Return to Grace
Professor reflects on lighting No. 1 sign atop former residence hall during 1988 season

By KRISTEN DURBIN
News Editor

In the midst of a surprising undefeated football season and Notre Dame’s rise to the No. 1 spot atop the national college football polls this weekend, hopeful Irish fans continue to draw parallels between 1982 and 1988, the last time the team won a national championship.

But when it comes to lighting the No. 1 sign atop Grace Hall, that parallel is not merely speculative.

Design professor Robert Sedlack was a resident assistant in Grace during his senior year and the 1988 football season, and he played a crucial role in making the Irish’s No. 1 ranking known to all of campus.

It just so happened that I was an RA on the 11th Floor of Grace and had the keys to the penthouse,” he said. “So lighting the sign fell on my to-do list, and I had to go up in the morning and the evening to turn it on and off each day.”

Sedlack began his lighting duties after the then-No. 2 Irish jumped ahead of then-No. 1 UCLA following a 22-7 victory against Navy and the Bruins’ upset loss to Washington State. He said he and his friends began preparing to celebrate that change shortly after it happened.

“Once it looked like we were going to achieve that No. 1 ranking, some buddies of mine built the sign out on the roof of Grace,” Sedlack said.

They took a page out of the book of Fr. Gerry Lardner, Grace Hall’s rector at the time and a Notre Dame graduate student during the team’s 1973 championship season. The tradition of the No. 1 sign began after that season, when it was initially placed outside Moreau Seminary, University Architect Doug Marsh said.

“Fr. Gerry was a great rector and we had a good group of RAs that year, so he wanted to kind of redo (the sign) and so the guys rebuilt it,” Sedlack said.

But the relighting of the sign came as something of a surprise to the first three midseason seniors Sedlack and his 1989 classmates experienced.

“Our freshman year was so awful … a guy once offered my roommate $10 for a pair of tickets he tried to sell for the last game of the season,” Sedlack said. “You fast forward to the 1988 season and the undefeated record we were experiencing.

In less than 24 hours, a 38-0 wallop of Wake Forest on Senior Day and losses by the top-2 football teams in the country led the Irish to a perfect 11-0 record and their first No. 1 national ranking in the BCS era.

All this excitement combined with unseasonably warm weather made for “an incredible weekend,” said Mike Seamon, director of Game Day Operations.

“The perfect weather, Senior Day and the undefeated record all contributed to it being one of the best home football weekends anyone can remember,” he said. “It was a wonderful opportunity for the Notre Dame family to celebrate both the seniors and the special season we have been experiencing.”

Seamon said this was one of the most special Senior Day celebrations in recent memory due to strong student support for the football team and its seniors.

“It was evident that the student body shares a mutual, special affinity for the team, and vice versa,” he said. “Couple that with an undefeated record, and it made for a particularly special and memorable day in Notre Dame history.”

Website fosters faith

By TORI ROECK
News Writer

The Notre Dame Alumni Association launched a new website, FaithND, to extend the University’s spiritual resources beyond campus in an effort to fill a void for religious guidance online.

Spirituality program director Angie Appleby Purcell said the site is available to people of all faith traditions interested in exploring Catholicism, even if they are not affiliated with the University.

“As a Catholic university steeped in rich tradition, with wonderful resources of faculty, staff, students and alumni trying to live the University’s mission in terms of how to be a person of faith, a Catholic community into the world, we want to be able to...
QUESTION OF THE DAY:
What did you do on Saturday night?

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

Ben Yao
freshman
Hanlan Hall
“I don’t remember much. The details are foggy. But there was a pineapple involved.”

Blanca Foncillas
junior
McGlinn Hall
“Celebrating with my fellow Notre Dame friends.”

Daniel Delaney
sophomore
Dillon Hall
“I ran with my roommates to Stonehenge, sang the fight song, sang the Alma Mater, etc.”

Jason Popp
junior
Duncan Hall
“Shouted ‘We’re No. 1!’ not nearly enough times.”

Ray Zhao
freshman
Duncan Hall
“I slept.”

Thor Herkes
freshman
Fisher Hall
“Me and Fisher Hall took over Stonehenge.”

THE NEXT FIVE DAYS:

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

**Thanksgiving Break**

**Tuesday**
- **Women’s Basketball**
  Purcell Pavilion at the Joyce Center
  7 p.m.-9 p.m.
  ND vs. Mercer

**Wednesday**
- **Men’s Basketball**
  Joyce Center
  12:30 p.m.-1:30 p.m.
  ND vs. Washington

**Thursday**
- **Thanksgiving Dinner**
  North Dining Hall
  12 p.m.-3:30 p.m.
  New items on buffet menu.

**Friday**
- **Men’s Hockey**
  Compton Family Ice Arena
  7:30 p.m.
  ND vs. North Dakota.

**Saturday**
- **Football**
  Los Angeles Coliseum
  8 p.m.
  ND vs. USC
Students inspire women through online forum

By MADDIE DALY
News Writer

Several women at Saint Mary’s have embraced their unique role as women’s college students in spreading the word about women empowerment worldwide by contributing to the Smart Girls Group (SGG).

Sophomore Victoria Wilbraham, who serves as SGG’s vice president and director of communications, said the group is an online community designed to connect, inspire and empower girls on an international level through writings in a daily blog, The Loop, and a monthly magazine, The Smart Girls Guide.

“Our motto, ‘Be Smart, Share Smarts,’ encourages girls to share their passions with others,” she said. “We do this through The Loop and The Smart Girls Guide, both of which are fully run by high school and college girls.”

Wilbraham said SGG currently involves 110 girls from 15 colleges and seven different countries in its online empowerment work, but the organization is looking to expand at Saint Mary’s, Notre Dame and beyond.

“We will be launching a campus program in January,” she said. “The Campus Smart Girls will be a place where girls from different colleges around the country can come and share what is going on at their school.”

Senior Monica Murphy began writing a monthly column for the online magazine, titled “Dear Smart Girl,” after Wilbraham and SGG founder Emily Raleigh, two of her close friends, shared their passion and vision for SGG and its global mission with her.

“I quickly came on board and currently write inspirational columns for the magazine,” Murphy said. “I want girls to embrace all that they were created to be and to understand that they are invaluable.”

Freshman Keeley Frost, who heads the Saint Mary’s Campus Program blog and will be featured on the cover of the magazine’s November issue, said the blog covers happenings at Saint Mary’s, Notre Dame and South Bend.

Frost said becoming involved with SGG and its emphasis on confidence, strength, courage and power helped her learn about herself as well as the ability of young women to empower each other.

“Girls have great potential to serve the world and make a difference in the lives of all other women around us,” she said. “By joining the Smart Girls Group, I realize the confidence I have in my life and how I can use it to inspire others.”

The SGG’s online magazine offerings serve to inform members of the Saint Mary’s community who may not know about the organization or its mission, Frost said, and all Belles are invited to help strengthen the College’s involvement in the SGG community.

“The magazine comes out monthly with amazing articles written by other Smart Girls, so this campus chapter is a great way to get the word out about SGG to the Saint Mary’s community,” Frost said. “I am so excited for it to develop into something extraordinary.”

Murphy said she is proud to be involved with an organization that strives to promote the power of women.

“It is a true blessing to be a part of a ministry offering hope and light,” said. “Join us on this incredibly journey as we transform the minds and lives of girls across the world.”

As part of the group’s involvement guarantee, Wilbraham said all girls interested in becoming part of SGG are welcome to do so and can contact her at toriwilbraham@thesmartgirlsgroup.com for more information.

Contact Maddie Daly at mdaly6@nd.edu

Group creates book for community center

By ANN MARIE JAKUBOWSKI
News Writer

Members of Notre Dame’s Student International Business Council (SIBC) are collaborating with the Robinson Community Learning Center of South Bend to create and market a children’s book that will bring sustainable income to the center.

The project, called “Every Child Has A Story,” was started by senior I-Ming Archbold in the spring of 2011 as part of the Global Development section of SIBC, a subset of the popular business club that focuses on social and community issues.

“I started it to bring the Learning Center a sustainable revenue source while at the same time empowering the children there by giving them a way to make a difference,” Archbold said. “The idea for a children’s book project made sense because the children at the center can write and illustrate it, and we can market it and get profit for the center.”

Archbold said he works with four other students in the project group and visits the Robinson Center once or twice a week to work with the children on the story.

“There are about 20 children between the ages of 7 and 11, and we separated them into groups to come up with ideas and then write and illustrate the story,” Archbold said. “We wanted all of the stories to be children’s work, so we tried to lead them in the right direction and then give them freedom.”

A major goal of SIBC is to help students get experience in different aspects of business, Archbold said, and this particular project blends the Global Development subset with marketing concepts.

“The project started under the Global Development subset, and then shifted to be more marketing based,” Archbold said. “Within SIBC, the Global Development aspect used to be international-based projects, but now it’s more about nonprofit social entrepreneurship concepts, so that’s what we’re focusing on now.”

The group has already submitted the first draft of the book to CreateSpace, Amazon.com’s online publishing platform, which they will use to self-publish the book.

“One of the stories and illustrations were finished, the stories were typed and the illustrations were scanned,” Archbold said. “We digitized the book into a PDF and CreateSpace reviews it and makes sure it meets printing specifications, so once we meet the formatting requirements we should be able to begin printing right away.”

While the initial publishing process will require SIBC funding, the long-term goal will be an entirely self-sustainable product that will benefit the center for years to come, Archbold said.

“The project fits well with SIBC’s mission statement, which is ‘Peace through Commerce.’ If you look at peace in a structural sense, like helping the needy within each society and working to ending that structural inequality in America, you can see how this benefits the community in that way,” he said. “We’re trying to give kids of a lower socioeconomic status reasons to be proud of themselves, and show them that they can accomplish things on their own and set high expectations for their lives.”

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Faith

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to senior year, and tickets for the Miami-Notre Dame game at home were going for $1,000 each.

Between his freshman and senior years, Sledlack saw how Tim Brown won the Heisman Trophy his ju-

nior year and leave the team somewhat in limbo when he graduated.

“I think we thought we’d be OK [without Brown], but I don’t think anybody thought we’d be the best in the coun-

ty,” Sledlack said.

“You could make the argu-

ment that my classmates and I were at Notre Dame dur-

ing the best years for Notre Dame football,” he said. “Our claim is that you can’t under-

stand how incredible it is to win a national champion-

ship having not had a crappy freshm-

en year.”

Sledlack said he feels this year’s team has followed a similar trajectory in its long-

awaited return to national prominence.

“We were awful three years ago, so to suddenly have such a great team is exciting,” he said. “I’m really thrilled, most thrilling for the team.”

Sledlack said he still takes pride in his former duty as an RA, bringing his wife and children to take pictures on Mod Quad, telling students about his experiences and sharing photos and emails with classmates.

“I feel proud to be asso-

ciated with [lighting the sign],” Sledlack said. “Grace was a fantastic dorm with a good crew of RAs, and we got along well with our rector. Not unlike this year, it was a magical season.”

Marsh said the 8-foot-tall sign atop Grace now remains lit so long as any Irish sports team is ranked No. 1 in the nation. Prior to its lighting Sunday, the sign was most re-

cently lit for the University’s fencing, women’s basketball and women’s soccer teams. The last time it was lit in honor of the football team was in 1993, when the Irish topped the Associated Press poll.

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GameDay

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The ideal conditions brought a perfect storm of about 115,000 fans to cam-

pus on gameday, Seamon said, and pregame attrac-

tions on campus also drew in large numbers of visitors Friday and Saturday.

The Friday tour had a season high of more than 5,300 visitors, and the pep rally was standing-

room only, he said. “The player walk on Saturday was absolutely packed the entire way from the Guglielmino [Athletics Complex] to the

Stadium.”

Seamon said the lopsided final score helped minimize traffic on campus.

“Post-game traffic was much better and more man-

ageable this weekend given that the game was clearly decided early on in the con-
test,” he said.

According to a press re-

lease, the Indiana State Excise Police arrested 36 people on 49 charges this weekend. Officers appre-

hended 32 minors on 39 charges, including illegal possession or consump-

tion of alcohol and the pos-

session of a false form of identification.

Two men were arrested af-

ter a large fight broke out in the C1 parking lot. The men were preliminarily charged with battery, public intox-

ication, battery on law en-
forcement and resisting law enforcement. According to the press release, one Excise Police officer was injured while breaking up the fight. Officers also arrested two adults on drug possession and paraphernalia charges.

Arrest statistics from Notre Dame Security Police were unavailable at press time.

Now, as the stadium moves into its offseason, Seamon said he and his

Game Day Operations team will work to make the Notre Dame football experience even better for next year.

“As has been our typical practice the past few years, we will spend the next sev-

eral weeks reviewing the season from several different angles and we will identify how we can build upon the program for next season,” he said.

To provide feedback on the game day experience or suggestions and comments for next season, fans can visit gameday.nd.edu.

Contact Anna Boarinini at aboarinini@nd.edu

Award

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uses his research ideas in part as a basis for his curriculum and in-
cludes majors from multiple col-
leges, he said.

“It may be one of the more mul-
tidisciplinary classes to be offered on campus,” Chavla said. “Students from each discipline then are focused on how we can think about data and healthcare, how data in healthcare can lead to more personalized healthcare, more cost-effective healthcare.”

The South Bend healthcare community has been responsive to the research and the class, Chavla said, and many local leaders in the industry have worked with the class, including executives from Michiana Health Information Network and the chief information officer of Beacon Health System.

Chavla said this kind of outside interest and involvement is impor-
tant to the class as well as demon-
strating to his design students how his interest in his work, especially with the cre-

ation of its new initiative, the arti-
ficial intelligence machine known as Vought.

IBM popularized its Watson machine by pitting it against top human competitors on the televi-
sion game show “Jeopardy!” but its capabilities are much greater than that, Chavla said.

“(The class) is sort of emblematic of the work that Watson is doing. The machine is a cognitive system which brings in data and infor-

mation from a variety of sources, processes it and delivers it in a vi-

able form,” Chavla said. “That’s what we are trying to create in the classroom environment, where you have people from different disciplines, different backgrounds, different expertise working on projects together and then deliver-

ing a framework that would make a difference to healthcare.”

The class is split up into several groups that work on semester-long projects with the goal of operat-

ing at the intersection of medicine and big data research, Chavla said. Project topics include studying patient scheduling issues, read-

mission rates and global health partnerships.

Contact Kevin Noonan at knoonan2@nd.edu

Sign

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“Every morning I grab my

iPhone on the side of my bed, and I read the reflection and the

prayer and the saint of the day, and many people start their day

with that first step,” Purcell said.

More than 9,000 people have

signed up for the daily email subscription thus far, Purcell said.

Another important feature of the website is the ability to submit prayer requests at the Groto, a service that existed even before FaithND but is now streamlined.

The Association received more than 24,000 of these requests last year, Purcell said, and they still manage to light a candle for ev-

ery one.

“The Groto is a significant part of the spiritual imagination of people who are formed here,” she said. “They can’t be there in that sacred space, but they certainly can allow us who are here on campus to pray on their behalf.”

While most of these services fall under the sphere of prayer, the FaithND website includes three other sections: Live, Serve and Explore.

The “Live” section provides monthly themes for reflection on how to live a life of faith, Purcell said.

“This month, because we’re very mindful of November be-

ing All Saints’ Day and remem-

bering holy people in our lives, we’re focusing on the call to ho-

liness, not from the standpoint

of ‘I have to be a Mother Teresa,’ but, ‘In my daily life, how am I called and how can I make deci-

sions based on how to be a bet-

ter, more holy person?’” she said.

The “Serve” section focuses on ways to give back to the commu-

nity of faith, Purcell said.

“(It) talks about how through our faith we are called to ser-

vice through Catholic Social Tradition, what does that look like, how are we at Notre Dame forming the body of church?” she said.

The “Explore” section ad-

dresses the intellectual aspects of faith, Purcell said, and it strives to answer the questions, “How do we explore the Catholic intellectual side of what we offer on campus, and how can that

inform us as we move forward in life?”

Purcell said FaithND was developed after months of re-

search on the spiritual desires of the Notre Dame community, es-

pecially those of young alumni.

“This came about ultimate-

ly from our constituency, our larger Notre Dame family, inter-

ested internally, as to where Notre Dame could help them in continuing to grow in faith,” she said. “It was really a mandate from our constituency and our Notre Dame family.”

Those interested in exploring resources available through FaithND can visit faith.nd.edu

Contact Tori Roeck at vroeck@nd.edu

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Notre Dame Catholic Radio

Catholic Faith, Purcell said.

“Some...
Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — The manslaughter charges brought against two relatively low-ranking BP rig workers in the deadly Gulf of Mexico disaster may be as far as federal prosecutors are willing to go. Or maybe they intend to use the two men to work their way up the corporate ladder.

The Justice Department has said only that its criminal investigation is still going on. As a result, others are left guessing about prosecutors' intentions.

"Either there simply isn't evidence that anybody higher up was involved, or the department has concluded the only way it's going to make its case against more senior corporate officers is if it charges and eventually obtains cooperation from the two workers," said David Uhlmann, a University of Michigan law professor and former chief of the Justice Department's environmental crimes section.

A federal indictment unsealed last week charged BP rig supervisors Robert Kaluza and Donald Vidrine with botching a crucial safety test before the workers' deaths and pay a fine of people and companies.

"BP agreed last week to plead guilty to four criminal charges, including violations of the safety and health protection laws, and to pay $4 billion in fines and civil penalties, and it has agreed to pay an additional $5 billion to the states, local governments and some tribes," the department said.

Two and a half years after the blast, they are the only individuals charged directly in the tragedy, despite a string of government investigations that spread fault among a host of people and companies. BP agreed last week to plead guilty to charges related to the workers' deaths and pay a record $4.5 billion. But none of the company's onshore engineers or executives were accused of wrongdoing in the indictment.

Shaun Clarke, one of Kaluza's attorneys, said the narrow focus of his client's indictment doesn't jibe with the widely accepted conclusion that "multiple failures at multiple levels in multiple companies" led to the blowout.

"It would have taken a lot of courage after spending three years and tens of millions of dollars investigating to go back to the White House and say, 'You know, Mr. President, we can't really find a person to blame.' Instead, they decided to scapegoat two people who were just out on the rig doing their jobs," Clarke said.

Natural Resources Defense Council President Frances Beinecke, who served on a presidential commission charged with investigating the explosion and subsequent spill, said the disaster resulted from "systemic failures" that raised concerns about the entire drilling industry's safety culture.

"You can fault two people for this accident, but you cannot leave it there," she said. "You have to look at what's happening throughout this industry." That commission concluded the blowout was the product of "several individual missteps and oversights" by BP, rig owner Transocean Ltd. and cement contractor Halliburton, with mistakes made both on the rig and on shore. The panel also found that government regulators lacked the authority, resources and technical expertise to prevent the mistakes.

Over the weekend, civilian casualties in Gaza rose sharply after Israel began targeting the homes of what it said were suspected militants. Two such strikes late Monday killed five people — a father and his 4-year-old twin sons in northern Gaza and two people in the south, medics said. Jamal Daloo, who lost his wife, a son, four grandchildren and five other members of his family in an attack Sunday, sat in quiet mourning Monday next to the ruins of his home, his face streaked with tears.

"The international public opinion witnessed the facts," he said, speaking as his 16-year-old daughter, Yara, was still missing under the rubble being cleared away by bulldozers. "This does not require my words." Egypt, the traditional mediator between Israel and the Arab world, was at the center of a flurry of diplomatic activity Monday. Egyptian intelligence officials met separately in Cairo with an Israeli envoy and with Khaled Mashaal, the top Hamas leader in exile.

Hamas wants Israel to halt all attacks on Gaza and lift tight restrictions on trade and movement in and out of the territory that have been in place since Hamas seized Gaza by force in 2007. Israel demands an end to rocket fire from Gaza and a halt to weapons smuggling into Gaza through tunnels under the border with Egypt.

With positions far apart on a comprehensive deal, some close to the negotiations suggested Egypt is first seeking a halt to fighting before other conditions are discussed. They spoke on condition of anonymity because the talks are in a sensitive stage.

"It would have taken a lot of courage after spending three years and tens of millions of dollars investigating to go back to the White House and say, 'You know, Mr. President, we can't really find a person to blame.' Instead, they decided to scapegoat two people who were just out on the rig doing their jobs," Clarke said.

"We want a cease-fire along with meeting our demands," Mashaal said. "We want a cease-fire along with meeting our demands."
Glorious food

Katie Heit
Sports Writer

As the leaves continue falling and the South Bend weather remembers that it is fall, not winter, I am reminded of why November is my favorite time of year.

No, it isn’t because of the beautiful colors of the leaves or the brisk breeze in the air. It isn’t even because November brings a top-ranked Irish football team, though watching Notre Dame fight for victory has definitely improved this particular November.

No, the reason I love November is plain and simple—food.

Yes, I said food. Thanksgiving is only two days away and I can already taste the vast meal that will be laid before me. I’ve been looking forward to stuffed turkey, homemade cranberry sauce and fresh rolls straight from the oven. A table full of pumpkin, pecan and apple pies. A meal to be remembered dreamt of and missed for an entire year to come. A meal that will only be matched by the one I will be partaking in next Thanksgiving. A meal that takes all day to prepare and lasts for weeks to come. A meal that has not one, but two turkeys placed upon its table.

People often ask me when they find out Thanksgiving is my favorite holiday. They name Christmas, the Fourth of July, even my own birthday and ask why those days aren’t better than Thanksgiving. The answer is still food. While I love my grandmother’s homemade cinnamon rolls, they don’t hold a candle to a hot, steamy roll covered in pumpkin butter. I love grilling out, but I can do that all summer. Grilling is not reserved for the Fourth. As for my birthday, there’s only so much cake you can eat before you get sick. The turkey remains satisfying for weeks, the cranberry sauce will last as long as I can bring myself to preserve it and it doesn’t take much to bake another pumpkin pie to complete the meal once you’ve polished off the first three.

There are plenty of other things I appreciate about my favorite holiday. I love watching football with my dad and my brother. Playing in the fifth annual Turkey Bowl with family and friends. Hiding in my house while thousands of others battle for Black Friday deals. All of these things complete the wonderful holiday that is the day of thanks. And I am grateful for all of these things and many more.

When it comes down to it, though, when I think of Thanksgiving I think of food, wonderful food. I give thanks that I have been blessed with a full table and a loving family around me. More than anything, though, I give thanks for the poor turkey who gave his life for my Thanksgiving table, and for all the turkeys who have sacrificed themselves for me throughout my past 19 days of feasting.

On behalf of all the turkeys preparing for your own feast, happy Thanksgiving and bon appetit!

Contact Katie Heit at kheit@nd.edu

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

Chartering a new course

Adam Newman
Science Potentia Est

Charter schools may be the most controversial development in American education in the past decade. With the release of successful pro-charter documentaries such as “Waiting for Superman” and “The Lottery,” the conversation about the actual effectiveness of charter schools has been questioned as different statistics and studies have created a vigorous debate over an effort to save American education.

Charter schools are schools that are publicly funded but are administered by groups other than local school districts. These groups are held to accountability standards while being allowed the flexibility to experiment with different learning modules without needing to negotiate with teachers’ unions. Many charter schools often have to rely on fundraising or donations from private foundations to make initial capital expenditures and to meet their annual operating costs.

Charter schools encompass a diverse set of innovative schools. Some charter schools, such as the SEED School in Washington, D.C., provide “24-hour” support by serving as a boarding school for low-income children from grades six through 12, almost exclusively African-American (Tobin, 2009, p.66). Many charter schools take advantage of their increased power in the contract process with staff because charter schools do not negotiate with a union. For example, the Harlem Success Academy, a charter branch in Harlem, New York has a one-page contract with few specifics as to teacher protections and allows for individual teachers to be fired immediately. This is compared to the contract in the New York Public Schools, which in 2010 was 167 pages, and is filled with what teachers can and cannot do during the established school hours and the established school year (Brill, 2011, p.14).

This allows charter schools much more flexibility to extend the school year, extend the school day and have teachers provide more support time than a normal public school.

The authoritative study on charter schools was released by the CREDO group at Stanford University in 2009 and covered roughly 70 percent of all charter schools students. The study revealed that 17 percent of charter schools produce better outcomes than traditional public schools (CREDO, 2009, p.7). 50 percent of the charter schools nationwide have results that are no different from the local public schools and 37 percent deliver learning results that are significantly worse than public school (CREDO, 2006, p.7).

While the reviews of charters from the national level may not have shown charters to be more effective than public schools, researchers have found that charter schools located in urban areas, such as Denver and Chicago, tend to do better than their public school peers (Augur, Parag, Parthak and Wolf, August 2011). Moreover, charter schools that have been around for longer periods of time tend to be more effective. Five years is the amount of time that charters need to display whether or not they can be as effective, or even more effective than their local public school (Sass, 2006).

With charter schools, the policy should be clear. Each charter school should be given five years to prove that they are effective. If the numbers and data do not show that it is on par or better with local competitors then it should be shut down. On the flipside, the school districts should allow the groups that run the best charter schools that are proven to be effective the opportunity to expand and take over the poorest performing schools. Hence, the best schools could expand and the worst would close down.

This is an extremely pragmatic idea that would immensely benefit children, but it will never happen because of the politics in education, specifically the fight that would come from the teachers unions. The idea of a charter school coming into a public school and changing it would be seen as an “anti-union” move. It would be fiercely protested and because teacher’s unions are so powerful at the local level, would not happen as a result. The unions would have a legitimate reason to protest, but even with a legitimate reason, doing so would be placing their interests ahead of what is best for students.

This is a reoccurring theme in their protests against reforms to save American education.

In politics, there is a saying that goes “an ideologue believes what works right; a pragmatist believes what works is right.” For too long ideology has driven how America delivers education rather than what works. There are many groups that benefit from the status quo in American education, and unfortunately American students are not one of them. But by identifying the best charter schools, and allowing them to expand while closing the ineffective charter school, American education can begin to improve. Unfortunately, this type of change is impossible, because as too often in education, appetite and ambition prevails over knowledge and wisdom.

Note: Much of the content came from a Foresight Research Paper.

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

EDITORIAL CARTOON

QUOTE OF THE DAY

“I celebrated Thanksgiving in an old-fashioned way. I invited everyone in my neighborhood to my house, we had an enormous feast, and then I killed them and took their land.”

Jon Stewart
American political satirist

Submit a Letter to the Editor | Email obsviewpoint@gmail.com
LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

True Notre Dame

Dear Editor,

I wanted to share with you and all of Notre Dame a story about Brian Kelly.

My co-worker’s 5-year-old daughter had to do a school report on the 100 Year Flood that happened here in Louisville back in 1937. In her attempt to find someone to interview, she found a 92-year-old Ursuline nun. Having lived through the flood, she welcomed the little Catholic girl in for her questioning and interview.

When they were all done, she and her mother were getting up to leave and the discussion of football came up. Turns out the sister is a huge Notre Dame fan. She told them to hold on a second, and went to her study and pulled out a media guide. Stuffed inside was a letter, and a signed picture, made out to her, signed by Brian Kelly. Coach Kelly also included a Beat Miami pin.

According to the nun, before the Miami game, she had written a letter to Coach Kelly, not asking for an autograph, but instead, to tell him to “run the ball, stop throwing it.” She said she watches every game and paces the floor with her walker. She has a Kelly green rosary — a Notre Dame one — that she prays with every game.

I thought the story was touching in a couple ways. This is true Notre Dame, first in the fact that a 92-year-old woman paces with her walker and rosary in hand. I can relate to this, since my grandmother is 96 years old, and still watches Notre Dame football (and basketball) every weekend. If she could pace the room, I am sure she would.

The second touching part of this story, is that Brian Kelly took the time to respond to her. Maybe there is more to the story, and maybe she is a booster, or something. But for Kelly, in the throes of the season, to take the few minutes to write her a response letter and send her some Notre Dame gear defines the man. I don’t see Nick Saban, Lane Kiffin or Urban Meyer doing something like that.

This is Notre Dame. Go Irish! Let’s go boys, finish what you started. Beat USC!

Michael Driscoll
Class of 1998
Louisville, KY
Nov. 19

Thanks for reporting

I want to thank Anna Boarini for her Nov. 14 article, “Lecture explores Church teachings.” I am grateful for her fair reporting of my St. Mary’s College "Theology on Fire" series lecture "The Church and Same-Sex Attraction" which I gave the previous night.

In spite of concerns voiced by some present and former SMC faculty members that my presence and presumed views would be too “controversial” and “isolating,” I found the larger than usual audience of mostly students both attentive to and respectful of what I said. I am grateful that — at least among the SMC students and others who attended — “diversity” and “tolerance” also included me, a person with whom some members of the audience apparently came prepared to disagree.

As a Saint Mary’s dad of 1999 and 2007 (and a Notre Dame dad of 1997 and 2005), I am pleased that undergraduate students at Saint Mary’s (and Notre Dame) are still being taught to see, hear, think and decide for themselves what is true!

Philip Sutton
Class of 1973
South Bend, IN
Nov. 19

US plays big, silent role in Gaza

Though the rockets and bomb blasts are almost 7,000 miles away, the turmoil in Gaza is not far removed from U.S. interests. In fact, with its economic heft, the U.S., as a seemingly silent superpower, is a larger player in the chaos ensuing now than perhaps either Israel or the Gaza strip.

But as Israel has intensified air strikes and bombs in retaliation to Hamas-launched rockets from Gaza, the U.S. response has spoken as to what side the American taxpayers will be supporting.

While President Barack Obama has said it would be “preferable,” according to the Associated Press, for violence to not exist, he has consistently defended Israel’s “right to defend itself.”

But according to the New York Times, Gaza health officials have reported at least 600 injuries and 70 deaths since Wednesday and Israel has reported 79 injuries and three deaths, the human rights violations being brought upon the people of Gaza by Israel are not things the U.S. should endorse.

While the initial violence of the rocket launch is not condonable, Israel’s response — the response sponsored by the taxpayers of America — is certainly not either, and coupled with the history of aggression and blatant disregard of civilian, women and children’s lives, the U.S.’s strategic oblivion is one that goes against the very value of democracy that allied Israel with the U.S. in the first place. Glad Sharon, the son of former Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, called for the “flattening of Gaza” in an op-ed written for the Jerusalem post.

“We need to flatten entire neighborhoods in Gaza,” he wrote. “Flatten all of Gaza. ... There should be no electricity in Gaza, no gasoline or moving vehicles, nothing.”

The U.S. has a strong, vested interest in Israel — an interest so expansive (and expensive) that it is willing to overlook important aspects of democracy, such as human rights, to secure its own best interest in an utterly undemocratic process.

Israel has received about $115 billion in U.S. aid, and continues to receive about $3 billion a year, making it the largest recipient of U.S. aid since World War II. According to a Congressional Research Report prepared for the U.S. Congress, the Bush administration approved a 10-year, $30 billion package for Israel’s Foreign Military Financing grant, which Obama has continued.

The very Iron Dome system, the system that has intercepted 245 rockets for Israel since the recent burst of violence, is largely funded by the U.S., which provides an additional $70 million for it per year, according to CNN.

While it is incredible that this technology protects Israeli civilians, does the U.S. government value their lives more than Palestinian’s? Though a 2011 Gallup poll found that 63 percent of Americans supported Israel over Palestine, it is worth a closer look as to whether cozying up to Israel solely because of its “democratic” roots is worth the fiscal and humanitarian costs.

A democracy is not simply electing leaders, and by turning a blind eye to these injustices, the U.S. is further distancing itself from other Middle Eastern nations at a time in which diplomacy is most needed.

This article originally ran in the Nov. 19 edition of The Oracle serving the University of South Florida.

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

Philip Sutton
Class of 1973
South Bend, IN
Nov. 19

YOU WRITE

How would you like to start one?

Be a columnist next semester. Email obsviewpoint@gmail.com to apply.
By ANKUR CHAWLA
Scene Writer

As everyone’s favorite festival of food is almost upon us, I felt it necessary to go through some of my favorite foods to eat on Thanksgiving Day.

1 – Gravy: With it works. Whether you are just looking for something warm to wear when South Bend’s weather gets its act together and reminds us that the weather here really is pitiful, or you’re gearing up for an ugly sweater party, ugly sweaters are about to make an entrance back into the public scene. When we were little children, the ugly sweater from Aunt Mary that our mothers made us wear was absolutely dreadful. It was especially bad if your whole family had matching ugly sweaters, hopefully no photographic evidence exists. However, college changes people. Students are ready to take risks and experiment. Some may wonder if that sweater was really that ugly or now realize that the man makes the sweater, the sweater does not make the man. For the sartorially inclined in our midst, the ugly sweater is an affront to style. It is a crime of aesthetics. However, I am here to argue that the ugly sweater is a celebration of the change piece from falling leaves to falling snow. It is only worn during the happiest time of the year, the season of joy, and, of course, presents. And, who doesn’t like presents? That’s right, only the Grinch. Secondly, who doesn’t love a giant snowflake pattern with a bunch of random geometric shapes all in symmetry? It is the equivalent of the grown up version of making a paper snowflake, but you can wear it. To find and wear such an ugly sweater shows that you have confidence and no matter what you wear you can rock it. Immediately upon wearing such a sweater, you become that much more attractive, nigh irresistible. Caution: Women may flock to you; I am not liable for any injuries and/or deaths occurring as a result of your impressive sense of style.

Finally, ugly sweaters are so comfortable. They are the male equivalent of yoga pants, or so I’ve been told. It is as if you were encompassed by the warmth of furs, in sweater form. People less fortunate than yourself look on in envy and wonder, “How is he able to cut down that tree with such ease and comfort?” You reply “My power lies in the odd-looking reindeer on my chest.” Onlookers stare in awe. People ask, “Who is that guy?” I claim he is a man of the season. A man of style.

Contact Ankur Chawla at achawla@nd.edu

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The 10 Best Foods to Have for Thanksgiving

By ANKUR CHAWLA
Scene Writer

As everyone’s favorite festival of food is almost upon us, I felt it necessary to go through some of my favorite foods to eat on Thanksgiving Day.

1 – Turkey: It’s just not Thanksgiving without turkey. It’s definitely the “key” to a great Thanksgiving dinner.
2 – Turkey: It’s just not Thanksgiving without turkey. It’s definitely the “key” to a great Thanksgiving dinner.
3 – Pie: One of my favorite desserts. The beauty of pie is the countless varieties and seasonality of flavors. The best types for Thanksgiving include pumpkin, pecan and sweet potato. Pecan is my personal favorite if anyone is feeling generous and wants to share.
4 – Cranberry Sauce: I do not understand why cranberry sauce is not used on everything I eat, but someone declared that Thanksgiving is the one day a year where it is on my dinner table. I’m thankful for that.
5 – Stuffing: While not my personal favorite side, most people I have talked to have expressed their opinion that stuffing is the best part of Thanksgiving. I don’t see it, but I guess if you don’t have a duck and/or chicken to stuff a turkey with it works.
6 – Gravy: Without gravy, the potatoes, stuffing, turkey and biscuits create far too dry a dish. While some may say cranberry sauce solves this, the diversity of flavors, particularly one more compatible with potatoes is certainly a necessity.
7 – Mashed Potatoes: There is not much one can say about mashed potatoes, and yet everyone knows of its deliciousness and the fact that it is a turkey dinner staple. Be sure to make it fresh though, a boxed mash is a disappointing mess.
8 – Chinese Food: Always the contrarian, I have been known to partake in alternative Thanksgiving feasts flocking to the one type of restaurant open in my hometown, the local Chinese place. Nothing says Happy Thanksgiving like Kung Pao Chicken.
9 – Pizzazz: Every family has experienced the disaster Thanksgiving where the turkey catches fire or falls flat on the floor. Also for those of you stuck on campus for the holiday, pizza is never a bad alternative.
10 – Turducken: This week’s episode of Chopped featuring Thanksgiving-themed ingredients had Turducken as one of the mystery basket ingredients and I was intrigued. Apparently, it is chicken stuffed in duck stuffed in a turkey. My mind was blown.

Contact Ankur Chawla at achawla@nd.edu

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The Ugly Sweater

Sean Fitzgerald
Scene Writer

Whether you are just looking for something warm to wear when South Bend’s weather gets its act together and reminds us that the weather here really is pitiful, or you’re gearing up for an ugly sweater party, ugly sweaters are about to make an entrance back into the public scene. When we were little children, the ugly sweater from Aunt Mary that our mothers made us wear was absolutely dreadful. It was especially bad if your whole family had matching ugly sweaters, hopefully no photographic evidence exists. However, college changes people. Students are ready to take risks and experiment. Some may wonder if that sweater was really that ugly or now realize that the man makes the sweater, the sweater does not make the man.

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Contact Sean Fitzgerald at sfitzge3@nd.edu

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Scene Writer

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Contact Sean Fitzgerald at sfitzge3@nd.edu

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By CLAIRE STEPHENS
Scene Writer

With an entire year of waiting after the last film, the finale of the Twilight Saga, “Breaking Dawn Part 2” was finally released in theaters at 10 p.m. on Nov. 15 (instead of midnight Nov. 16), much to the relief of pop culture across America. After the dramatic/tragic ending of “Breaking Dawn Part 1” with the violent “birth” of Edward and Bella’s baby, weak and clumsy Bella is at last a powerful vampire.

The strength in this last installment, which received better reviews than any of the previous movies, is its artistic choices in changing the novel into screenplay. “Breaking Dawn Part 2” glosses over some of the lengthy parts of the book — such as Bella’s descriptions of her new life as a vampire — to get straight to the action. The choice of shots conveys her thoughts as bella’s descriptions of her new life as a vampire/human child, from a baby to elementary-school aged child rather quickly.

The dialogue of this final film is surprisingly scattered with funny moments. The humor kept the finale from feeling too emotional, weighty and melodramatic and rewarded fans of the books with those awkward and hilarious moments between the characters they’ve come to know and love beyond film characterization.

The bulk of the story is devoted to the Cullen clan’s newest problem: the royalty, papacy and mafia of vampires, the Volturi. This time they are after Edward and Bella’s daughter. Wanting to protect her and avoid being executed by the Volturi, the Cullens gather their vampire friends from all over the world to and stand in battle against the Volturi. Dozens of new international characters with varying, interesting gifts are added to the story. Though their powers seem to be that of superheroes rather than of vampires (control of electricity, the natural elements, mind control, etc.) their presence adds some interest to the story.

As in the books, the Volturi want to fight and will fight. From here the film completely strays from the book into a fight between the entire Volturi and their guard versus the Cullens and their witnesses. Ignoring the bizarre nature of violence and dismemberment in the series, those 10 minutes are the most thrilling and interesting part of the movie, because not even book readers know what is happening and what will happen next. This move was genius, because fighting actually gets to happen, and major characters are killed in the process, proving that this really isn’t the book anymore and anything can happen. Even less expected is after 10 minutes of crazy, unpredictable violence, it turns out everything the audience has just seen was the clairvoyant vampire’s futuristic vision of what would happen if the Volturi decided to fight … but none of it actually happened.

Needless to say, the 10 p.m. release fans in the theater were losing their minds the entire time, and never has there been such a vocal reaction from an audience in a movie theater.

Though not a cinematic masterpiece of our time, this Twilight ends the series well enough from the book material it had to work with, and worked even better with what it created on its own.

Contact Claire Stephens at cstephe4@nd.edu

“Breaking Dawn Part 2”
Director: Bill Condon
Studio: Lionsgate
Starring: Kristen Stewart, Robert Pattinson and Taylor Lautner

By KEVIN NOONAN
Scene Editor

10. The 1984 original helped launched Charlie Sheen’s career. Do we want to create another Charlie Sheen? Have we learned nothing?

9. The original had a budget of $4 million and holy bad graphics, Batman, you can tell. The remake has a budget of $75 million and holy this movie is obviously going to suck, Batman, this movie is obviously going to suck.

8. Since the original was released, Ronald Reagan tore down the Berlin Wall with his bare hands, torched communism after sneaking into the USSR by posing as Sylvester Stallone’s stuntman in “Rock IV,” ended the Cold War with his winning smile and did it all while wearing an American Flag pattern tie, smoking a cigar and grilling bratwurst. The Soviets aren’t coming.

7. The kids in the movie call themselves the Wolverines, which is of course the dumbest nickname ever.

6. Go Irish, suck it Wolverines, go Irish go.

5. This remake is the first major role for Tom Cruise’s son, Connor Cruise. Something something scientology stinks. That’s all I got.

4. Lea Thompson and Jennifer Grey and their respective alter egos as Mrs. McFly and the chick Patrick Swayze lifts up in that one scene in “Dirty Dancing” >>>>>> Adrienne Palicki and Isabel Lucas.

3. The most redeeming quality of the original was how straightforward American it is. In the remake, Chris Hemsworth attempts to replace Swayze (can’t be done). Hemsworth is Australian. Sleeper cell if I ever saw one.

2. The villain was originally supposed to be China but it was changed in post-production to North Korea. North Korea is led by a guy who can make up literally anything about himself that he wants and the people have to believe it (see: Kim Jong Il’s 11 holes in one in a single round of golf), but couldn’t even make up a girlfriend.

1. Patrick Swayze. Pour one out for a fallen homie.

Contact Kevin Noonan at knoonan2@nd.edu
Money drives crazy realignment

And the dominos continue to fall.
Maryland became the new-est member of the Big Ten on Monday, with Rutgers expected to follow the Terrapins in an an- nouncement sometime today.
Many believed the shifting, realigning and politics finally ended when Notre Dame an-nounced its decision earlier this fall to join the Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC) in every sport except football. But, alas, the wave continues with a further ripple effect anticipated after Maryland’s departure from the ACC.

With the movement of two more teams, we now live in a world where the Big Ten will have 14 members, while the Big 12 has just 10. Colorado and Utah apparently lie on the West Coast and the Big East will soon include football teams from Texas to California to Idaho.

But the reason for all this craziness is one thing: money. It has become more and more appar-ent with each subsequent move by NCAA conference commis-sioners, but in this most recent news, money stands as seem-ingly the only reason for the ad- dition of Maryland and Rutgers to the Big Ten.

By increasing its reach to the Atlantic coast and New York area, the Big Ten adds new mar-kets and expands its TV contract for the Big Ten Network. The Big Ten will increase its annual revenue, while also adding more leverage in its TV contract nego-tiation table.

What else can explain adding a mediocre Maryland program whose football team finished last in the ACC Atlantic Division in 2011? And while Rutgers leads the Big East at 9-1 this season, they add barely any prestige to a conference dotted with big names filled with tradition.

Are Maryland and Rutgers to blame for ditching their respec-tive conferences for the Big Ten? Hardly. When someone offers you a Thanksgiving-day turkey on a silver platter, it’s hard to turn it down.

The culprits are the confer-ence commissioners who continue to escalate this com- petition to have the greatest conference, most money and best legacy. Big Ten commis-sioner Jim Delany was not go-ing to stand on the sidelines as another conference vied in Notre Dame and a brand-new TV network.

But lost in the fray of the con-ference politics stand the fans and many athletes, who are the real losers in the majority of these decisions. They’ve become second fiddle to the money and attention the biggest confer-ences are seeking.

Sure, some schools and fans will benefit from the shifting landscape of college sports. Numerous lesser schools have elevated their program’s status by joining the Big East or Big 12. And many big-name schools are glad to make the move, like most of the top-tier programs leaving the crumbling Big East.

But in most cases, from the fan’s perspective, the disad-vantages of conference realign-ment outweigh the potential gains. Suddenly, a conference filled with aged-old Midwest rivalries has been diluted with subpar competition. Schools like Michigan, Ohio State and Wisconsin can no longer play all of their rivals every year, because they must divide their nine-game conference schedule (assuming the Big Ten expands its conference schedule to nine games) between 13 schools.

And instead of making the trek to Penn State every other year, the Big Ten teams will travel to the East Coast every year and sometimes twice a year. These games prove the most taxing for the athletes who must make the long trips and the distance virtu-ally excludes fans from attend-ing these road games.

Despite the negative results for fan bases, the conference realignment will continue, especially as the ACC will look to replace Maryland with per-haps Connecticut or maybe Louisville.

So unfortunately, there is only one question that remains. How long until the next domino tumbles to the ground?

Contact Peter Steiner at psteiner@nd.edu

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Saint Mary’s finishes sixth invitational at Wabash

“I think the small things we need to worry about... We need to hone in on those little tiny details and fine-tune them and I think the girls will see better results.”

Mark Benishek, Belles Coach

By PETER STEINER

In their first non-conference event of the season, the Belles finished sixth in the Woehner Invitational, a two-day event hosted by Wabash College.

While the Belles placed be-hind the five other schools, Belles coach Mark Benishek said it was important for his team to swim competitively after three weeks of training.

“We had a lot of hard training leading up to this meet,” Benishek said. “I think for some of them it was just a reaffir-mation of getting out there and racing again, especially on Saturday where it’s an all day meet. That takes a lot out of any swimmer. Overall, I think we had a good meet.”

Seniors Ellen Watson and Genevieve Spitter led the team on Saturday with eight-place finishes in the 500-yard freestyle and 100-yard butter-fly, respectively. Freshman Megan Knobloch also stood out with strong swims in three different events, Benishek said.

“Megan Knobloch had some great swims, especially for a first year athlete, the 50-yard free, 100-yard free and the 100-yard back-stroke,” Benishek said. “I think she had a really solid meet. That’s great to see out of any first year athlete.”

While Knobloch performed well in the freestyle events, Liz Litke had a strong showing in the various breast-stroke events. The senior cap-tain finished 14th and 18th in the 200-yard and 100-yard breaststroke events, respectively.

“Liz Litke, one of my seniors and captains, had hands down a tremendous meet,” Benishek said. “I think this exactly what she needed at this point in the season. She’s battling back from a tough season last year. She had to sit out most of the season due to a back injury so this is just great for her to see those times drop at this point in the season.”

The Belles finished the two-day invitational with 130 points, trailing the next-closest opponent Valparaiso by roughly 170 points. Carthage won the Woehner Invitational with 734.5 points.

With much of their season remaining, the Belles recognize their need to work on de-tails, Benishek said.

“I think the small things we need to worry about,” Benishek said. “Our conditioning is

Belles split pair of tournament games

Belles to a victory in their first game of the season. Bias had a career-high 17 points for Saint Mary’s. Freshman forward Krista Knapeck chipped in 16 points in her first-ever college contest, while freshman forward Emily Page added 14 points to the vic-tor’s score.

The victory marked the fifth straight season-opening win for the Belles and earned the Belles a chance to play in the tournament’s championship game. Unfortunately for Saint Mary’s, host Wheaton was too much to handle as the Belles dropped a 62-42 decision. Bias again led Saint Mary’s in scor-ing, putting up 15 points in the defeat. Bias and Knapeck were both named to the All-tournament team.

Saint Mary’s next takes on Anderson on the road tonight at 7:30 p.m.

The Observer accepts classifieds every business day from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Notre Dame office, 1304 South Dining Hall. Deadline for next-day classifieds is 3 p.m. All classifieds must be prepaid. The charge is 5 cents per word per day, including all spaces. The Observer reserves the right to edit all classifieds for content without in-quiring.
By VICKY JACOBSEN  
Sports Writer

Thanksgiving break begins this afternoon for many stu-
dents, but the No. 5 Irish will remain on campus to host
tonight’s game against the Mercer Bears.

Mercer (3-0) has a five-
game winning streak going
to back to last season, which is
the third longest streak in the
country (only Oklahoma with
eight and Minnesota with
seven have won more consec-
tive games).

So far, Mercer has avoid-
ed both buzzer-beaters and
blow-outs, beating Beavard,
Troy, and Jacksonville St. by
seven, six, and eight points,
respectively. This is the Bears’
first 3-0 start since 1999.

Irish coach Muffet McGraw
said she did not have a spe-
cific game plan based on
Mercer’s style of play, and will
instead trust her team’s style
to take care of the opponent.

“I think at this point in the
season we really want to
concentrate on us and trying
to feel like we’re executing,
we’re running the stuff we
want to run, defensively we’re
in the right spots,” McGraw
said after Notre Dame’s 94-50
win over UMass on Sunday.

Even after a dominating
performance in their home
opener, McGraw said she
would like to see an improved
defensive effort from the Irish
specific game plan based on
their own style of play.

“Think at this point of the
season we really want to
concentrate on us and trying
to feel like we’re executing,
we’re running the stuff we
want to run,” McGraw
Irish coach

(2-0) on Tuesday.

“Will see if we can do a
little better job getting some
changes and helping each
other a little bit more, so I
would say defensively we’ve
still got some work to do for
Tuesday, but offensively I
think we’re headed in the
right direction,” she said.

Although McGraw still has
tweaks for her defense, she’s
pleased with the harassing
frustrating style of defense
that has tripped up oppo-
nents so far.

“We’ve really been working
hard at double-teeing, run-
ing at the ball, and trying
to make our defense get the
offense to be really uncomfort-
able,” McGraw said. “That’s
really our goal, and I thought
we did a pretty good job of
that. I was disappointed we
didn’t take more charges, I
think that’s something we’ve
really got to work at overall,
but I thought we had a re-
ally good awareness today, of
where the shooters were.”

The Irish might be playing
without sophomore guard
Madison Cable, who is deal-
ing with foot pain after miss-
ing most of last season with
stress fractures in both feet.

ND VOLLeyball

Irish face non-conference test against Bobcats

By LAURA COLETTI
Sports Writer

The Irish are looking to re-
bound from a Big East tour-
nament upset this Friday
when they take on Ohio
State.

Notre Dame (20-8, 13-2
Big East) faces the Bobcats
(20-10, 14-2 MAC), with Ohio
State coming off of its own con-
ference tournament disap-
pointment. It was stunned
by Northern Illinois in the
semifinal round of the MAC
tournament after earning
the No. 1 seed.

South Florida defeated
the Irish in the quarterfinal
round of the Big East tour-
nament after entering at the
No. 3 seed. Both teams will
be looking to return to their
winning ways on Friday.

“We are all pretty disap-
pointed with what happened
at the Big East Tournament
but there is nothing we can
do about it now,” Irish junior
outside hitter and captain
Andrea McHugh said. “The
biggest thing for us right
now, is to make our practices
great for our match against
Ohio State on Friday.”

McHugh said it’s not al-
ways easy for teams to have
a positive mentality after
an upset, but the Irish are
spending this week focus-
ing on working through the
disappointment and get-
ting ready for this match, as
well as the rest of their
postseason.

“I think it’s hard to bounce back
from an upset sometimes,
because you look at the hard
work you have put in through-
out the season, and then to
go home on the first day of
the tournament is frustrat-
ing and disappointing,” she
said. “But, it’s so important
to work through adversi-
ty and come into the gym
with more motivation and
focus as a team so we can
be successful.”

Ohio will be especially
motivated on Friday, be-
cause much of their chance
at a berth in the NCAA tour-
nament is dependent on the
result of their match against
Notre Dame.

“They are a bubble team
and they have to beat us in
order to have a chance at
making it (to the post-sea-
sion), so they are going to
be fired up and motivate
can ready to face us on Friday,”
McHugh said.

As for what the Irish need
to do in preparation for the
match, McHugh said the
team needs to concentrate
on getting back to basics.

“It really just comes down
to the simple things like
communicating on the
court and taking care of
the ball on every play,” she
said.

Last weekend, the Irish
had three players garner All-
Big East accolades. Outside
hitter Toni Alugbue and right
side hitter Jeni House, both
sophomores, were named
to the first team, while ju-
nior setter Maggie Brindock
earned a spot on the second
team. This was Brindock’s
second consecutive year
being named to the second

The Irish and Bears tip
off at 7 p.m. today in Purcell
Pavilion.

Contact Laura Coletti at
lcoletti@nd.edu
Irish look to break through against A-10 foe

By MATTHEW DeFRANKS

Irish face North Dakota in top-10 matchup

By JACK HEFFERON

HOCKEY

Irish look to break through against A-10 foe

By MATTHEW DeFRANKS

Irish face North Dakota in top-10 matchup

By JACK HEFFERON
Notre Dame prepares for in-state matchup

By JOSEPH MONARDO
Sports Writer

After rolling past Michigan State with a 3-0 win Sunday, the Irish will continue their NCAA tournament run against another familiar Big Ten foe. No. 16 Notre Dame will host No. 16 Indiana in Alumni Stadium on Sunday in the third round of the national tournament.

The Irish (17-3-1, 5-2-1 Big East) opened championship play in the second round against the Spartans. After a slow start Notre Dame notched two first-half goals before adding a third in the 80th minute to secure the victory. Playing at the same time, the Hoosiers (12-5-3, 3-2-1 Big Ten) defeated Xavier 4-1 to advance to the third round. The matchup with the in-state opponent represents a difficult task for the Irish to top. Irish coach Bobby Clark said. “Indiana is a team that could win the national championship,” he said. “This is a very hard game. We’ve got a very hard bracket. I think if we can get past this one we are in really good shape. I think this will be the hardest game of our way in. So we’ll see.”

The two teams faced off once in the regular season, with Notre Dame taking the 1-0 victory in Bloomington, Ind. In the September contest Irish senior defender Grant Van De Casteele scored the game-winner in the 71st minute. In the upcoming outing, Notre Dame will have to handle the Hoosiers with some new faces on the game against Michigan State due to injury and his status for the third-round game is uncertain. Junior defender Luke Mishu will miss the matchup with Indiana after receiving a red card in the 73rd minute against the Spartans. Following a collision in the Notre Dame penalty box, Mishu and Spartans junior midfielder Wesley Curtis became entangled in a shoving match. Both players were ejected.

“Obviously it’s a big disappointment,” Clark said. “Luke’s a great kid, but it just shows you, discipline is so important in winning games. It was only going to help them and not help us, that was the disappointment. But we’ll see. We’ll have a look. We’ve got players. [Senior defender] Eric Tilley came in and did fine [against Michigan State]. We’ll see how Andrew O’Malley is. He should be getting closer next week.”

Irish junior defender Grant Van De Casteele, who was the disappointment, said, “This is a big game.” Clark said. “Anytime we play Indiana, if anything is going to be the start Sunday for O’Malley. Notre Dame is 7-2-4-1 all-time against Indiana but the Irish have fared better under Clark, whose teams hold a 6-6-1 record against the Hoosiers. In the last three years Notre Dame has two wins — both in Bloomington — and one scoreless tie.

“This is a big game,” Clark said. “We can’t get caught up in looking at it like it’s one game away from the College Cup. I think it’s a matter of just continuing to focus on the next game that’s in front of us. We’re doing our part to make sure they’re focused on the game.”

Notre Dame will face a familiar playoff foe when it plays Florida State, as the Irish and Seminoles met in four consecutive NCAA tournaments from 2006 to 2009. The Irish beat the Seminoles in the semifinal round in 2006 and in the quarterfinal round in 2008 and 2009, while the Seminoles won the 2007 semifinal matchup.

“If [Florida State] is steady and a real solid team, Waldrum said. “You don’t get a No. 1 [regional] seed for being average. They have enough experience with these guys, and we’ll have our hands full.”

Florida State is paced by senior forward Tiffany McCarty, who leads the team with 15 goals, and sophomore midfielder Dagny Brynjarsdottir, who is second on the team with nine goals. Junior goalie Kelsey Wys, who holds a 0.67 goals-against average, has been a standout in goal for the Seminoles this season.

Waldrum said the keys for Notre Dame to pull off the upset are strong defense and opportunistic plays on offense. “We just have to be good on the day like we have been,” Waldrum said. “We have to be good defensively like we have been and take advantage of the opportunities we create. If we continue to do that, we’ll have a good chance to get past them.”

Notre Dame will meet Florida State in quarterfinal action Friday at 7 p.m. at the Seminoles Soccer Complex in Tallahassee. Fl.

Contact Joseph Monardo at jmonardo@nd.edu

Irish to face No. 1 seed Seminoles

By BRIAN HARTNETT
Sports Writer

Notre Dame will look to advance to the College Cup for the 13th time in program history when the Irish battle Florida State in the quarterfinal round of the NCAA championships on Friday night at the Seminole Soccer Complex in Tallahassee, Fla.

Notre Dame (16-5-2, 8-1-1 Big East) advanced to the quarterfinals after beating No. 2 seed Florida State 2-0 at Pressly Stadium in Gainesville, Fla., in third-round action Sunday. The victory over Florida came two days after the Irish came from behind to dispatch No. 3 seed Wake Forest 2-1 in a second-round battle.

Irish coach Randy Waldrum said he was pleased with the efforts of his defense, which allowed one goal against top-10 opponents.

“We’ve been really good defensively for a while now, and we just continue to get better and believe in ourselves,” Waldrum said. “Outside of the one goal we gave up to Wake Forest, we pretty much handled [junior] Katie Stengel, one of the best forwards in the country, and we handled [junior forward] Adriana Leon and Florida.”

On the other end of the field, Notre Dame seems to have found its stride defensively, as the Irish have accounted for seven goals in three NCAA tournament games.

“Going into the tail end of the season, the last two or three games, we struggled to score goals,” Waldrum said. “It was good to get two goals in each of the games over the weekend, and hopefully we’re finding our way offensively at the right time of the year.”

Despite Notre Dame’s recent success on the pitch, Waldrum stressed the need for his team to remain focused as it heads into its matchup with the Seminoles (19-3-2 ACC).

“I’m trying to get this young team to understand that there’s not another day to win if they don’t take care of it now,” he said. “We can’t get caught up in looking at it like it’s one game away from the College Cup. I think it’s a matter of just continuing to focus on the next game that’s in front of us. We’re doing our part to make sure they’re focused on the game.”

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Contact Brian Hartnett at bhartnett@nd.edu
I don’t think even Brian Kelly could have seen this coming in his wildest dreams. But here we are — the Irish are No. 1, and they have one game left. Vanquish USC, and the dream ride continues right on to a final destination of Miami. But don’t expect the 7-4 Trojans to roll over. USC is athletic everywhere, especially with receivers Marquise Lee and Robert Woods. With Lane Kiffin’s job hanging in the balance, the Trojans will play their most inspired football of the season. But the Irish defense will give first-time starting quarterback Matt Barkley, but it would be a credit to the players’ resolve, not the coach’s button-pushing.

At Notre Dame, Kelly continues to push the right buttons. His team is No. 1. His recruiting class is No. 3. The program’s graduation rate is the highest in the country. He continues to go about his job the right way.

As Kelly’s future looks as clear as a crystal football, Kiffin’s is losing air as quickly as a deflated one.

Contact Andrew Owens at aowens2@nd.edu

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

The Irish have survived close game after close game and blowouts, it comes down to this. No gray area — if Notre Dame beats USC, it will play in the BCS National Championship game and attempt to cap off one of the great historic seasons, especially after the top two teams fell last weekend. The Irish have survived close game after close game this year, even when it looked bleak. Why would this weekend be any different? USC might be without Matt Barkley and could be on the verge of firing Lane Kiffin, but this is the Trojans’ Super Bowl. Brian Kelly uses that mantra often when describing opponents preparing to play the Irish, but it is especially true this weekend. The 7-4 Trojans can ruin their archrival’s dreams of winning a national championship, and that alone should be enough of a reason to play inspired football. But this Irish team is on a journey, and the road leads to Miami.

FINAL SCORE: Notre Dame 28, USC 17

And then there was one. One game to the BCS National Championship game. One game to an undefeated season. One game against a hated rival that would enjoy nothing more than to demoralize everything Notre Dame has worked for this entire season. But this Notre Dame team is something special, proved in big road wins against Michigan State and Oklahoma, grinders in Stanford and Pittsburgh and blowouts in Navy and Wake Forest.

Every player on this Irish team knows what is at stake and will play his most inspired football of the season against a team that will be missing its proven leader in Matt Barkley. Notre Dame will head to the national championship in style.

FINAL SCORE: Notre Dame 30, USC 7
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CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Jodie Foster, 50; Meg Ryan, 51; Allison Janney, 53; Ann Curry, 56

Happy Monday! Balance change and you will succeed. Follow the path that intuively feels right. Don’t share your secrets or take part in gossip. Stick to your game plan and execute what needs to be done with precision. Integrity and pride will be your pathways to a better future. Speak from the heart and you will make a difference.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2012 | THE OBSERVER

CROSSWORD | WILL SHORTZ

35 Sea 26-Down: 37 Masculine side
38 One be be be be found in each of the answers to 17, 28, 54- and 63-Across
34 Cousins of folks
15 Strange
16 Narrow Intel
17 Cow, pigs and chickens
19 Equivalent of about seven cases of beer
20 Water
21 Deep-toned
23 Sister
24 Location of Mount McKinley
29 Mural surface
31 The Up (major-league nickname)
32 Buddy of The Beverly Hillbillies
33 10AM: ABR
67 Direct (to)

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

ALTO WROTE VES
JOHN MAGAZINE
ROD REGGIE
SUITE PEA
PETA PROPERTIES
GASULTRY PALE
BEAUTIES ME
ARVIND NOVELTIES
TWIN ELO
ITALIAN BASS

SUDOKU | THE MEPHAM GROUP

Level: 2

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3 4 1 2
4 1 2 3

It’s the Great Pumpkin Pie, Charlie Weiss!

JUMBLE | DAVID HOYT AND JEFF KNUREK

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

SEVTZ
SEYVT

Now rearrange the clued letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Work area:

Birthday Baby: You are passionate, proactive and imaginative. You act fast and aggressively.

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No. 1 Notre Dame travels to Los Angeles for chance to play in BCS National Championship Game

By ANDREW GASTELUM
Sports Writer

For the first time ever, Notre Dame is No. 1 in the BCS standings. But given one final road test against a USC team that started the year at No. 1, the Irish have not had too much time to celebrate with a national championship berth at stake.

“You know what, they didn’t even talk about [being No. 1],” Irish coach Brian Kelly said in his Sunday teleconference. “A couple of the guys were congratulated by a couple of the trainers, and their first response was ‘Yeah, but it doesn’t mean much if you don’t beat USC,’ so that’s really all I needed to hear.”

USC (7-4) began the season as the title favorite with No. 1 Notre Dame has a better record, but it has lost three of its last four to Arizona, No. 5 Oregon and No. 17 UCLA on Saturday. Several media outlets have also reported that Barkley (3,273 yards, 36 touchdowns) will miss Saturday’s season finale with a sprained shoulder. Despite the absence of the prolific signal-caller, Kelly said he is still concerned about an explosive Trojan attack.

“No, because they have great weapons. [Sophomore receiver Marquise] Lee and [junior receiver Robert] Woods and the running back situation, they’ve got two great backs. So we’re going to have to defend all of those players, not just one. Certainly if Barkley is playing, which we’ll prepare for him like he is playing, the offense is still going to be about getting the ball to their playmakers. So it really won’t change much in terms of what we do.”

Lee has been at the center of recent Heisman talks and leads the country with 1,605 passing yards. In a 39-36 loss at Arizona on Oct. 27, Lee had a breakout performance with 345 receiving yards and two touchdowns on 16 receptions. Woods have put together a solid 2012 campaign as well with 721 receiving yards and 10 touchdowns after going for 1,292 receiving yards last season.

When asked how the Irish defense could slow down USC’s dynamic duo, Kelly had one major focus. “Tackle, tackle, tackle, tackle and tackle,” he said. “They’re incredibly skilled with the ball in their hand, and if they have a lot of space, they’re going to make you pay. We felt that we had to — against Oklahoma — limit some of the catches and the extended runs. We’ll have to do a great job tackling, and that will be paramount to our success against USC.”

USC has won nine of the last 10 meetings with Notre Dame (11-0), with the only Irish win coming in their last visit to the Coliseum in 2010. Last season, the Irish gave up 443 total yards and turned the ball over three times in a messy 31-17 loss at Notre Dame Stadium.

“I don’t think [the players] look at USC as being no. 1,” irish coach brian kelly, took a calculated handling of his third-year counterpart, USC coach Lane Kiffin’s poor beginnings — a lot of criticism during his first 30 months on the job. He doesn’t know how to coach. USC coach Lane Kiffin’s childish antics have just about worn out their welcome at a school still recovering from the public-relations hit of severe NCAA sanctions. Following a 38-28 loss to crosstown rival UCLA on Saturday, even a victory over the No. 1 Irish might not be enough to save his job.

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