problem, Stella said, though he believes lecture-based tutoring is more difficult.

“It also depends the subject. Math is something easier to tutor over the Internet, there’s one’s answer, one way to do it,” Stella said.

InstaEDU’s promise of nearly instantaneous tutoring, and believing he would use online tutoring if he needed help, as opposed to having to set up a time to meet with a tutor in person.

“Why not [do it],” Stella said.

Going into the future, at the University of Maryland, InstaEDU is looking to expand the tutor base.

“We’ve had a great time recruiting out of these top universities, like Notre Dame,” he said.

“I think we’re moving in the right direction toward our two-year sustainable strategy,” Johnston said. “Having initiatives like this is the first step I think, and knowledge and awareness of the student body (are others).”

Contact McFlanagan at mflanagan@nd.edu

Eid

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

blessings. She said Eid carries the distinctive meaning of victory.

Jamel Khan, chairman of the Muslims on Campus, said although Muslim students sometimes feel excluded among the large number of Catholics at Notre Dame, the Office of Sustainability gives them a sense of community.

“Alas, as you have faith, Notre Dame will only strengthen your beliefs,” he said.

Fr. Jim King, director of Campus Ministry, said he is proud Muslims feel welcome to engage in conversation at the University.

“I am glad that Muslim students feel that Notre Dame is a place where they can come together to have conversations and need not have to have so that people can live together in peace,” King said.

Khan has been a Muslim for 30 years and graduated school at Notre Dame.

“I haven’t felt any difficulty in practicing my religion, and there are plenty of Muslims on campus for students of the Muslim faith,” he said.

Syahirah said she feels Muslims students seeking and the Notre Dame community.

“Two people that really helped me were my rector and my [resi-"
University of Notre Dame
Engineering Industry Day
2012

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Monday, September 10
AEROSPACE/MECHANICAL ENGINEERING NIGHT
Monogram Room, Joyce Center  7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Tuesday, September 11
CIVIL ENGINEERING LUNCH
Monogram Room, Joyce Center  12:30 - 2:00 p.m.

NETWORKING RECEPTION (Business Formal Attire)
Monogram Room, Joyce Center  4:00 - 5:00 p.m.

INDUSTRY DAY CAREER FAIR (Business Formal Attire)
Heritage Hall, Joyce Center  5:00 - 8:30 p.m.

Wednesday, September 12
INTERVIEW DAY
Flanner Hall  8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

The Industry Day is sponsored by...

The Career Center

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THE SOCIETY OF
WOMEN ENGINEERS,
THE CAREER CENTER,
AND THE COLLEGE
OF ENGINEERING

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Bechtel Marine Propulsion Corporation
BigMachines, Inc.
BP America
Capital One
CareCore National
Chrysler Group LLC
Clarity Consulting, Inc.
Clarity Solution Group
Clark Construction Group
Comcast
Credit Suisse
Cummins Inc.
Deloitte LLP
DMC Inc.
Epic
ExactTarget
ExxonMobil
F.H. Pachen, S.N. Nielsen
Garmin International
General Electric
Gentex Corporation
Hargrove Engineers + Constructors
Hill-Rom
IMC Financial Markets
Johnson and Johnson (GOLD)
Kiewit Power
KPMG LLP
Lutron Electronics
Marathon Petroleum Company LP
Massman Construction Co.
McCarthy Building Companies, Inc.
Microsoft Corporation
Navistar, Inc.
Navy Recruiting District Michigan
Nokia
Northrop Grumman
Pariveda Solutions
Passport Health Communications, Inc
Pierce Associates, Inc.
PPG Industries, Inc.
Praxair, Inc.
Procter & Gamble
ProLiance Energy, LLC
PTC
PwC
RECSOLU
Schlumberger
Shive-Hattery
Spartan Energy Partners
SPX Corporation
Stryker Corporation
Technology Services Group
The Boeing Company
The Walsh Group
Turner Construction Company
University of Notre Dame - MSc in Patent Law
US Marine Corps Officer Programs
Virtual Instruments
Whirlpool Corporation
Continued from page 1

April with Adriana Trigiani, a television writer, author and member of the Class of 1981. The pair taught master classes and discussed their careers with the College community.

Persky said he is looking forward to returning to campus and interacting with the students and faculty.

“I had such a great time last time,” he said. “There’s a sense of being at home when I’m at Saint Mary’s and feeling like I belonged. I felt like I was amongst friends.”

Senior Elizabeth Elsbach attended Persky and Trigiani’s lectures and private classes last spring. As an English writing major, she was excited to see the audience react to him.

Leopold’s career as a comedian spans nearly four decades. He has served as writer, producer and story editor for a number of television shows including “The Chevy Chase Show,” “Cheers,” “Seinfeld,” “Will and Grace,” “Hope & Faith,” “Ellen” and “Caroline in the City.” He has also worked with famous entertainers such as Bob Hope, Lucille Ball, Billy Crystal and Chevy Chase.

On Thursday evening at 7:30, Leopold will present his new one-man show, “When a Comedy Writer Finds God,” about his conversion from Judaism to Catholicism. Persky, who helped Leopold write it, will introduce Leopold before the performance.

Leopold said his show, which includes original songs, has wide appeal.

“It’s my journey of faith and finding grace,” he said. “It’s about what led me to Jesus. There are lots of laughs and jokes, but I think people will find the story touching, too.”

Elsbach said she is happy for the opportunity to meet the pair and learn from them.

“I am looking forward to Tom Leopold and Bill Persky’s workshops on humor because I have found that often writers, especially new writers, find humor difficult to articulate,” she said. “Being able to tell a joke is different than putting a joke on a page. I’m looking forward to the workshop in order to improve my style of writing in this particular genre.”

English, communication studies and theatre students will enjoy private master classes and lectures with Persky and Leopold on Wednesday and Thursday.

Aafter Leopold’s show, Persky will be signing and selling copies of his book “My Life is a Situation Comedy,” and Leopold will sign copies of his CD, “Just the HIts,” featuring original songs, including some from his one-man show.

“I always knew I was funny, but I didn’t know I could write; that was a lucky thing,” Leopold said. “Writing comedy is a high because everyone laughs at the same stuff.”

Contact Bridget Feeney at bfeene01@smarm.edu

“Bill Persky is an inspiration for any writer who wants to break the mold, and his guidance, to Saint Mary’s alumnae and to current students, is invaluable.”

Elizabeth Elsbach
Senior

Continued from page 1

The government announced its intention to find a means for insurers to cover the cost of contraceptives for employees without the employer paying. Snead said he is uncertain how this goal will be achieved.

“It isn’t clear how you prevent the insurer from building the cost of free contraceptives into what they charge the institution for the plan,” he said.

Snead said even if such a plan were settled upon, the University might not be able to take advantage because it is self-insured.

The judge hearing the University’s case is likely to make an effort to delay the decision until after the presidential election, Snead said.

“If I’m the judge, I’m not going to bring all my judicial resources to a question that could be decided by the upcoming election. I’m going to try and delay until after the election,” he said.

Snead said the University would face nine million dollars in fines per year for noncompliance, and will have to find some way to comply should their suit fail. He said the possibility of complying does not mean the University should oppose the new law.

“The question of what we can live with is not the same as what the government can impose on us,” he said.

In response to the question of what a Mitt Romney administration might mean for the provision requiring health care plans to provide free contraceptives, Snead said it is likely a Romney administration would eliminate the provision.

“It was done by administrative action, so it can be undone by administrative regulations,” Snead said. “It’s a typical practice for a new administration to repeal the administrative regulations of its predecessor.”

The Professors for Lunch series will continue on Sept. 21 at 12 p.m. in North Dining Hall with a panel discussion of the University’s law suit against the HHS.

Contact Christian Myers at cmyers8@nd.edu

The governance in this case is gravely flawed because of the lack of transparency and the delegation of the decision.

O. Carter Snead
law professor

There are many less-restrictive means of accomplishing the government’s goal of free contraceptives that do not infringe on religious liberty.

“There are many less-restrictive means,” he said. “The government could give a tax credit to individuals for every penny they pay for these contraceptives.”

In response to opposition from Catholic religious groups, the HHS announced a one-year period for organizations to reorganize their health plans in order to comply with the new law, Snead said.

The deadline for compliance has been set for Aug. 1, 2013, and Snead said he believes the deadline might have been reached with the upcoming election in mind.

“There is a concern that the Aug. 1, 2013 timeline is an attempt to eliminate this issue as a topic of discussion during the presidential election,” he said.

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Write News
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Leopold.

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Elizabeth Elsbach
Senior
Purdue nostalgia

Saturday's game was nostalgic.

The Class of 2014 shares the same first home game experience as the Class of 2016, characterized by a sunny day, a victory over the Boilermakers and a collective, unquenchable enthusiasm. But the first home game of my junior season had a different feel from that of freshman year. It felt familiar.

Having never been to a college football game before, let alone one at the iconic Notre Dame Stadium, I was overwhemed as a freshman. What do I do before the game? If I go up for pushups, will I fall to my death? Will I flub the words to the Alma Mater?

A resident of God Quad's finest Walsh Hall, I woke to the sounds of tourists and the smell of pavement on a Saturday at 9 a.m. It wouldn't have been that bad, except the upperclassmen banged on our doors at 6:45 a.m. to run through Stonehenge and sing the Alma Mater in front of the stadium. Exhausted, my roommate wasn’t planning on getting up again until noon, but I dragged her out of bed. “Just get up!” I cheered. “People are out and about!”

The only people “out and about” were old alumni and their grandchildren. After wandering aimlessly for a couple hours and realizing we didn’t know anyone hosting a tailgate, I’m pretty sure we ended up doing homework. Nevertheless, we arrived at the stadium eager for some Notre Dame football, and the vibe in the student section was unparalleled.

The most striking aspect of the experience was the same as that of my first mass in the Basilica: the volume. Just as students sing out with “full heart and voice” at Basilica mass, a sea of green com offers even more — including the Nissan and Toyota logos and the shape of Pepsi bottles. Saturn’s rings, a human arm, plant leaves — it seems there’s an unspoken language between everything in the universe that says to employ this ratio in some way. For all I know, maybe there is. I don’t understand how it shows up so many times, but it shows me the golden ratio is pretty important.

But as humans, our lifestyles don’t come equipped with the perfect ratios already laid out for us. So, what do we do to get our ratios right? We experiment, we sacrifice, we choose and we decide what ratios work for us. We practice until we get the hang of it. As a freshman, I have to learn to give my work enough time — but it’s really hard being as popular as I am. People are constantly knocking at my door, trying to get me to sacrifice my grades for going out. Or maybe they’re just knocking at my door because of the stash of Nutella and pretzels I have in here. Regardless, I always give in and drop my schoolwork to socialize. I have to learn to make the ratio of going out to doing schoolwork closer to 1:1. It’s just hard when I’m so cool, because everyone wants to hang out with me constantly.

So, ratios matter — for plants, planets, companies, us. We all choose the ratios that will benefit us most in every situation. For us, the situations are varied. Most of my interactions with ratios relate to food (just because I love food), so I spend a lot of time either thinking about food or eating food. But different people deal with different ratios every day. And once we find that perfect ratio of peanut butter to jelly, cake to frosting, boy to girl, work to play, skin to clothing or family to friends, we’ll do whatever we can to keep it.

Bridget Galassini is a freshman. She can be reached at bgalas@nd.edu

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

Multiculturalism fosters segregation

After reading “Segregation at the Tabernacle” (Sept. 3), “Segregation or Celebration” (Sept. 6) and “Celebrate to unify” (Sept. 7), I agree with the first article in that race-specific events wholly contradict the University mission of unification. How can race-delegated retreats unite all members of the Notre Dame community?

However, the author of “Segregation or Celebration” said her time at a Latino retreat was open to various members of the Notre Dame community. So apparently such is not the case with all race-specific organizations on campus. While they insist they are welcoming to all persons and committed to diversity, race-based organizations are not welcome to a diversity of thought.

As a black American, I reach to the various members of the Notre Dame community by sharing my conservative-leaning ideology. I find it is the blacks and African-Americans who attack me with scorn and derision — the same people who claim they appreciate diversity. “Uncle Tom” and “sell-out” are just a few of the responses levied at me; they hardly ever revert with a response that is not laced with hate.

So, if we as a community want to heal the wounds of yesteryear, unify people with various opinions and enlighten each other, then we have to acknowledge multiculturalism does indeed foster segregation.

Shaaya Ellis
Sophomore
Stanford Hall
Sept. 9
When to compromise and when not to

Elliot Pearce
The Human Interest

As the 2012 presidential election nears and the partisan animosity between the candidates and their supporters escalates, many concerned citizens have called for a renewed spirit of compromise in American politics. I applaud partisan gridlock has kept our government from resolving many crises, and I would like to see our leaders adopt a more civil and constructive tone when debating contentious issues.

I am suspicious of “compromise” considered in the abstract, though, because I believe most proponents of compromise and bipartisanship give faulty reasons for why our politicians cannot come together and work things out.

The conventional wisdom on this topic is that most people agree about what’s right for America and would readily support a bipartisan agenda if one were ever put forward. Politicians, however, are prideful, selfish and fiercely tribal, so they refuse to admit that someone from outside their own party could be “right” or have ideas worth considering and including in their own plans. On the surface, this view makes sense. Those who run for office are more likely to be power-hungry and to think highly of their own ideas than those who do not. Recognizing the important role their allies played in getting them elected can also make politicians feel beholden to “party” and “sides” forever.

What America needs, according to this diagnosis, is a new kind of leader who is loyal to the people rather than himself or his party. This leader can reach across the aisle to pass the kind of common-sense legislation that will put our nation back on track.

I believe this view of America’s problem with partisanship is wrong because it fails to recognize how far our divisions extend beyond the political class to the general population, and how deeply they go beyond politics to fundamental questions about human beings, nature and morality.

Large, well-organized and powerful groups of people drawn from varying backgrounds hold different and even contradictory views, not only on the purpose of government but also the purpose of human life. We compromise with allies and neutral parties, not with those we see as mortal enemies of our worldview.

No post-partisan leader can arise to speak for all of America, because America does not speak with the same voice. Barack Obama rose to do so in 2008 and succeeded admirably for a time. Sooner or later, though, he had to come out as either for or against eliminating the secret ballot in union elections, cutting entitlement spending and legalizing gay marriage. With each decision he made, he forfeited the trust of one group of people and ingratiated himself to another. Try as he might to remain above the fray, Barack Obama is, after all, a liberal Democrit running against a conservative Republican. Should he beat Mitt Romney, liberals would see this as a victory for their side, conservatives as a loss for theirs. There would be no sense of a step forward for all of America like there was after the last election.

Is compromise impossible? Are we doomed to languish in partisan paralysis until one side amasses enough votes to ramrod its entire agenda through Congress by brute force? I do not believe so. We must instead think about compromise in a different way. The “grand bargains” everyone seems to think we should cut tend to be the problems facing our country (immigration, debt ceiling, jobs) like swords through Gordion knots unlikely to pass. Both parties could, however, try to advance their respective positions simultaneously by passing the least controversial parts of their agendas first and saving the fierce battles for after they have already done everything they could together.

Elliott Pearce can be reached at Elliott.A.Pearce.12@nd.edu

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

College costs count

Peter Stroud
Daily Texan

In his speech [two weeks ago] at the Republican National Convention, the party’s nominee Mitt Romney offered nothing to college students reeling from the soaring cost of higher education.

According to the College Board, the cost of four year colleges has increased by an average of $8,244 over the past ten years — a 72 percent rise above inflation. Outstanding student loan debt has hit $1.2 trillion, or about 45,000 times the number of students currently enrolled in American universities.

We at U. Texas are painfully aware of the skyrocketing costs. “UT gave me a $20,000 per-year scholarship, but I found out pretty quickly that doesn’t cover everything,” theater and education senior Jorge Galan said. “Even with that I’ll be graduating with over $60,000 in debt. That’ll take at least 20 years to pay off.” But Galan, a Texas resident, ranks among the lucky ones. In 2010, the cost of attendance for out-of-state students at UT reached $45,960, or 93 percent of the U.S. median household income.

And this doesn’t just affect us. The price of a college education has an enormous impact on the American economy. The economic explosion of the 1950s saw one of the sharpest rises in GDP per capita in our country’s history — and it had a lot to do with Americans getting affordable college degrees through the GI Bill. They flooded the economy with skilled workers and consumers ready and eager to spend their paychecks.

Notably, those paychecks weren’t being exhausted paying off student loans.

In 1985, state appropriations for UT were $684 million, or 34 percent of the university’s budget. Tuition and fees accounted for no more than five percent. Now, tuition and fees provide a quarter of UT’s budget while state funding has dwindled to a mere 13 percent.

Amazingly, that actually puts UT ahead of many other state colleges. Last year, the state of Michigan contributed a paltry 4.5 percent of its flagship university’s budget.

Furthermore, Romney’s trust in the private sector is hollow. Romney himself said that “a Romney Administration will reward their tuition increases.” Instead, Romney plans to cut the nation’s trust in the private sector to “provide information, financing and education itself.”

Ron Paul in his speeches, tuition hikes at public universities have happened largely as a result of huge funding cuts by state governments. In 1985, state appropriations for UT Austin accounted for 47 percent of the university’s budget. Tuition and fees accounted for no more than five percent. Now, tuition and fees provide a quarter of UT’s budget while state funding has dwindled to a mere 13 percent.

We compromise with allies and neutral parties, not with those we see as mortal enemies of our worldview.

However, Romney is right in one respect. That state has contributed $2,500 a year but would take $13 billion next year alone to renew. He also promises to expand the maximum Pell grant from $5,550 to $5,635, but that was already scheduled under current laws.

These are admirable efforts, to be sure, but they bring to mind trying to halt a wildfire with a couple dozen water balloons. In 1980, according to Education Week, the maximum Pell grant covered 7 percent of the average cost of attendance at a 4-year public institution. Today, it covers 36 percent. Even if Obama passes the promised increase, that still won’t go up by a single percentage point. Something far more substantial is necessary.

This article originally ran in the Sept. 6 version of the Daily Texan, serving the University of Texas.

The views expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.
By SAM STRYKER
Assistant Managing Editor

On a weekend when America’s favorite wedding crashers visited campus, one com- tic talent stood out as the funniest man in South Bend—Seth Meyers.

Not even the presence of Owen Wilson and Vince Vaughn at Saturday’s football game could overshadow the fact that the head writer of “Saturday Night Live” brought down the house at the Stepan Center on Friday night. With a standing-room-only crowd of 2,500 in the geodesic dome, and 3,000 watching on a screen outside, the event marks the largest in the Student Union Board’s (SUB) history.

Luckily for students in attendance, Meyers did not disappoint. Walking out to cheers of “Seth, Seth, Seth,” the “Weekend Update” host started the show off by sharing memo- ries of a previous visit to Notre Dame, when he attended a game as a Northwestern undergrad.

From there, Meyers launched into an hour-long set, touching upon personal expe- riences, everyday observations and pop-cul- tural references. Everyone and everything was fair game for the target of his humor, from Greece and their “yogurt-based econ- omy” to girls with cameras.

“Some of them have the same picture on their camera,” Meyers said. “One day, God will- ing, technology will advance to the point where we can email each other our photos.”

True that, Seth Meyers.

Some of Meyers’ strongest material dealt with personal experiences. He reminisced about his time living abroad in Amsterdam, poking fun at the assumed motivation for such a move.

“It’s not why you think,” he said. “The rea- son I lived in Amsterdam for two years is be- cause weed is legal there.”

Red-light district-based humor aside, Meyers moved on to some hilarious Owen Wilson and Matthew McConaughey imper- sonations when describing his cannabis- fueled hijinks in the Dutch city, and hit the nail on the head when he described students returning from Europe as the most-obnoxious people on campus. For those juniors who decide not to leave the campus bent over with bellyaching laugh- ter, Meyers has the focus. We have to do some- thing to get the focus back. Any ideas? And someone was like, ‘We can kill bin Laden,’ and Obama eating man’s best friend in his time abroad in his youth.

Meyers launched into an hour-long set of impressions when describing his cannabis- fueled hijinks in the Dutch city, and hit the nail on the head when he described students returning from Europe as the most-obnoxious people on campus. For those juniors who decide not to leave

As head writer at “SNL,” Meyers is gear- ing up for an election year featuring a set of four candidates ripe with comic potential. Meyers made a Freudian slip as he shifted from presidential humor — accidentally switch- ing one letter in “election,” saying a very un-Catholic word that left the audience in stitches — and joked about how dogs seem to be at the center of each candidate’s image problems, with Romney strapping his pooch to the roof of his car on a family road trip in the 1980s, and Obama eating man’s best friend in his time abroad.

But the highlights of Meyers’ current events material was based on his experience as the host of the White House Correspondents’ Dinner in 2011. Meyers made some self-depr- ecating jokes about a botched handshake with President Obama, and also highlighted how he made fun of Donald Trump, much to “The Apprentice” host and real estate mogul’s disdain.

“Donald Trump said if he runs for presi- dent, it will be as a Republican, which is funny, because I just assumed he would be running as a joke,” Meyers quipped.

The best material of this segment of Meyers’ set was his commentary on SEAL Team 6’s mission against Osama bin Laden. The terrorist happened to be killed the day af- ter Meyers hosted the press dinner. The comic noted “almost everyone” was excited about bin Laden’s death — except himself.

Meyers joked that the day after he hosted the dinner, he thought he had done such a good job he would be on the news as the lead story the following Monday.

“My theory is this,” Meyers said. “Obama also told some jokes that night. He was funny, but I was a little bit funnier. I think he went back to the White House in a bad mood. I think he went to the Situation Room and got his staff together and was like, ‘Seth Meyers has the focus. We have to do some- thing to get the focus back. Any ideas? And someone was like, ‘We can kill bin Laden,’ and Obama was like, ‘Do it.’”

From start to finish, Meyers had the audi- ence bent over with bellyaching laug- hter. Meyers even excelled in delving into topics most goody-two-shoes Notre Dame students would not normally find appeal- ing — including pornography, gay jokes and the aforementioned marijuana humor — although the laughter was cautious for this material, something Meyers picked up on and teased the Notre Dame students for.

Meyers closed the show with some “Weekend Update” jokes that didn’t make it past television censors. This was met with raucous applause.

From start to finish, Meyers aced the show. The “Comedy on the Quad” event has featured lesser names in the past such as Gabriel Iglesias and Judah Friedlander, and as such the “SNL” cast member was a breath of fresh air and a total success. If the maxim that laughter is the best medicine has any truth to it, all the maladies of Notre Dame students were cured Friday evening.

Contact Sam Stryker at stryker1@nd.edu
SM: What is your favorite part about working at "SNL"?
SS: I love the fact that every time you walk into the studio, it's like, "I'm going to jump right into election stuff, because you touched upon it in your show." And I know it is a big part of your routine. What are your general thoughts on this year's election, maybe as opposed to the last one?
SS: Building on that, do you want to stay on "SNL"?
SM: I feel way more comfortable playing Seth Meyers than I do other people, so my dream would be if I could continue to do that.
SS: If Tina Fey and Amy Poehler got into a cage match, who do you think would win?
SM: I think when you have something that's so new and exciting, you're always going to have fun.
SS: Who is the funniest cast member you have ever worked with?
SM: My favorite host from last year was Jimmy [Fallon] and Maya [Rudolph] and Andy [Samberg], and I think they're really great. It's always fun when old cast members come back. Last year we had Jimmy [Fallon] and Maya [Rudolph] and they were really good. That means all of the characters are sort of new. So in 2000 or 2008, you get to have people you have never seen before or did impressions you have seen. Obviously last election was real lightning in the bottle for us with Sarah Palin looking like the most famous person who had ever been on our show, so our show is less funny than having trouble writing something funny. But the nice thing is on Wednesday, you know you have your two things, but you also get to hear 30 things that were written in the other rooms. That is really fun. Getting to see things done for the first time at a read-through is really great.
SS: And how about someone more recent?
SM: You know, he killed it earlier this week — Bill Clinton would be so much fun. He's never hosted, never cameo-ed. That would be great.
SS: Do you have a character or role that is your favorite to play?
SM: Doing "Weekend Update" is my favorite. It's kind of the thing I most wanted to do on the show. Doing that, and especially with someone like Bill [Hader] is doing Stefon, or Bobby [Moynihan] is doing Drunk Uncle or Andy [Samberg] is doing Nic Cage. Like being out with your friends and being able to be silly behind the desk is really great.
SS: Do you have a dream acting role beyond "SNL"?
SM: I mean, my acting career is already beyond "SNL".
SS: And do you have a dream person to work with?
SM: Well, for us it's always a little more exciting when there is no incumbent. That means all of the characters are sort of new. So in 2000 or 2008, you get to have people you have never seen before or did impressions you have never seen. Obviously last election was real lighting in the bottle for us with Sarah Palin looking like the most famous person who had ever been on our show, so our show is less funny than having trouble writing something funny. But the nice thing is on Wednesday, you know you have your two things, but you also get to hear 30 things that were written in the other rooms. That is really fun. Getting to see things done for the first time at a read-through is really great.
SS: What is your favorite part about working at "SNL"?
SM: The people you work with are really fun. You slowly have a good time on a Tuesday night, trying to write a couple of funny things, and it is really hard, and nothing is less funny than having trouble writing something funny. But the nice thing is on Wednesday, you know you have your two things, but you also get to hear 30 things that were written in the other rooms. That is really fun. Getting to see things done for the first time at a read-through is really great.
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SS: Do you have a dream acting role beyond "SNL"?
SM: I feel way more comfortable playing Seth Meyers than I do other people, so my dream would be if I could continue to do that.
SS: Building on that, do you want to stay on "SNL"?
SM: I'd say say through this season. I'd say I'm kind of the grey beard there now, so I don't know how much longer I can stay. I'm so worried what I do next will be sort of boring. I've never been bored at "SNL".
SS: Who is the funniest cast member you have ever worked with?
SM: [Amy] Poehler, I'm going to say Poehler. Fred Armisen is another who probably makes us laugh the most in the office.
SS: And what is a weird fact that people don't know about you?
SM: I have a nine-pound Italian greyhound named "Frissbee".
SS: If Tina Fey and Amy Poehler got into a cage match, who do you think would win?
SM: I think all of humanity would be dead and gone while they were still going at it. Two immortal forces.
SS: One last thing. You talked about humorous experiences throughout your life (in your show). Do you see something and say, "This is funny" or "This would make for a great joke"? Is that how you see the world?
SM: I think when you have something funny happen in your life and then you have friends you tell it to, there are times when you like "Oh this is funny. This might be something to work with for people who aren't my friends."
SS: And do you have a dream person to host, dead or alive? You can pick anyone you have ever worked with?
SM: [Amy] Poehler. I'm going to say Poehler. Fred Armisen is another who probably makes us laugh the most in the office.
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Second wild card adds excitement

Mike Monaco
Sports Writer

For just a minute, let’s forget all his mishaps; instead, let’s give credit where credit is due.

Bud Selig has made his share of mistakes. The steroid era has been downright embarrassing and has tainted a generation of baseball. Oh, and it won’t permanently go away until the Hall of Fame fates of potential inductees such as Roger Clemens and Barry Bonds are decided.

Selig cancelled the 1994 World Series and ended the 2002 All-Star Game in a tie. He’s far from perfect.

But when he added a second wild-card team to each league, he got it absolutely right.

Now, instead of having just one or two playoff races down the stretch at the end of September, there’s a big group fighting for its spot in the postseason landscape. In powerful divisions like the AL East, there can be three playoff teams.

For example, the Baltimore Orioles, New York Yankees and Toronto Blue Jays are all within two games of one another in the standings. In years past, only two teams would have had the chance to advance to the playoffs. But this time around, we could reasonably have both wild cards come out of the same division.

The sheer number of teams that still have realistic playoff hopes has gone up as well after the addition of the second wild-card spot.

For the first time this year, the New York Yankees and Los Angeles Dodgers are both sitting atop the standings in their respective divisions.

There are often two playoff teams, as they were, given that she had the chance to advance to the playoffs. But now, teams have a much greater incentive, and we have Bud Selig to thank.

Let’s face it: the MLB season is long and, at times, monotonous. Seeing teams give their all on the field is much greater incentive, and it won’t permanently go away until the Hall of Fame.

Now, however, getting a wild-card spot is not nearly as appetizing as winning the division. The two wild-card winners now square off in a one-game playoff to determine who advances into the divisional round of the playoffs. So in a division like the AL East, where there are often two playoff teams, winning the division crown matters.

In years past, we frequently saw division leaders with slim leads coast their way into October, because they knew at worst they would still be able to lock up the wild-card spot and be no worse for wear. Well, coast no more.

Winning the division is now a much greater incentive, and we have Bud Selig to thank.

The sheer number of teams that still have realistic playoff hopes has gone up as well after the addition of the second wild-card spot.

The views expressed in this commentary are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.
New York — The weather was much better at the U.S. Open on Sunday. So was Novak Djokovic.

Under a cloudless blue sky, in only a hint of wind, defending champion Djokovic got his game into high gear and reached his third consecutive final at Flushing Meadows by beating fourth-seeded David Ferrer of Spain 2-6, 6-1, 6-4, 6-2 in a match suspended a day earlier.

“I was a different player,” the second-seeded Djokovic said. “I felt much more comfortable on the court today than I did yesterday, (when) obviously the conditions were more brutal.”

Ferrer led a shaky Djokovic 5-2 in the semifinal’s opening set Saturday, when wind was whipping at more than 20 mph and play was halted because of an impending rainstorm. When play was resumed about 18 hours later, Ferrer held serve to take an impending rainstorm. When

When wind was

wasn’t too taxing: Djokovic played only about two hours later, Ferrer held serve to take that set — and then Djokovic

quickly took control, using the brand of defense-to-offense that set — and then Djokovic

took a 123 mph ace, their match pret

and was finished with Ferrer

by 1:20 p.m., giving him more than 24 hours to rest before taking on Murray.

“In the end, it wasn’t too taxing: Djokovic played only about two hours and was finished with Ferrer by 1:20 p.m., giving him more than 24 hours to rest before taking on Murray.

Djokovic leads the head-to-head series against Murray 8-6 but lost their most recent matchup in the semifinals of the London Games.

He and Murray were born a week apart in May 1987 (Djokovic is younger), and they have come up through the ranks together and know each other well.

Before heading out to warm up for his semifinal, Murray sat in front of a computer with Djokovic and they watched online together while Scotland and Serbia played in a 0-0 draw in qualifying for soccer’s World Cup.

Djokovic extended his winning streak in Grand Slam matches played on hard courts to 27, including titles at last year’s U.S. Open and the Australian Open in 2011 and 2012. He sliced along the surface as though it were red clay, allowing him to use his elastic limbs to contort and stretch to get to opponents’ shots that ap

peared to be winners.

Over and over and over again Sunday, Djokovic would prolong points until he could gain an advantage or Ferrer would flub a groundstroke. After ending one 25-stroke exchange by snapping off a cross-court backhand winner while serving out the second set, Djokovic bellowed and spread his arms wide, holding a pose, as his parents rose to their feet in his guest box.

By late in the third set, when Djokovic took 12 of 14 points to go from a 3-2 deficit to 5-3 lead, Ferrer was muddling to himself and in the direction of his coach in the stands, the very picture of frustration.

“Playing so bad; a lot of mistakes,” Ferrer said. “He was better. I don’t have to say noth

ing. In some games in the third and the fourth set, I lost a little bit my focus.”

The loss dropped Ferrer to 0-4 in Grand Slam semis, with another of those defeats also coming against Djokovic at the U.S. Open, back in 2007.

Djokovic was playing in his 10th consecutive Grand Slam semifinal, equaling Rod Laver and Lendl for the second-longest streak behind Roger Federer’s record of 23.

And after dropping that first set of this semifinal — the only set he’s lost all tournament — Djokovic immediately began turning things around, breaking Ferrer twice in a row en route to a 5-0 lead in the second set.

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In the third, Ferrer made a little charge, taking three games in a row to briefly lead that set.

But the difficulty that dealing with Djokovic presents began to wear on Ferrer. He would rush shots, trying to sneak balls past Djokovic, and that simply was not going to work on this day. Ferrer made three enforced errors to get broken and fall behind 4-3 in the key third set, and when Djokovic eventually served it out with a 123 mph ace, their match pretty much was over.
Belles recapture winning ways

By AARON SANT-MILLER
Sports Writer

After losing their first conference match of the season Sept. 4 against Trine, the Belles bounced back in their second conference fixture this weekend. Against rival Albion, Saint Mary’s brought home their first MIAA victory of the season in four sets, claiming a 25-19, 24-26, 25-15, 25-20 win.

“It’s definitely a good feeling, being 1-1 in the conference and 5-1 overall,” Belles coach Toni Kuschel said. “It’s definitely a good starting place and a win is always good.”

Sophomore outside hitter Kati Schneider, who had 14 kills, led the Belles offensively. Senior captain and setter Danie Brink did her part as well, as she added 35 helpers to her growing assist total. On top of that, Schneider and Brink had a combined five aces.

For Hecklinski, it was the second match in a row that she led the team in digs. Hecklinski, who both had 12, worked really hard on [improving] “other things, especially passing,” she said. “Other things, we still need to continue to work on.”

The Belles will look to do just that this week when they Belles will host another conference rival in Adrian (4-4, 0-3 MIAA). Kuschel said at home, the Belles would look to play even better than they did in their win over Albion.

“We need to play better than we did this weekend,” said Kuschel. “We had a lot of unforced errors that we’re just not really happy with that we need to clean up.”

The Belles will not only look to improve, but also nab their second conference win, sliding above .500 in a competitive MIAA race.

Saint Mary’s finishes 17th

By LAURA COLETTI
Sports Writer

The Belles participated in the highly competitive Calvin Invitational on Saturday and placed 17th in a field of 22 teams. Host Calvin won the tournament, while Division II squad Grand Valley State placed second. Junior Jessica Biek was the top finisher for the Belles with a time of 19:15:7 for 50th place overall in a field of over 300 runners. Sophomore Samee Chittenden was the next Saint Mary’s runner to finish with a collegiate personal record time of 20:33:1, good for 42nd place. Belles coach Jackie Bauters said she was happy with how her team raced.

“Overall, I’m happy with our team’s results,” she said. “While we were hoping to race better than the results showed, especially for, as a team, the Belles felt good about how they finished out their first five-kilometer race of the year. “Several of the girls had [personal records] in the 5K this week,” Bauters said. “Not everyone had the day they hoped for, but in breaking down the race afterwards I feel like everyone gleaned something positive from the race.”

Although Bauters was pleased with her team, she acknowledged that her team still has some work to do.

“As a team we are not in prime racing shape right now, but I feel confident with the work we are doing as a team,” she said. “I feel like we will be prepared when the races count and take the enthusiasm this team brings every day to get us to that point.”

The Belles will return to action this Friday, when they participate in Notre Dame’s annual National Catholic Championship.
through five sets requires a special kind of mentality. “The toughest part about playing five-set matches is staying mentally and physically tough, because by the fifth set, your body tends to slow down a little bit,” she said. “Personally, I love playing five-set matches because I love playing in pressure situations.”

While the Irish were unable to take the Trojans to five sets, they managed to pull ahead in the first two sets and forced USC to fight back. McHugh said that there were good things to take away from both matches on Saturday, but that there were aspects of play the Irish need to work on. “We hit really well against high-caliber teams and improved our out-of-system play,” McHugh said. “Some of the things we still need to work on, though, are finishing games, consistently communicating on and off the court and making fewer errors altogether.”

Andrea McHugh
Junior opposite side hitter

Irish freshman setter Hannah Muzzonigro prepares to make a pass during Notre Dame’s victory over Eastern Kentucky on Sept. 2. The Irish traveled to Los Angeles over the weekend to compete in the USC Tournament and compiled a 1-2 record at the event.

Andrea McHugh
Junior opposite side hitter

The Irish will look to bounce back when they host the Golden Dome Invitational next weekend.

Contact Laura Coletti at lcoletti@nd.edu
wall, out of the reach of Zips junior keeper David Meyes and into the side of the net. The insurance goal came on a penalty after senior forward Ryan Finley was tripped up chasing down a through ball from Powers. A scramble broke out between both sides and after being oust, Finley took the penalty kick and placed it low in the corner.

“It was a growing up game for us,” Clark said. “These were the games we would have ended up tying last year.”

Friday’s game against Oregon State was also one that tested Notre Dame’s resilience. The Irish dominated the game, but were unable to finish until late in the second half.

“I thought we handled [Oregon State’s] athleticism very, very well,” Clark said. “I thought the whole game we bossed the game, we controlled the game, there’s no question. But we didn’t put the ball in the net. It seemed an eternity to me waiting, the ball in the net. It seemed an eternity to me waiting, but it was a great goal when it did come.”

Like in Sunday’s contest, Brown was a catalyst in Friday’s game when in the 81st minute he dished through a ball to streaking sophomore defender Max Lachowecki, who put the ball just outside the post for the game-winning goal.

“Leon played me a great ball, and that’s really my bread-and-butter, the left-footed shot and trying to hit it as hard as I can far post and put it on goal,” Lachowecki said. “I think it’s a big goal at that time of the game. It says a lot about our team this year, the fact that we can get in the game with 10 minutes left in the game and still just keep playing and keep working and keep pushing for that goal, and we finally got it.”

“We just came out really flat against Washington and got down in the first half, which made it really difficult to come back,” Waldrum said. Waldrum said he made the decision to switch out Hight for Voigt because Hight had been limited in practice last week due to a slight shoulder injury.

“Elise was not able to do much training this week because of a shoulder injury,” Waldrum said. “Although she played well, she made some slight mistakes Friday, and I contemplated making a change there, since the fact that she was out during the week hurt her. Sarah did a nice job in the second half, and we have two goalkeepers we feel are capable of handling the job.”

With the grueling nonconference portion of its schedule over, Notre Dame will look toward its Big East conference slate, which begins Friday with a nationally televised contest against No. 12 Louisville. Waldrum said his team’s nonconference competition, which included four ranked opponents, strongly prepared the Irish for the rigors of the conference schedule.

“We had a tough schedule early with a lot of our young players playing, and we hope it makes us better,” Waldrum said. “I think we’re in a good place as we head into conference games.”

Notre Dame will be bolstered in its conference games by the addition of junior midfielder Mandy Laddish and freshman all-purpose player Cari Rocco, who helped the United States capture the FIFA Under-20 Women’s World Cup title with a 1-0 triumph over Japan on Saturday. Waldrum said both players should be available to face Louisville on Friday.

“It will depend on how much practice they get this week, but I expect them to play next weekend,” Waldrum said.

Notre Dame will take on Louisville Friday at 4 p.m. at Alumni Stadium.

Contact Brian Hartnett at bhartnet@nd.edu

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**CALENDAR**

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2012**

**STATE’S CROWN AT CORBY’S IRISH PUB**

**FREE, ORGANIZED RIDE THROUGH SOUTH BEND & MISHAWAKA**

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**CONTACT**

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**SPORTS**
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! Problems will self-develop if you promise something you cannot deliver, or ask for the impossible in return. You have to gauge your personal and professional life carefully as to not to overstep your bounds in either area of your life. It will take plenty of moderation and skillful response to balance your life this year. Your numbers are 5, 6, 13, 27, 36, 42.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Consistency will count. You will face opposition if you change your plans midstream. Finish what needs to be done. Having peace of mind will make it easier for you to relax and enjoy socializing and sharing with someone special.

Taurus (April 20-May 20): Gracefully accept any help that is offered. Shifting your vulnerability will enable you to weed out the good and the bad people in your life. Personal housecleaning will help declutter your life. Don’t let a poor relationship create stress in your life.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Spending time with friends or family will help to stimulate your memory and give refreshment to some of the creative goals you never got to realize. A change in the way you approach your goals will lead to your success.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Someone you least expect will show interest in you. Visiting familiar places will bring you in touch with people from your past, reminding you of goals. Take time to look your best or to make personal updates to your image. Love is highlighted.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): A change of pace or vocation will do you good. Consider what you enjoy doing most and turn it into a career option. Stick close to home to avoid overspending or being enticed by false advertising or a fast-talking sales pitch. Love is highlighted.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Diversity creates an opportunity for growth. You have more to offer than you realize. With a little organization you can turn something you are doing into a lucrative endeavor. Create a workplace at home that will help you pursue your dreams.

Birthday Baby: You are friendly, flirtatious and extroverted. You are aggressive and broad-minded.
Irish topple ranked teams over weekend

By ISAAC LORTON
Sports Writer

No. 13 Notre Dame beat all comers to win the Mike Bertielli Memorial Tournament this weekend, topping Oregon State 1-0 on Friday despite wild weather, and winning a chippy and aggressive game on Sunday over No. 4 Akron, 3-1.

Sunday’s game was a colorful one, as both sides were issued two yellow cards and one straight red was issued to Akron junior midfielder Aodhan Quinn. Coming into the matchup, both the Irish (5-0-0) and the Zips (3-1-1) were undefeated.

The Irish went down early when Zips senior midfielder Scott Caldwell received a pass at the top of the 18-yard-box and put it by Irish junior keeper Patrick Hodan and volleyed the ball into the back of the net.

In the 30th minute of the game, Quinn took down Irish sophomore midfielder Nick Besler with an elbow to Belser’s head away from the play. The referee issued a straight red card with no hesitation to Quinn. With a man advantage, Notre Dame immediately took control of the game.

“Once they lost the player, that tilted the field in our favor,” Irish coach Bobby Clark said. “It was a statement win, but we will keep it in perspective. We were 1-0 down and then they get the red card. With a man up, I would be disappointed if we didn’t win. I would have been happier if we had won on a level playing field.”

“Having said that, [Akron] definitely brought that on themselves. [Akron] is a very good team and they move the ball as well as any team in the country. So it was a good test for us.”

The Irish seemed passive in the first half. Clark said, but they came out strong in the second and struck quickly. In the 49th minute, Irish junior forward Leon Brown connected with a hard-driven cross from freshman midfielder Patrick Hodan and volleyed the ball into the back of the net.

Irish senior midfielder Dillon Powers maneuvers during Notre Dame’s 3-1 victory over Akron on Sunday. It was the first loss for the No. 4 Zips.

“It was a great goal by Leon Brown,” Clark said.

ND WOMEN’S SOCCER | ND 1, PORTLAND 1 | WASHINGTON 3, ND 0

Notre Dame splits contests

By BRIAN HARTNETT
Sports Writer

It was a tale of two games for Notre Dame this weekend, as the young Irish squad showed its inconsistency in a West Coast road trip that featured an encouraging tie followed by a deflating loss.

The Irish (3-3-1) started their road trip with a 1-1 tie against No. 18 Portland on Friday, but experienced some first-half struggles en route to a 3-0 loss to No. 22 Washington two days later.

“We took a couple of steps forward Friday and a couple of steps backwards Sunday,” Irish coach Randy Waldrum said. “We have to put together a full 90 minutes of soccer.”

In front of a packed crowd of 4,932 fans at Merlo Field in Portland, Ore., the Irish fell into an early hole, as Portland (4-1-1) freshman forward Rebekah Kufe scored off an unclaimed free-kick 30 minutes into the game. Notre Dame countered less than nine minutes later, as sophomore defender Sammy Soffield drove home a header off a corner kick by freshman forward Andrea McHugh.

The Irish looked poised to take the lead at the end of the first half, but junior midfielder Elizabeth Tucker’s shot boomed off the inside of the post in the 41st minute. Notre Dame experienced a similar missed opportunity midway through the second half, as sophomore forward Lauren Bohaboy’s strong attempt from 22 yards out struck the underside of the crossbar.

Buoyed by freshman goalie Elyse Hight’s nine saves, the Irish defense kept Portland at bay and 120 minutes of action resulted in a 1-1 tie.

Waldrum said he was pleased with his team’s performance against the Pilots, a perennial power in women’s soccer.

“Our game was a little bit better, they didn’t have enough chances,” Waldrum said. “We were good against a good team in a tough place to play.”

The Irish fired off 17 shots against the Trojans (9-0), and fresh out of the USC Classic Tournament in Los Angeles, Notre Dame (5-4) came out strong against the Mustangs (1-7-1) and were led by sophomore opposite side hitter Jeni Houser’s 17 kills and junior tri-captain and setter Maggie Brindock’s 31 assists. It was Houser’s seventh double-digit kill performance of the season. Brindock also chipped in nine digs and six kills over the three sets.

The Irish were dominant as they held Cal Poly to a .000 attack percentage over the last two sets, and the win extended the Notre Dame team’s unbeaten streak to four games.

After their stellar performance against the Mustangs, the Irish turned their attention to two top-20 opponents. While both matches were competitive, they fell short against both the Toreros (5-2) and the Trojans (9-0). Junior captain and right-side hitter Andrea McHugh said the squad was not happy with the outcome of these matches.

“Overall, coaches and teammates included, we were pretty dissatisfied with the outcome of this tournament this weekend,” McHugh said. “We didn’t just come to Southern California to beat Cal Poly — We came to beat top-20 teams. It’s a good sign that we can hang with top-20 teams, but that’s not our goal. Our goal is to beat highly-ranked teams and most importantly get that [win].”

The loss to San Diego snapped Notre Dame’s win streak, which had been its longest since September 2011. The Irish played the Toreros tough, forcing a decisive fifth set for the first time this season. McHugh said playing a match