ND encourages liberal arts education

By MARISA IATI
News Writer

While technology jobs dominate the top 10 of U.S. News’ list of the 100 Best Jobs of 2013, Notre Dame continues to emphasize the value of a liberal arts education.

Notre Dame requires students to complete 14 liberal arts courses in different disciplines in order to graduate, according to the university. In 2010, there were 2,333 students enrolled in the College of Arts and Letters. In 2011, there were 2,333 students enrolled in the College of Arts and Letters.

Dean Peter Kilpatrick of the College of Engineering said technology education and the liberal arts do not need to be mutually exclusive. He said a liberal arts background benefits engineers because it is important they can analyze, think creatively and develop designs.

Engineers with such skills are in a unique position to handle public policy, Kilpatrick said.

“They should have more senators and congressmen and presidents who are engineers, not just lawyers,” he said. “I think engineers very much need an appreciation for the social impact of the work that they do in terms of building infrastructure.”

Students outside the College of Engineering should be exposed to quantitative analysis, Kilpatrick said. He said several departments within the College of Arts and Letters are starting to introduce these concepts.

“A lot of the engineering students that go into analytical jobs could just as easily be business students who are properly skilled in analytics or even Arts and Letters students who take coursework in quantifying things, data analytics, that sort of thing,” Kilpatrick said.

Second fire in almost three months hits College

By JILLIAN BARWICK
Saint Mary’s Editor

Fire trucks and emergency response vehicles park outside Moreau late Sunday night, trying to control the fire and minimize damage.

For the second time in less than three months, Moreau Hall on Saint Mary’s campus caught fire Sunday night.

Saint Mary’s Security and Notre Dame Fire Department were alerted of a fire in the O’Laughlin Auditorium on Sunday night at 10:59 p.m., according to a press release from director of media relations Gwen O’Brien.

“Security officers were the first to respond to the alarm and found the curtains at stage left on fire,” the press release stated. “The sprinkling system above the curtains was working and a security officer used a fire extinguisher to further contain the fire.”

When the Notre Dame Fire Department arrived at the scene, they found the curtains were still on fire, according to the release.

“Clay Fire Territory and the South Bend Fire Department also responded to the call,” the release stated. “No one was in the auditorium when security and the fire crews arrived. The cause of the fire is under investigation.”

Fr. Lies honored with award

By CATHARINE OWERS
News Writer

Fr. William Lies, vice president for Mission Engagement and Church Affairs, has always admired the work of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

But for the Catholic Charities Archdiocese of Washington and Catholic Charities USA, Lies himself is also admirable. The organization presented him with a “Keep the Dream Alive” award in Washington D.C. on Jan. 12 at Holy Comforter-St. Cyprian Roman Catholic Church.

“The award honors King by presenting awards to contemporary heroes working to keep his dream alive,” according to a press release from Catholic Charities USA. “I’m humbled and honored to have received the award,” and I accepted it for the Center for Social Concerns and on behalf of Notre Dame,” Fr. Lies said. “Especially as it was given in the name of Dr. King who has been a hero of mine and of so many people.”

Election tickets announced

By MEAGHAN DALY
News Writer

The following tickets were announced: sophomores Billy Christy and Patrick Roemer; juniors Alex Coccia and Nancy Joyce; junior Michael Masi and sophomore Timothy Mores Billy Christy and Patrick Roemer; juniors Alex Coccia and Nancy Joyce; junior Michael Masi and sophomore Timothy Mores Billy Christy and Patrick Roemer; juniors Alex Coccia and Nancy Joyce; junior Michael Masi and sophomore Timothy Mores Billy Christy and Patrick Roemer; juniors Alex Coccia and Nancy Joyce; junior Michael Masi and sophomore Timothy Mores Billy Christy and Patrick Roemer; juniors Alex Coccia and Nancy Joyce; junior Michael Masi and sophomore Timothy Mores Billy Christy and Patrick Roemer; juniors Alex Coccia and Nancy Joyce; junior Michael Masi and sophomore Timothy Mores Billy Christy and Patrick Roemer; juniors Alex Coccia and Nancy Joyce; junior Michael Masi and sophomore Timothy Mores Billy Christy and Patrick Roemer; juniors Alex Coccia and Nancy Joyce; junior Michael Masi and sophomore Timothy Mores Billy Christy and Patrick Roemer; 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Today’s Staff

News
- Jillian Barwick
- Bridget Freeney
- Sarah Swiderski

Graphics
- Sara Shoemaker

Photo
- Kelly McDonna

Sports
- Mary Grace
- Mike Monaco
- Sam Gross

Viewpoint
- Caroline Scharf

Corrections

The Observer regards itself as a professional publication and strives for the highest standards of journalism at all times. We do, however, recognize that we will make mistakes. If we have made a mistake, please contact us at (574) 631-4541 so we can correct our error.

Temperatures reached a high of 50 degrees Monday, melting most of the snow on God Quad and the rest of campus. Today’s temperature is predicted to reach up to 58 degrees before plummeting to below freezing Thursday.

Thursday
- Christian Unity Prayer Service
  - Keenan Hall
  - 6 p.m., 7 p.m.
  - Service in honor of Christian Unity Week.

Friday
- Ski and Snowboard Weekend
  - Rosemarie Memorial
  - 4 p.m.
  - Hit the slopes in Harbor Springs, Michigan.

Saturday
- Time to Write Workshop
  - 203 Coleman-Morse Center
  - 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
  - All writers welcome.

- Women’s Basketball
  - Joyce Center
  - 2 p.m.-4 p.m.
  - Notre Dame takes on Cincinnati during the Pink Zone Game.
Students prepare for Winter Career Fair

By CHARITHA ISANAKA
News writer

Suit up: The Winter Career Fair will bring potential employers to the Joyce Center today to network with Notre Dame students.

This event, which will last from 4 to 8 p.m., is open to all students.

According to Go Irish, the University’s Career Center site, 146 firms will be attending the event. They will represent a variety of industries, from healthcare IT, financial, nonprofit, accounting, engineering, marketing, government, higher education, consumer product, sales and other industries.

Kevin Monahan, assistant director at the Career Center, said he is unaware of other career fairs with such immense opportunities like the University’s.

“I don’t know of any other career fair that will offer the diversity of employment and internship opportunities as the Winter Career and Internship Fair [today],” he said.

Monahan said Acco Brands, Cerner, Liquidity Services, SAP, Catholic Charities, Jarden Home Brands, Lutron, Nuveen and Greenlee Textron are all new organizations that will be attending the fair this semester.

Thirty-five employers will be interviewing potential student hires the day after the fair and many others will be returning later in the semester, Monahan said.

Prior to the Winter Career and Internship Fair will be the Diversity Reception from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. in the Monogram Room in the Joyce Center.

According to the Career Center website, the Diversity Reception was “created as a venue for organizations that embrace diversity to connect with students through networking, has continued to grow in participation.”

The site also advertises the numerous participants in last year’s reception. “Over 150 students participated, along with more than 200 recruiters representing over 100 organizations,” the website stated.

“We have a four-part blog series available at irishcareerman.wordpress.com that provides tips on preparing for the career fair,” Monahan said. “The series contains steps on how to prepare for the fair, best utilize one’s time at the fair, steps to take after the fair and common mistakes.”

Visit Go Irish to view the most current list of employers.

Contact Charitha Isanaka at cisanaaka@nd.edu
SCREENPEACE FILM FESTIVAL

Thursday, Jan. 31
5 Broken Cameras 7 p.m.
A first-person perspective on the nonviolent efforts in a Palestinian village to stop the building of settlements in the West Bank. Discussion led by Atalia Omer, Assistant Professor of Religion, Conflict & Peace Studies.

Friday, Feb. 1
Ai Weiwei: Never Sorry 6:30 p.m.
Chinese contemporary artist Ai Weiwei combines art and activism like no one else. Discussion led by Lionel Jensen, Associate Professor, East Asian Languages and Culture.

How to Start a Revolution 9:30 p.m.
A documentary focused on Gene Sharp, a leading scholar on nonviolent resistance, whose approach has shaped movements worldwide. Discussion led by David Cortright, Director of Policy Studies at the Kroc Institute.

Saturday, Feb. 2
The Loving Story 6:30 p.m.
Tells the story of Richard and Mildred Loving, whose landmark 1967 civil rights case ended race-based restrictions on marriage in the U.S. Discussion led by Richard Pierce, Associate Professor of History and Africana Studies.

Normal! 9:30 p.m.
An unconventional "film within a film" about the challenges facing young people in Algeria. Discussion led by Alison Rice, Associate Professor of French.

All screenings at the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center.
WATCH TRAILERS AT KROC.ND.EDU

All films are FREE but ticketed. Tickets available NOW
performingarts.nd.edu
Ticket Office 574-631-2800

SCREENPEACE FILM FESTIVAL is presented in partnership between the Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies and the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center.
Lecture highlights morality of international law

By CAROLYN HUTYRA
News Writer

Steven R. Ratner, the Bruno Simma Collegiate Professor of Law at the University of Michigan, spoke at Notre Dame Law School Monday afternoon. His lecture focused on the phrase “thin justice” and its association with the morality of international law.

“Global justice remains on the most compelling issues of our time,” Ratner said.

He followed by explaining that philosophy, political science, anthropology, history and international law are among a number of disciplines central to debates on global justice. One of the main contributors to the construction of theories on global justice stems from philosophy. “Philosophers of global justice have more often than not stayed clear of legal institutions, and I think this neglect is unfortunate because international law transforms policy prescriptions and ethical ideas into binding norms and implementation processes,” Ratner said.

Unfortunately, modern-day lawyers, especially those involved in academia, Ratner said, cast global justice to the side. These lawyers exhibit a tendency to draw a parallel between global justice and those facing marginalization.

“Without ethics the law of global justice is ad hoc,” Ratner said.

Ratner described his project as having a twofold thesis. The first deals with core norms of the international legal system he believes are central to laying the foundation for a world order based on justice.

Even if they came about as a result of a political compromise, power of politics, and historical contiguities, (core norms) largely already conform to an ethical vision of justice, one that I term thin justice,” Ratner said.

The second aspect of Ratner’s thesis surrounds present-day laws and institutions. Their fatal flaw rests in their inability, in some cases, to even meet the thin standard of justice, he said. In other cases, they simply exist and function at too great a distance from the thicker standard. In order to better examine the level of morality at which these rules operate, ethical theory can be embraced.

“I see global justice as about assigning rights and duties to global actors so that it is clear what each actor is entitled to require to do or to have.”

Steven R. Ratner
professor of law
University of Michigan

values from cultures worldwide. It is from such cultures that people can form thicker and thinner justice within a community,” he said.

Ratner, however, said he believes that society can do better than this thin justice across communities.

“I do think that the justice reflected within international law is thin in the sense that it is less dense and certainly less demanding on individuals than the justice envisioned by philosophers as that needed or domestic societies,” Ratner said.

Though this thin justice is not that toward which the world should strive, it is nonetheless a very real form of justice present in the world today. An example of such thin justice, Ratner said, is the self-determination of core international law.

“Certainly we can and should strive for thicker justice at the international level, but we must first see the moral basis of what international law already has.”

Contact Carolyn Hutrya at chutyra@nd.edu

Event raises funds for St. Baldrick’s

By KATIE MCCARTY
News Writer

In its fifth year, The Bald and The Beautiful event will attempt to shave more heads and collect more donations for cancer research than ever before, said Betsy McGovern. McGovern, who is one of five founders of the event, is the self-determining moral minimum as well as a universal idea that reflects

“Global justice remains one of the most compelling issues of our time.”

Steven R. Ratner
professor of law
University of Michigan

Last year, the event raised nearly $50,000 for the charity. Students can also participate in The Bald and The Beautiful by buying hair extensions. Students can buy a strand or more of hair extensions, and the proceeds are donated to Memorial Hospital in South Bend, McGovern said.

“Memorial has a close connection with Notre Dame, and a lot of students volunteer there,” McGovern said. “The funds we donate from the event help Memorial to build an outpatient pediatric cancer treatment center.”

The third option to participate in the event is through hair donation. The program requires eight inches of non-dyed hair that will be cut and donated to Pantene Beautiful Lengths, a charity that constructs wigs for cancer patients who have lost their hair during treatment.

“This year, we are trying to expand the event,” McGovern said. “For example, we are trying to have an event with Memorial for the pediatric cancer patients around St. Patrick’s Day.”

However, the main event — head shaving and hair extensions — will happen on April 16, 17 and 18.

“We will have the front two rooms of LaFortune set up for the event,” McGovern said. “A lot of groups come in throughout the day to participate, like sports teams. People can take initiative with regards to how they want to participate in the event.”

McGovern said the event organizers are always looking for volunteers to accommodate the donations and donators.

“This product is so amazing,” McGovern said. “We have raised nearly $150,000 for these organizations in the past four years, and this year, we want to make the event even more amazing.”

Contact Katie McCartney at kmccar16@nd.edu

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MACKENZIE SAIN | The Observer

A participant in last year’s The Bald and The Beautiful event April 4, 2012 gets his head shaved. This year’s event is scheduled for the end of April.

INFO SESSION: Computational Finance, Applied Statistics or Applied and Computational Mathematics and Statistics

Derivative Securities Trading
Commodities Merchandising
Asset Management
Structured Products Development

Business Analytics
Risk-Management Consulting
Insurance Underwriting
Marketing Analyst

If these careers interest you, join us to hear what the master’s program in ACM5 can do for you! Plus, learn more about our easy admission process for current Notre Dame and St. Mary’s students.

Wednesday, January 30, 2013
7:00 pm to 8:00 pm
154 Hurley Hall

The Master of Science in Applied and Computational Mathematics and Statistics is offered by the Department of Applied and Computational Mathematics and Statistics (ACMS).

Contact Carolyn Hutrya at chutyra@nd.edu

By BY THE JAME

Last year, the event raised nearly $50,000 for the charity. Students can also participate in The Bald and The Beautiful by buying hair extensions. Students can buy a strand or more of hair extensions, and the proceeds are donated to Memorial Hospital in South Bend, McGovern said.

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MACKENZIE SAIN | The Observer

A participant in last year’s The Bald and The Beautiful event April 4, 2012 gets his head shaved. This year’s event is scheduled for the end of April.
Students work together with SBPD

By ANN MARIE JAKUBOWSKI
News Writer

Each year, about 400 men and 100 women participate in the Notre Dame club boxing teams. During their off-seasons, volunteers from both teams have joined forces with the South Bend Police Department (SBPD) to teach the sport to local children in a biweekly after-school program.

Senior Rose Raderstorf currently serves as the program’s president, organizing Notre Dame involvement and working to improve the program further. The students’ work is part of a larger SBPD initiative to get involved with the community youth, organizing camps that give kids opportunities to learn new sports and participate in structured after-school activities, Raderstorf said.

Notre Dame students began to volunteer with the SBPD boxing club three years ago, and the program is now known as “Box Like a Champion Today.”

“The program developed when the first volunteers saw a need [at the gym] to have better role models and more coaching than what was being provided at the time,” Raderstorf said. “The first volunteers were from the men’s team, and those guys decided to turn it into a program for both club teams to get involved with.”

The gym, attached to the Grace Community Baptist Church on Harrison Avenue in South Bend, is open Monday and Wednesday. Raderstorf said the program serves both grade school and high school youth, offering cardio workouts and fundamental boxing training.

“The gym itself is split into two segments, with the younger kids first and the older group next,” Raderstorf said. “There’s a ring set up in there, and we have mitts and punching bags to practice with too.”

Most of the younger kids are just looking for a fun workout, but some of the older participants are trained boxers looking for access to equipment, Raderstorf said.

“With the grade school kids, we run laps and do a workout, and afterwards we usually do some form of boxing training, but we try to switch it up to keep them interested,” Raderstorf said. “The older group has 7th and 8th grade boys and some young adults who fight in real competitions in South Bend or Chicago, so this is an actual gym for them to train in. They get a much more intense workout.”

The police officers that run the gym know the sport and an outside coach comes in to work with the youth too, Raderstorf said.

Senior Ragan Todd, one of the women’s boxing team captains for this year, said that “[the SBPD] is a big part of the program and continuing with the sport even after school ends in November.”

“It seems like boxing is something that there’s an interest [in] with the kids, with little kids who just think it’s kind of cool and then older guys there who have the [Karate] Gloves or other titles,” Todd said. “We have [Mixed Martial Arts] fighters who are focusing on the boxing aspect of their fighting as well as younger kids who look like they don’t do any other form of exercise besides boxing.”

Both Raderstorf and Todd said one of the program’s major goals is to keep kids busy and involved in the community.

“We’re looking to give them an opportunity out of the school, an organized program to keep them safe and give them good options to pass the time,” Raderstorf said.

“Another goal is to develop good relationships with the South Bend police and police officers, and it’s definitely a good way to keep kids out of trouble,” Todd said.

“Box Like a Champion Today” is part of a larger multi-sport program that S.B.P.D. is offering at schools across South Bend. The program is not limited to boxing, with students also being involved in squash, tennis, and baseball programs.

Students in the program have been able to make friends with officers and other students from different teams, and the program has helped students improve their skills in other sports as well. Raderstorf said that the program has helped students build relationships with officers and other students, and that it has been a “great way to keep kids off the streets.”

“Box Like a Champion Today” has been a success for both the students and officers involved, with officers reporting a decrease in crime in the areas where the program is being offered. Raderstorf said that the program has been a “great way to keep kids off the streets” and that it has helped students build relationships with officers and other students.

“Box Like a Champion Today” is just one of the many extracurricular activities offered to Notre Dame students, and the program has been a success for both the students and officers involved. The program has helped students improve their skills in other sports as well, and has helped students build relationships with officers and other students. Raderstorf said that the program has been a “great way to keep kids off the streets” and that it has helped students build relationships with officers and other students.
the generous gift from Hill, a Saint Mary’s alumna and a Broadway producer. The event offers students an entire day to spend with an artist of espe-
cially high quality.

McDonald is most recently recognized for her perfor-
mance on four seasons of ABC’s “Private Practice” and a
nine-year run of the opera “Porgy and Bess,” winning her fifth
Tony Award over the summer for her portrayal of Bess. She is
also the first person under 30 to receive a Tony a
ward over the summer and Bess,” winning her fifth
performance at Juilliard’s voice program, how-
ever, she attributes all the training presumably, for virtually every
time. during her lecture, she shared her first on-stage
performance in “The King and I” and where she had never seen
the final run-thru until the night of the dress rehearsal. When the
kindness of the audience she immediately was shocked and
began crying. Lesson learned: Read the script, she said.
When it came time to apply to college, McDonald said she
applied to UCLA, USC, NYU and Carnegie Mellon. After
hearing a fellow classmate had auditioned at Juilliard, she de-
ecided to audition as well, confi-
dent she could do it.

“I loved acting and knew I wanted to be on Broadway, but I
thought I’d better [audition] with my strongest talent, which was
singing. … [Juilliard] laughed at me during my audition and
my call back,” she said.

Despite facing ridicule dur-
ing her audition, McDonald was accepted to Juilliard.

“I thought, ‘Juilliard accept-
ed me, I have to go,’” McDonald said.

McDonald was accepted to Juilliard’s voice program, how-
ever, to her dismay, it turned out to be only voice and music
while her peers had the oppor-
tunity to explore acting and
opera, she said. “I do not re-
member my first year in Juilliard for one
minute. At the time, I thought I was so far away from my road
I would never get back to it,”

McDonald said. His first musical was more than just disappointing
to the eager student she was at the time. During her lecture, she
explained how she had at-
tempted suicide during her
time at Juilliard.

McDonald said that after
being admitted to a mental
hospital and taking some time
off, she auditioned for summer
performances and began belt-
ing out songs in English, some
thing rare among her peers.

While she was there she
met a young woman from Boston. This woman went on to
work for a casting director.

She called McDonald and got
her into an audition for her
first major role in “The Secret
Garden.” Following that perfor-
mance, she finished up in the
show and graduated from
Juilliard in May 1993. She
was then cast in “Carousel,” which
opened on Broadway in the fall of
1994.

“(‘Carousel’) is one of the most special memories I have of any
show I’ve ever done because it
was the first one,” McDonald
said. “This Broadway debut
was conveniently located at the Lincoln Center, across
the street from Juilliard. There was
a feeling of talent unattended and struggling during my time there. It
was the first of everything for me.
It’s really special place in my heart.”

McDonald explained that
her drive to continue im-
proving led her to spend four
years as Naomi on “Private Practice.” “With film and
television, up until that point
I was very afraid of the camera and fully letting myself go in
front of the camera. I thought, ‘I need to get over that. Let me
do a television show,’” she
said. As for what comes next,
McDonald said she is getting
ready to record another album in
three weeks, host “Live from the Lincoln Center,” and also
begin another Broadway show
either this fall or next spring.

“I continue to be curious …
my motto is I’ll sleep when I’m
dead,” McDonald said.

As the evening concluded,
McDonald advised the young
artists in the room to continue
pushing themselves.

“Aside from not putting
limitations on yourself, get on
stage. Anywhere. You learn something every single time you
step on stage,” she said.

Contact Meaghan Daly at
mdaly01@smcmail.edu

**Actress**

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

**Liberal Arts**

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Andrew Boggess; Joe Scanlan; freshmen A
ustin O’Brien and Nick Boggess; juniors Dominic Romeo and Philip Hootsman; and freshmen Kevin Salat
and Paul Mascarrenas.

The presidential and vice
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**Ticket**

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

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**Student Government Election Timeline**

Debates  Feb. 4

Elect  Feb. 6

Runoff Debates*  Feb. 7

Runoff Election*  Feb. 11

Term Begins  April 1

*If necessary
The politics of dying: part one

Adam Newman
Science Polimics Editor

Two things are promised to every person: death and taxes. While most op-eds would focus on the second of these two, I am going to focus on the first: death.

Most Americans believe it is a moral obligation for our country to provide health care at the end of life for the elderly, even at an immense cost. Medicare, the government insurance program for the elderly, spends roughly 30 percent of its budget on care in the final year of life. The amount that we spend on end-of-life care will quickly increase in the future due to the aging of the population and the unsustainable rise in per-capita health care costs. As I have written before, America's long-term debt is driven by health care costs, especially through Medicare. If America wants to address its long-term fiscal health, it has to address health care costs. If America wants to address health care costs, it has to address end-of-life care.

The very suggestion of curbing the amount that is spent on care at the end of life angers many. Everyone will lose loved ones sometime in their life, and to think that their loved one will not receive necessary care is unfathomable.

However, as counterintuitive as it may seem, costs at the end of life can be brought down while simultaneously raising quality. One has to understand that the American health care system is a patchwork of providers that have no incentive to coordinate and are reimbursed based on the quantity of services rendered, not the quality of outcomes produced. Roughly seven in 10 seniors die from a chronic condition, such as heart disease and cancer. These diseases require many different doctors, treatments, tests and drugs. However, when doctors do not coordinate and have the incentive to utilize many tests and services, the consequence is that seniors undergo costly and expensive care at the end of their life, prolonging suffering and discomfort, while oftentimes ignoring the senior's preferences for their final weeks and days.

Not only do seniors receive poor quality care at the end of life, but they also do not die in their preferred setting. According to the Dartmouth Atlas, 55 percent of the patients who prefer to die at home surrounded by loved ones still die in the hospital. This phenomenon occurs for three main reasons. The first is that fee for service reimbursement creates an incentive for doctors to keep people alive longer and conduct unnecessary and expensive tests and procedures. At the very worst, some doctors are trying to make more money by keeping these patients as long as possible. At the very best, doctors are simply doing their best to keep people alive, but without any conversation as to how the patient wants to die.

Second, family members are usually, and understandably so, unwilling to let their loved ones die. Family members are usually not in state to make decisions about the end of life, and usually do not understand how their decisions could hurt their loved ones through painful, invasive, unnecessary medical care.

Oftentimes, people are unable to let their loved ones go, and demand every medical intervention possible without realizing the care they want may have no benefit and can lead their loved one to suffer.

Finally, patients are also part of the problem. Even for those who believe in an after life, death is scary and we usually prefer not to discuss it. Thus, when we are in a situation where we cannot make decisions on our own, it is up to the family members and doctors to make it for us.

Ultimately, the way to lower costs and increase quality for end of life care is to reimburse health care systems, such as Geisinger, to guide seniors and their families through the final years of life by having conversations as to how the senior wants to die, working to coordinate care to avoid unnecessary suffering, and ultimately working to ensure that seniors' preferences for their final months, weeks and days are fulfilled. This helps prevent unnecessary invasive procedures at the end of life while allowing seniors to die in peace and dignity.

However, the destructive nature of the politics of health care, especially related to end-of-life care, make reaching this point politically impossible. In my next article, I will explain why.

Adam Newman is a senior political science major. He can be reached at annewman3@nd.edu.

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

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Alex Wilcox
Sports Writer

This past weekend I experienced my first March for Life. My friends and I piled into a bus Thursday night and settled in for the 11-hour trek to Washington D.C.

The March for Life covers a mile and a half stretch of land from the National Mall to the steps of the Supreme Court, yet we were told it would take two and half hours to complete. With so much time allotted to cover so little ground, I was left with plenty of time to consider the many questions buzzing around in my head. When is a life considered a life? Is a life considered a life when a fetus is not yet able to feel pain? Whether it be to get better ratings or fatter pockets, this trend has to stop. As America's long-term debt is driven by health care costs, especially through Medicare. If America wants to address its long-term fiscal health, it has to address health care costs. If America wants to address health care costs, it has to address end-of-life care.

The March for Life, meanwhile, made the top story on ABC News that night, while the protest, but no one watching the news or reading the newspaper would know that. Isn't a protest with half a million followers a bigger story than a protest with just a few thousand? Both protests essentially are fighting for the same issue: life.

I soon realized the answer to this question was the intensity — dedicated to the March for Life by the media. Prior to embarking, all marchers had to attend a pre-March meeting, in which we were told how to handle any reporters or journalists. However, while we were marching, I was shocked at the apparent cold shoulder given to us by the media. There were hardly any cameras, I didn't see a single reporter, nor was I asked a single question.

Year after year the March for Life is held without a single story or report from any major news networks. This year the March reportedly had its greatest turnout yet. With this record attendance, it appears as if the New York Times reluctantly reported the "tens of thousands" who came out. Over 400,000 people participated in Friday's March for Life, more than the amount of people who attended President Obama's inauguration and much more than the 3,200 that showed up in D.C. the day after the March to protest the NRA. Yet the NRA protest was the top story on ABC News that night, while the inauguration made the front page of every newspaper across the country. The March for Life, meanwhile, made the cover of one newspaper, The Observer.

The March for Life dwarfed the NRA protest, but no one watching the news or reading the newspaper would know that. Isn't a protest with half a million followers a bigger story than a protest with just a few thousand? Both protests essentially are fighting for the same issue: life.

So why is it that the media shows such bias? Whether it be to get better ratings or fatter pockets, this trend has to stop. Stop trying to sell screaming headlines or fatter pockets, this trend has to stop. Stop trying to sell screaming headlines or fatter pockets, this trend has to stop. Stop trying to sell screaming headlines or fatter pockets, this trend has to stop.

"The worst tragedy for a poet is to be admired through being misunderstood."
Anne DeMott
Raising Voices

I believe that every person is endowed with human dignity. However, this is often violated by discrimination, violence, labor injustice, inequity of resources and the killing of innocent life. I have a responsibility to oppose actions that contradict human dignity and support those that affirm it. This absolutely means challenging abuses in the labor market, speaking out against racism, denouncing anti-immigrant attitudes and laws and rejecting homophobia. But the way I see it, this is not enough. Pope John Paul II pointing homophobia. But the way I see it, migrant attitudes and laws and reject-

In response to the recent shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School, President Obama offered insightful words: “They [the children] had their entire lives ahead of them . . . birthdays, weddings, graduations, kids of their own. This is our first task: Caring for our children. It’s our first job. If we don’t get that right, we don’t get anything right. That’s how as a society we will be judged. Can we truly say we’re doing enough to give all the children of this country the chance they deserve to live out their lives? We’re not doing enough. We will have to change. We can’t tolerate this any more. These tragedies must end. And to end them, we must change. We will be told that the causes of such violence are complex and that is true . . . but that can’t be an excuse for inaction. Surely we can do better than this. If there’s even one step we can take to save another child, then surely we have the obligation to try.” I am grateful to our president for recognizing the dignity of these children and the value of each of their lives.

Similarly, I am grateful to the hundreds of Notre Dame students and faculty who raised their voices on behalf of our nation’s unborn children by participating in the annual March for Life this past Friday. As a “pro-life” woman, my agenda is about one thing: human dignity. Sometimes, trying to support human dignity requires change, and sometimes it means holding on to traditional values. Sometimes it means some of each. It is not a liberal or conservative agenda and it is not about vilifying those who disagree with me. Human dignity. That’s all. That’s everything! An important part of affirming human dignity is showing everyone, even those with whom I disagree, respect, celebrating the beliefs we share and working together to better our world. Surely we can do better than this. If there’s even one step we can take to promote the dignity of humankind, then surely we have the obligation to try.

Anne DeMott is a senior theology major and education, schooling and society minor. She can be reached at admott@nd.edu

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

Choose love over hatred

It is simpler to vitally those who disagree with us rather than to understand them. Mr. Bradley, your viewpoint “Gazing into the Abyss” (Jan. 25), demonstrates a concerning lack of empathy for women who choose abortion. Jesus calls us to love one another without condition, while you gather stones to hurl at those you should regard as sisters.

You claim no “empathetic endeavor” makes the choice to have an abortion make sense. I assert that you lack either imagination or effort, because it is not difficult to place yourself in these women’s shoes. Picture the confusion and fright that a woman experiences, knowing her future is now cast into uncertainty. Imagine survivors of rape, facing the scary reality of bringing a child into the world. Understand the heartbreak of choosing between your life and your child’s.

You suggest that Hitler and company were not “slaughtering the innocent” and were motivated by their ideals. I contend that slaughtering the innocent is exactly what they were doing. They were driven by ambition and hatred, not “ideals.” That you empathize with men motivated by malevolence rather than women motivated by fear is worrisome. Those men did unspeakably evil acts; comparing their actions to abortion not only offends their victims but also alienates women who choose abortion.

Abortion is a tragedy. It breaks my heart to consider the children never born. I commend those who choose life over fear. We are called to love the innocent as well as the guilty. After all, none of us are innocent. We have all sinned. These sins do not make someone any less deserving of empathy, dignity and love. It is not our place to judge others. Certainly we agree that abortion is an evil. However, you believe the women are evil while I maintain that they are only human.

Your condemnation adds nothing. Instead, it sends a message to women who have had abortions: “You are worse than Hitler. You are irredeemably sinful.” Void of love and understanding, your message is a clanging cymbal, drowning out Christ’s declaration that all are welcome.

Let us choose life over death, understanding over condemnation and love over hatred. Let us be kind to one another.

Ashley Currey
sophomore
Jan. 28
No one buys CDs anymore. Not really. They are not as extinct as say, the cassette tape, but it is safe to say that the birth of Napster, iTunes and the MP3 put a quick end to the reign of the compact disk. So perhaps its time we had a frank discussion about the Bermuda Triangle of music critique, the “concept album.”

As most fans of post-1980s music can tell you, the phrase “concept album” has been overused and misused to the point of futility. The phrase has described anything from Pink Floyd’s “The Wall” to Trick Daddy’s “Thug Matrimony.”

The whole system revolves around the idea that a concept album is a collection of songs united by a theme or idea. Basically, an artist working on a concept album is a director shoots a movie. There is a consistent desire for cohesion and flow. In this loose sense of the word, very few musicians since the late 1970s have tried to make anything but a concept album. It’s part of the music culture now. Skits, tracks that flow seamlessly into the next track, intros, outros and interludes are all the illegitimate children of the concept album.

So — 1 of 4 music criticism concerns the Beatles’ “ Sgt. Pepper’s Lonely Hearts Club Band.” In our early teens, we listen and wonder why this strange artifact is not as much fun as “The White Album” or “Abbey Road.” What is the big deal? Even ELO made some albums more listenable.

Part of this might have to do with the time it was released. It might be strange to think of an album as “a you had to be there” phenomenon, but that is exactly what it was — apparently. It was an event. It was released in 1967, the most exciting and infamous year for rock and pop music. It was the heyday of Beatles hysteria, right after they decided to stop performing. It was a shift from pop to pop art. It reminded people of Andy Warhol, and many believe that what they listened to while they made love in the mud was actually something of value. Basically, it was one of the first concept albums.

This isn’t a defense or condemnation of “Sgt. Pepper’s.” Some people get it. Others do not. Some read it all about it and then get it. Some pretend to get it to preserve their self-appointed music cred. It really doesn’t matter. “Sgt. Pepper’s” was a big deal either way.

And still is. No matter how old or outdated it might seem, “Sgt. Pepper’s” is still very much part of the discussion. The “concept album” obsession has crossed over into all popular genres and continues to dominate artists’ work. Consider two of this year’s most popular releases. Frank Ocean’s major label debut “Channel Orange” is filled with TV-sound effects and commercials, giving one the sense that each new track is a different television channel or program. The themes of sexual alienation and lonely affluence semi-explain the greg, but mostly it feels forced. Such great material does not need the support of a physical cohesion.

Kendrick Lamar’s equally brilliant major label debut “good kid, m.A.A.de” has the subtitle “A short film by Kendrick Lamar.” Nearly every track ends with conversation that introduces the next track. Kendrick is presenting excerpts from his life, and the album flows like an indie film.

In a Pitchfork.com article titled “Classic Material,” writer Andrew Nosnitsky argues that “good kid” is really only assessed as brilliant on the basis of its relatedness to Nas’ “landmark debut “Illmatic.” The article is spot on and worth the read. But in reality, this whole concern really goes back to “Sgt. Peppers” and the concept album. Both Lamar and Nas’ albums were designed under the pretense that the album is more important than any individual track. Clearly, we are still obsessed with the concept album.

And how foolish to obsess over such an arcane idea. The concept album was birthed during the halcyon of the LP record. The painstaking process of switching records created a desire for something that worked as a whole — an album one could throw on, sit back and relax. If an album was just that good, one only had to get off the couch once during its duration. And if the album had a deeper artistic intent, it made the whole process more rewarding and defendable. The baby boomers wanted concept albums for reasons of convenience and validation.

But the LP is dead. So is the CD. And our mothers are blaming the rich for all the world’s problems. Albums that Rolling Stone will treat like royalty despite how clearly fast. We do not learn particularly fast.

When I ended up crafting my own album from the collection of songs, I called it “Vamos,” and it featured my 14 favorites. This self-made collection found a surprising amount of play on my iPod. Perhaps part of the allure is the freedom I was afforded in crafting the playlist. And what a beautiful direction for the album. Maybe in 10 years we will not only be choosing what to pay for albums, but also choosing what songs make up the album. Getting dizzy? Do not worry. I’m sure Bruce Springsteen will still be crafting “concept albums.”

The whole system revolves around the idea that the album is more important than any individual track. Clearly, we are still obsessed with the concept album.

But this rapid succession of music release created an interesting possibility. All in all, the band released 37 songs. This isn’t a huge number of songs to be written and recorded in a year. But all 37 songs were packaged and released — this is unusual. Typically, a band would record a multitude of material, then cut back to somewhere between 12 and 18 tracks. In this way, the band decides what the cut. Green Day, in a sense, ended up giving listeners the choice. The charge of 37 songs is less of an oddball to enjoy a juggling of substance, and more of an invitation for the listener to pick and choose. Here are 37 songs. Pick whichever ones you like. If you do not like any, chances are you are not a Green Day fan.

Maybe this was never Green Day’s plan. In fact, it most likely was not. Perhaps Billie Joe thought none of the songs were bad enough to cut. Perhaps he thought none of them were good enough to choose. Either way, Green Day ended up putting the power of the album in the fan’s hands. I ended up crafting my own album from the collection of songs. I called it “Vamos,” and it featured my 14 favorites. This self-made collection found a surprising amount of play on my iPod. Perhaps part of the allure is the freedom I was afforded in crafting the playlist. And what a beautiful direction for the album. Maybe in 10 years we will not only be choosing what to pay for albums, but also choosing what songs make up the album. Getting dizzy? Do not worry. I’m sure Bruce Springsteen will still be crafting “concept albums.”

Blaming the rich for all the world’s problems. Albums that Rolling Stone will treat like royalty despite how mediocre the songs actually are. Basically, nothing is ever moving as fast as it seems. It’s 2013 and we are still waiting for the next “Tommy.” We do not learn particularly fast.

So no, the concept album isn’t dead. Perhaps, in a few years, it will be. Free from the constraints of its original author. Free from the odious expectation of cohesion. Maybe it’s for time artists to start sending everything our way, so the listeners can decide what makes the cut.

Contact Mac Hendrickson at mhendri1@nd.edu.

The views expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.
MEMORIAL DAY
A NEW TAKE ON THE WAR FILM

By GABRIELA LESKUR
Scene Writer

Hollywood, from time to time, will come out with a war film full of pomp and circumstance that makes us think, “Wow, that’s cool.” A quiet, awe-inspiring movie theater will fill with the noise of battle as great special effects, heart-wrenching storylines, lots of Nazi butt kicking and extraordinary acts of valor light up the screen. It’s easy to forget while watching such a movie that for many Americans with family members serving in our armed forces, war is much more than that.

1991 Notre Dame graduate Marc Conklin’s touching film “Memorial Day” does well to remind us of that fact. At the beginning of the film, a young boy, Kyle Vogel, finds a footlocker of his grandfather’s, hidden away in the family barn. As he opens the box, the contents are nothing more to him than meaningless objects. “Memorial Day” illustrates through Kyle’s bond with his Opa (“grandpa” in German), that the objects in the footlocker are treasured souvenirs and represent memories of World War II.

Young Kyle Vogel chooses three souvenirs from his grandfather’s footlocker and each formerly inanimate object comes to life as Opa recounts his days as a soldier. “The truth is that though our country holds our veterans Jeff Traxler and Kyle O’Malley, two men of imposing stature who had both fought for the United States, approached Conklin with a simple plan for a film: two generations, two wars, one story.

Conklin explained at first he felt he was not fit for the job. When asked, “Do you have any military background in your family?” Conklin responded, “Sir, I’m holding a latte.” And yet, a latte-loving Minnesota screenwriter and two vigilant war veterans took an unorthodox war story and brought it magnificently to life against all odds. With no funding and a lot of heart, the small film grew and it almost doesn’t matter who’s on the other side. When asked, “Do you have any military background in your family?” Conklin responded, “Sir, I’m holding a latte.”

At first, this may seem like a silly and cliché question. Yet, I am ashamed to admit, I was just as clueless as little Kyle Vogel as to what I am supposed to remember. Heart warming and at times heart wrenching, Opa tells his grandson the horrors of war and voices his hope that Kyle will never have to experience war for himself. However, as an adult, Kyle is deployed to Iraq. It is there that Kyle truly appreciates the lessons of his Opa acquires souvenirs of his own.

The truth is that though our country holds our veterans in high esteem, many times their experiences and the immeasurable value they hold are never shared. For the people who have actually gone to war, it is far more difficult to share their stories than it is for us to watch them fictionalized on screen.

What allows for “Memorial Day” to abandon the stereotypes of the modern-day war action film is that the plot centers not simply on what happens on the battle field, but how those crucial moments of war affect soldiers even when they have returned safely home.

“The truth is that times change,” Conklin said in an interview with The Observer. “The theaters of war change, the equipment changes. But a soldier’s basic experiences have a continuous thread that binds them together.” The film not only forms an obvious and impenetrable bond between Kyle and his Opa, but the film’s road to production and sudden rising fame display the impressive bond the film has made with audiences across the country.

MEMORIAL DAY is a perfect way to start the conversation and start listening.

Contact Gabriela Leskur at gleik@nd.edu

RESTAURANT WEEK IN SOUTH BEND

By MADDIE DALY
Assistant Scene Editor

Already tired of the dining hall’s limited stir-fry bar, “authentic” Indian food and wannabe-BBQ wings? Need a break from that all-too-frequent serving of mystery meat in your Taco Bell Crunch Wrap Supreme? Thanks to downtown South Bend, you can have a taste of the area’s best restaurants at a discounted price during Restaurant Week.

The week started Jan. 21 and will run until Sunday. Participants can visit any of the 11 participating restaurants for either a multiple course meal or dinner for two for just $30, an average 60 percent discount at these fine dining spots.

Borrowing ideas from larger cities’ Restaurant Weeks, such as Indianapolis, downtown South Bend uses its Restaurant Week as a chance to fill empty tables during typically slow weeks in the middle of the coldest days of winter and the lazy summer vacation season. Mark McDonnell, president and proprietor of LaSalle Grill and president of the Downtown Dining Alliance, said this week is meant “to offer people a great deal or to come in for a trial run of restaurants they might not usually be able to afford,” especially college students, who can barely manage to save enough Flex Points for a whole semester, much less have enough cash for a fancy dinner out.

In addition to newcomers, McDonnell also said the week would be a chance for “foodies who go out on a regular basis to experience all the restaurants South Bend has to offer.” These people probably end up spending more than usual but enjoy the experience and still get more for their money. McDonnell said. In fact, LaSalle Grill actually has a new entrée made specifically for restaurant week, adding another perk for regulars and first timers alike. McDonnell said the restaurant just rolled out his new favorite item, steak top sirloin made with steak sauce, for Restaurant Week.

Despite last week’s miserable weather conditions and the resulting urge to stay at home and eat Top Ramen and Easy Mac all day, the people of South Bend have taken advantage of this money-saving opportunity by showing record attendance, McDonnell said.

“It’s been better than we’ve ever seen it,” McDonnell said, in reference to this year’s turnout.

For students hoping to catch a discounted meal in the last few days of the event, McDonnell advised calling as soon as possible to make a reservation.

“The weekend is pretty crowded, but there are still openings for the next few days,” McDonnell said.

“[Monday night] typically has 50 tables total, but because of restaurant week there are 150 — that’s three times as many people as usual.”

Whether it is a girl’s night out at The Vine, an anniversary coming up with that special someone at LaSalle Grill or snagging that chocolate fix from the South Bend Chocolate Café, this week is the perfect chance to do so at a college student-friendly price.

In case that’s not enough motivation to attend, participation can also provide food for those in need across the state. The Jordan Automotive Group and the Food Bank of Northern Indiana are sponsoring a Food for Kids Pack-a-Backpack program that uses the money from extra servings of food to supply food backpacks for elementary school children during weekends and holiday breaks.

For a full list of all 11 restaurants, visit eatdrinkdtsb.com

Contact Maddie Daly at mdaly6@nd.edu

The Independent film went on to win Best Narrative Feature at the Minneapolis/St. Paul International Film Festival and Best Feature at the G.I. Film Festival in Washington, D.C. — all from an amazing story from an ordinary Opa on Memorial Day.

“Most vets actually want to tell their stories,” Conklin said. “They’re just waiting for someone to ask, even to insist. And it almost doesn’t matter who’s on the other end of the conversation, just as long as they’re listening.”

“Memorial Day” is a perfect way to start the conversation and start listening.

Veterans Jeff Traxler and Kyle O’Malley, two men of imposing stature who both fought for the United States, approached Conklin with a simple plan for a film: two generations, two wars, one story.

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“Memorial Day” is a perfect way to start the conversation and start listening.

Contact Maddie Daly at mdaly6@nd.edu

Contact Gabriela Leskur at gleik@nd.edu
Tradition always rules Rose Bowl

By Sam Gans

Editor's note: This is the second in a 10-part series discussing the best event in sports. In this installment, Sam Gans argues for the Rose Bowl.

When people debate the best events in sports, they usually think of those that determine a champion.

But the greatest event in sports normally does not. The Rose Bowl defines college football. Not just because of the game itself, though it is normally one of the top matchups of the entire season too. But there is so much more beyond the game that makes the college football experience. The pageantry, the bands, the tradition — that is what distinguishes college football from every other sport on the planet, most of which also have supreme athletic feats but do not have the "intangibles" NCAA football does.

And the Rose Bowl epitomizes all of those intangibles.

It is the oldest bowl game in college football, with its first contest coming in 1902. It is the stage for the bowl system that has defined NCAA football for a century. "The Granddaddy of Them All" has been played every year since 1916, and all of its games have taken place in Pasadena, Calif., except for the 1942 Rose Bowl, which also was played at Duke in the wake of Pearl Harbor.

It is a place where college football fans have a true home. Those two programs played a "classic" game last year, and yet, as you may recall, those of The Observer.

To the Rose Bowl...
Rudderless Celtics move on without Rondo

Associated Press

BOSTON — Rajon Rondo was having his best season for the struggling Boston Celtics. He's averaging career highs in points and rebounds. He was voted the starting point guard for the Eastern Conference in next month's All-Star game.


Rondo is out for the season with a torn anterior cruciate ligament in his right knee that requires surgery. So coach Doc Rivers must find a replacement from a group short on point-guard experience amid a widespread feeling that the Celtics' already shaky playoff prospects are over.

He doesn't believe it.

"You can write the obituary," Rivers told reporters after Sunday's 100-98 double-overtime win over the Miami Heat. "I'm not. You can go ahead, but I'm not. We won (Sunday) and so the way I look at it is we're going to stay in there."

Lee could fill in at Rondo's position. Or Jason Terry. Or Leandro Barbosa. Or, less likely, the Celtics could sign a free agent or trade for a point guard. Their first practice without Rondo is Tuesday.

"When something like this happens, someone will find someone that's already in our locker room that's going to play terrific," Rivers said. "And I have no idea who it is."

Sunday's victory moved the Celtics (21-23) ahead of the Philadelphia 76ers by 2½ games for the eighth and final playoff spot in the East. Their first full game since Rondo was ruled out for the season is Wednesday night at home against the Sacramento Kings.

Rivers' players needed a break after their second straight double-overtime game and their third game in four days so he gave them Monday off.

In the first two — losses to the New York Knicks in Boston and the Hawks in Atlanta — Rondo had triple-doubles to bring his season total to five. No other player, not even LeBron James, has more than two. But the Celtics' losing streak reached six games, their longest in six seasons.

On Sunday, Rondo was a late scratch with what the team first said was a hyperextended knee suffered late in the Atlanta game.

But after MRI results were read, the Celtics announced that he had a torn ACL.

Still, they overcame fatigue and Rondo's absence to beat James and the defending NBA champions. "That wasn't our mindset going out there, showing that we can play the game without him," Lee said. "It was us coming together and fighting till the end. ... It just shows that we are capable of playing without him."

They've done it six times this season and are 3-3. With Rondo, they're 18-20.

The seven-year veteran is the most important player on a team with Paul Pierce and Kevin Garnett, still outstanding but past their primes.

Rondo draws defenders to him on drives to the basket, then dishes off. He's averaging 11.1 assists per game. Chris Paul of the Los Angeles Clippers is second with 9.7.

Among guards, Rondo's 5.6 rebounds per game lead the NBA and his 48.4 field goal percentage ranks third. And he's averaging 13.7 points.

Rondo "is becoming the heart and soul of this team," Garnett said. "He's coming into his own. He's had some bumps in the road, but we're trying to be supportive for him. It was a blow."

The former first-round draft choice has a reputation for being moody and stubborn. He was the subject of trade talks before the 2010-11 and 2011-12 seasons. Then there's Minnesota running back Adrian Peterson, who led the NFL in rushing with 2,097 yards, just nine short of Eric Dickerson's NFL record.

"It just depends on who's pressing," Rivers said after Sunday's game. "We had the one lineup with (Barbosa and Terry). Neither one of them really want to handle the ball until the ball gets across half court, so we let Jeff (Green) bring it up, or Paul. It's what we are."

Garnett advised Rondo not to rush back before he's ready.

"That's the first thing I told him, 'Do not play Superman,' " Garnett said.

Rivers is hoping Rondo will be ready at the start of next season. He could be, if the recovery of Chicago Bulls point guard and former league MVP Derrick Rose can serve as a guide.

Rose tore the ACL in his left knee last April 28 in the final 90 seconds of the opener of a first-round playoff series against the 76ers. He underwent surgery on May 12. He's been increasing his workload and could be ready to play in the next few weeks. That would be less than 10 months since his injury.

Then there's Minnesota running back Adrian Peterson. He tore the anterior cruciate and medial collateral ligaments in his left knee on Dec. 24, 2011 and had surgery six days later. He was back for the Vikings opener on Sept. 9, less than nine months later, and ran for two touchdowns in that game.

He led the NFL in rushing with 2,097 yards, just nine short of Eric Dickerson's NFL record.

So Rivers is hopeful.

"The NBA season usually starts in late October, giving Rondo about nine months to recover. "We've got a guy in the NFL that we can look at in Adrian Peterson," Rivers said, "and whatever he did, that's what we want to do. Because that was amazing. And that's what Rondo will do."
PGA TOUR

Tiger continues dominance with win at Torrey Pines

SAN DIEGO — Tiger Woods is a winner again at Torrey Pines, and the only question Monday was how long it would take him to finish.

Woods stretched his lead to eight shots in the Farmers Insurance Open before losing his focus and his patience during a painfully slow finish by the group ahead.

Despite dropping four shots over the last five holes, he still managed an even-par 72 for a four-shot victory on the course where he won more than any other in his pro career.

He won the tournament for the seventh time, one behind the record held by Sam Snead, who won the Greater Greensboro Open eight times. It was the eighth time Woods won at Torrey Pines, which includes his playoff win in the 2008 U.S. Open.

That one was never close.

Woods built a six-shot lead with 11 holes to play when the final round of the fog-delayed tournament was suspended Sunday by darkness. He returned Monday — a little morning restart because CBS Sports wanted to show it in the afternoon on the East Coast — and looked stronger than ever until the tournament dragged to a conclusion.

Having to wait on every tee and from every fairway — or the rough, in his case — Woods made bogey from the bunker on the 14th, hooked a tee shot on the 15th that went off the trees and into a patch of ice plant and led to double bogey, and then popped up his tee shot on the 17th on his way to another.

All that affected was the score. It kept him from another big margin of victory, though the message was clear about his game long before Monday.

One week after he missed the cut in Abu Dhabi, he ruled at Torrey Pines.

It was his 75th career win, seven short of the Snead’s all-time tour record.

“It got a little ugly toward the end,” Woods said. “I started losing patience a little bit with the slow play. I lost my concentration a little bit.”

He rallied with a two-putt par on the 18th hole to win by four shots over defending champion Brandt Snedeker and Josh Teater, who had the best finish of his career.

Like so many of his big wins, the only drama was for second place.

Brad Fritsch, the rookie from Canada, birdied his last two holes for a 75. That put him into a tie for ninth, however, making him eligible for the Phoenix Open next week.

Fritsch had been entered in the Monday qualifier that he had to abandon when the Farmers Insurance Open lost Saturday to a fog delay.

Woods effectively won this tournament in the final two hours Sunday, when he stretched his lead to six shots with only 11 holes to play. Nick Watney made a 10-foot birdie putt on the par-5 ninth when play resumed to get within five shots, only to drop three shots on the next five holes.

Everyone else started too far behind, and Woods wasn’t about to come back to them.

Even so, the red shirt seemed to put him on edge. It didn’t help that as he settled over his tee shot on the par-5 ninth, he backed off when he heard a man behind the ropes take his picture.

Woods rarely hits the fairway after an encounter with a camera shutter, and this was no different — it went so far right that it landed on the other side of a fence enclosing a corporate hospitality area.

Woods took his free drop, punched out below the trees into the fairway and then showed more irritation when his wedge nicked the flag after one hop and spun down the slope 30 feet away instead of stopping next to the hole.

He didn’t show much reaction on perhaps his most memorable shot of the day — with his legs near the edge of a bunker some 75 feet to the left of the 11th green, he blasted out to the top shelf and watched the ball take dead aim until it stopped a foot short.

He failed to save par from a bunker on the 14th, and he hooked his tee shot so badly on the 15th hole that it traveled only about 225 yards before it was gobbled up by the ice plant. He had to take a penalty drop and wound up making double bogey.

More than his 75th career win, it was a strong opening statement for what could be a fascinating 2013.

Before anyone projects a monster year for Woods based on one week — especially when that week is at Torrey Pines — remember that he just missed the cut last week in Abu Dhabi.

Woods said he wasn’t playing much differently, and would have liked two more rounds in the Middle East. Instead, a two-shot penalty for a bad drop sent him home.

Still, in healthier and happier times he usually was sharp coming after a long layoff. Throw out the trip to the Arabian Gulf, and he is.

Was this a statement?

Woods was eight shots ahead with five holes to play when he stumbled his way to the finish line, perhaps from having to kill time waiting on the group ahead. Eirk Compton, Steve Marino and Fritsch had an entire par 5 open ahead of them at the end of the round.

Associated Press

NFC

49ers respond to Obama’s concerns

NEW ORLEANS — Aldon Smith was among several players preparing for the Super Bowl who doesn’t see anything wrong with their kids playing football.

Responding to President Obama’s comments questioning the safety of the game, the 49ers’ All-Pro linebacker and a few teammates said they’d allow their sons to follow in their footsteps.

“It’s not like we signed up and thought we were going to play tennis,” Smith said Monday. “It’s a physical game. Everybody plays hard. And guys get hit sometimes. That’s what we all know coming into the game. We all signed up for it.”

“We came out to play football,” Guard Alex Boone was added.

“Football has to be physical,” while adding he believed the league and the players association were attempting to make the game safer.

“If he wants to play, he can play. He can do whatever he wants,” Boone said of having a son pursue football. “With little kids, you don’t really have to worry about them that much. But as you get older, you have to understand the game better.”

“I think the NFL is doing a great job with that right now with the little kids, try to teach them now, young, so that they understand. But it’s just foot- ball. It’s going to be physical.”

While acknowledging he’s a football fan, Obama told The New Republic he’s concerned about the violent nature of the sport — enough so that if he had a son, he’d think twice about allowing him to play.

“I think that those of us who love the sport are going to have to wrestle with the fact that it will probably change gradual- ly to try to reduce some of the violence,” he said.

“In some cases, that may make it a little bit less exciting, but it will be a whole lot better for the players, and those of us who are fans maybe won’t have to examine our consciences quite as much.”

49ers cornerback Tarell Brown called football “a dangerous sport,” but not one he would dissuade anyone from trying.

“I can understand what President Obama is saying, but at the same time, the league is putting in things (for safety),” Brown said. “It is a physical game if you are passionate about it and are trained the right way.”

San Francisco coach Jim Harbaugh joked about allowing his son Jack, now 4 months old, to follow in his footsteps; Harbaugh was an NFL quar- terback for 14 seasons.

“If President Obama feels that way, then (there will be) a little less competition for Jack Harbaugh when he gets older,” said Harbaugh, whose older brother John coaches the Niners’ opponent, the Baltimore Ravens. “That’s the first thing that jumps into my mind, if other parents are thinking that way.”

Associated Press

Associated Press

San Francisco coach Jim Harbaugh laughs during a news confer- ence Monday in New Orleans.

Tiger Woods watches his tee shot on the 10th hole during the fourth round of the Farmers Insurance Open on Monday in San Diego.
Minnesota struggles through another slide

Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS — Minnesota has developed a troubling pattern since hiring coach Tubby Smith: a midseason slide.

The Gophers are counting on a return home this week to help restore their rhythm and turn the current four-game losing streak into an aberration rather than a trend.

“Mostly mental. We have to just keep having faith,” center Trevor Mbakwe said. “We all still believe we’re one of the best teams in the country. Now we’ve just got to go out and play that way.”

In six years with Smith, Minnesota has lost only eight nonconference games. Regardless of the quality of those early victories, the Gophers have always taken plenty of confidence and momentum into Big Ten play.

But whether the cause was injuries to irreplaceable players, disruptive off-the-court issues or simply tougher competition that exposed some flaws, they have always faded — be it in mid-January, early February or a late skid into tournament time in March.

The Gophers reached as high as eighth in The Associated Press poll, but they tumbled from 12th all the way to 23rd in the latest rankings released Monday after losing on the road last week to Northwestern and Wisconsin.

“Nobody likes to lose, but it happens. That’s part of sports. We’ve got to fight through it as a team,” swingman Austin Hollins said.

They had myriad chances to win both times, but a two-game total of 92 points and a pattern of untimely fast-break-squelching turnovers led to defeats that dropped their record to 15-5 including 3-4 in the conference.

One of their problems has been a lack of production from the reserves, but in the last two games starters Joe Coleman, Hollins and Rodney Williams combined for 27 points and together shot 9 for 39 (23 percent) from the field.

“I’ve got to be more aggressive, more vocal. It didn’t help that I wasn’t hitting any shots,” Hollins said. “I thought I did a decent job on defense, but at the same time that can always get better.”

Williams had a breakthrough season as a junior, but since Big Ten play began the kind of passy offense and inconsistent scoring that hampered him his first two years has returned to the court. He’s one of the most athletenic players in the country, but at power forward he’s thinner than most of his opponents and has been getting bumped around.

The Gophers tried moving him to the wing, where he played as a freshman and sophomore, some against Wisconsin.

“We know that he’s a great player. People go through slumps like that. Unfortunately he’s gone through a little slump, but I wouldn’t be surprised if tomorrow he goes for 15 or 20 points,” Mbakwe said. “He’s a competitor. I know he’s been taking a lot of criticism. It’s not all Rodney.”

Williams was unavailable to reporters after practice on Monday.

“Something’s getting him off his game. That’s one thing that always concerns me, just staying mentally focused and not letting one play affect you in another couple of plays,” Smith said. “I just think he needs to be more active going to the glass and creating more opportunities.”

Minnesota hosts Nebraska on Tuesday and Iowa on Thursday, after a tough trip to Michigan State returns to Williams Arena for games against Illinois and Wisconsin. While the goal of a Big Ten title might be all but gone, plenty of time remains for the Gophers to re-establish themselves as one of the best in this stacked-as-ever conference and get in position for that elusive NCAA tournament win under Smith.

Smith has been sharply critical of his players after several of these recent losses, but this week his tone has been more upbeat.

“Our job as a coaching staff is to tell ‘em we love ‘em, tell ‘em how good they are and how much better they can be,” Smith said.

He added: “I still have a lot of confidence in them, if you’re asking that question. We still haven’t peaked yet. We have a lot of basketball left to play. We’ve got a lot to do. Nobody’s happy when we lose. I know I’m not.”

Izzo and Spartans look to take next step

Associated Press

EAST LANSING, Mich. — Michigan State coach Tom Izzo often described what his team lacked when it won 17 of its first 20 games.

A day after the Spartans lost by five points at Indiana, Izzo was more encouraged than discouraged.

And, he even said the team has a chance to go from good to great.

“That is one thing I would’ve taken out of that game,” Izzo said. “That was a pretty good basketball game to watch. I liked our competitive attitude.”

“We had a couple inside guys play good and one outside play well. If we can get it to two and two, we have a chance to get even better.”

The Spartans (17-4, 6-2 Big Ten) stayed at No. 13 in The Associated Press’ poll on Monday by having three of their only game during a nine-day stretch.

Izzo gave his players a “men day” on Monday by having them only watch film, plans for the upcoming day on Monday by having a nine-day stretch.

Michigan State coach Tom Izzo instructs his team during the second half of a 59-56 win over Ohio State on Jan. 19 in East Lansing, Mich.

Izzo said his players have a shot to win — trailing by two points late in the game — despite leading scorer Keith Appling being on the bench with five fouls and two points.

Michigan struggles through another slide

Associated Press

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Belles surrender lead, fall to Hornets

Observer Staff Report

Despite a strong start to the game, Saint Mary’s ultimate-ly fell to Kalamazoo in a close 63-59 contest on Saturday.

The Belles (5-15, 3-8 MIAA) failed to get the victory, while the Hornets (2-17, 1-10) secured their first league win of the season.

Halfway through the first half, Saint Mary’s went on an 11-0 run and pulled away for the largest lead of the game, a 24-13 advantage, with 6:55 remaining before the intermission.

Kalamazoo countered that run with a three-pointer, which Saint Mary’s freshman guard Madie Kohler answered with another deep three-pointer. The Belles finished the first half with a 30-27 lead.

Roughly seven minutes into the second half, the Hornets tied the game at 41.

The second half consisted of back-and-forth action between the teams and a tied scoreboard.

With just over two minutes left in the game, the Belles held a 59-53 lead.

However, the Belles could not finish on any of their last possessions. The Hornets scored the final 10 points of the game to secure the 63-59 victory.

Freshman forward Eleni Shea recorded season-highs with 16 points and five steals, while fellow freshman forward Krista Knapke poured in 11 points. Kohler also added 11 points and five rebounds off the bench.

The Belles turn their focus to their next opponent, Trine, whom they defeated 59-43 on Jan. 9.

Saint Mary’s takes on the Thunder on Wednesday at 6 p.m. at HERSHEY Hall in Angola, Ind.

NHL

Blue Jackets rally to defeat Stars

Associated Press

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Vinny Prospal scored from a hard angle at 1:22 of the third and Sergei Bobrovsky had 24 saves to lead the Columbus Blue Jackets past the Dallas Stars 2-1 on Monday night, ending a four-game losing streak.

It was the Blue Jackets’ first victory since opening night in Nashville in a shootout. They had been outscored 16-6 since while mustering just a point in a shootout loss to Detroit in the home opener a week ago.

Derek Dorsett also scored for the Blue Jackets.

Philip Larsen had the Stars’ goal with Kari Lehtonen stop- ping 25 shots.

The Blue Jackets took the lead for good when Prospal collect- ed the puck in the right corner and fired a shot along the goal line that appeared to catch Lehtonen by surprise, slipping into the net.

Bobrovsky preserved the lead with a terrific stop on Michael Ryder’s one-timer from the right hash midway through the period, just before Columbus’ Adrian Aucoin hit a post with a slap shot.

Jamie Benn saw his first ac- tion of the season for the Stars, who have lost three in a row. He signed a five-year, $26.5-mil- lion contract last week and had missed the first five games dur- ing negotiations for a new deal and while awaiting a U.S. work permit.

Jaromir Jagr, needing just one goal to break a tie with Luc Robitaille (667 goals) to move into 10th on the all-time list, returned to the Dallas lineup after missing one game with a bad back.

The second period was filled with frustration for the Blue Jackets, but ended with them getting a loud ovation as they came off the ice.

Larsen scored his first goal of the season on the power play at 4:13, rocketing a shot from the right point that slipped be- tween two players to befuddle Bobrovsky, who was screened on the play. Benn picked up an assist.

Soon after, Vernon Fiddler picked up two minors for a hook and high sticking on the same sequence. Then Tom Wandell gloved the puck in the defensive zone and was called for delay of game — giving the Blue Jackets 2 minutes of a 5 on 3 advantage.

The Stars’ defense completely shut down the power play, lim- iting Columbus to passes back and forth out front, but no real scoring chances.

There was a smattering of boos when Dallas killed off all the power plays. Despite generating no of- fense when they had a man ad- vantage, the Blue Jackets then tied it at even strength.

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Men’s Swimming

Strong Big East tests Irish

By MEGAN FINNERAN
Sports Writer

In 1983, Pittsburgh won the Big East title. Then it won again and again until 1993, when Villanova finally put a stop to the streak. By 2004, the Panthers had taken control once again, stretching their consecutive top finishes to an eight-year stretch that started in 1997. Between 1983 and 2004, all but three of the 22 Big East championships had gone to Pittsburgh.

Notre Dame had won none.

In 2005, the Irish finally won the Big East crown. The follow- ing year, they again finished victorious. In 2007, five points stood between the Irish and the top of the podium. In 2008 and 2009, they won the title by two to- back years, capturing the third and fourth for the program, respectively.

In 2010, when the current se- niors were freshmen, Louisville took its first title. The Cardinals returned to the top again the following year.

“Louisville is always our toughest competition,” senior Chris Johnson said.

Last year, in 2012, the Irish swept the Big East. Notre Dame took top honors by winning the conference, current senior Bill Bass earned the title of Most Outstanding Swimmer, Tim Welsh was named Swimming Coach of the Year, current soph- omore Nick Nemetz was named Diver of the Year and Caiming Xie won Diving Coach of the Year.

This year, the Irish return nearly all of last year’s successful competitors. Bass won two races at last year’s meet and has continued to lead the squad this season.

Current sophomore Brennan Jacobsen and John Williamson also contributed top finishes to last year’s win.

Louisville, the most recent team besides the Irish to cap- ture the Big East title, stands at No. 14 in the most recent polls.

Notre Dame just dropped out of the top 25, falling from No. 20 after Saturday’s loss to Harvard. Despite the recent loss tarn- ishing their undefeated re- cord, the Irish look forward optimistically.

“As we get closer to Big East, training tapers off as we start resting,” Johnson said. “When the week of Big East comes, we are primed, rested and ready to go off.”

The Irish next compete at the Northwestern Invitational on Friday and Saturday before the Big East championships begin Feb. 27 in Indianapolis, Ind. Contact Megan Finneran at mfinnera@nd.edu

Irish senior Tylor Gauger races during the Shamrock Invitational at the Balfus Aquatic Center on Saturday. Notre Dame split the meet.
By GREG HADLEY
Sports Writer

For Brent Swanberg, competing in the multi-events is all about one thing: stamina.

The freshman from Manhattan, Ill., has been entering decathlons and heptathlons since he was a junior in high school and even advanced to the USA Track & Field national championships his senior year.

Swanberg will compete in his first collegiate heptathlon at the Big East indoor championship in less than a month alongside veteran seniors Ted Glasnow and Dean Odegard.

The indoor men's heptathlon consists of the 60-meter dash, 60-meter hurdles, 1,000-meter run, long jump, high jump, pole vault and shot put. The competition takes place over two days, testing the full range of each athlete's ability.

While Swanberg's favorite discipline is the high jump, he said the event doesn't favor one skill set over any other.

"The person who is most technically sound almost always comes out on top," Swanberg said.

To achieve this technical prowess, the Irish multi-eventers spend copious time training on each event.

"The key is logging a bunch of hours during the week in training," Swanberg said. "It's also really important to spend the most time on your worst event."

Jim Garnham coaches the Irish multi-eventers with the wisdom of his extensive experience coaching multi-events and field events for 12 years. Under his tutelage, Irish multi-eventers have earned all-Big East honors nine times. Last year, at the indoor championships, Glasnow and Odegard finished fourth and ninth, respectively.

"He really knows what he's doing," Swanberg said of Garnham. "To be successful, you need a good coach and good facilities, and we definitely have both of those here at Notre Dame."

The Irish next compete Friday and Saturday at the Meyo Invitational, the biggest home meet of the season. The multi-eventers will make their heptathlon debut at the Big East indoor championships on Feb. 16 and 17.

Contact Greg Hadley at ghadley@nd.edu
Fab Five
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 29

around,” Lawson said.
After coming back from winter break early for two-a-day prac-
tices, the five freshmen solidi-
ied the “Fab Five” by creating a
Twitter account (@NDFabFive) to document the group’s play on
the court and its shenanigans off
it.
“it started as a joke,” Lawson said. “We made a Twitter account
... and we were taking pictures
and tweeting them, just ridicu-
lous stuff. it pretty much took off
from there.”

while the Twitter account
provides some good laughs and
shows off the freshmen’s humor,
it also serves another greater
purpose, Monaghan said.
“it’s more to attract atten-
tion to us and the tennis team,”
Monaghan said. “We think we could
become something special as a team,
especially later in our careers.”

To 69-64 with 3:54 remain-
ing. However, Tennessee
never got closer than that
five-point deficit. a layup by
sophomore guard Madison
Cable and a three-pointer by
Diggins pushed the Irish ad-
vantage to 10 points, and the
lead never again dipped be-
low eight.
“I thought Skylar was mag-
nificent,” McGraw said of
her senior guard. “I mean,
career-high in front of that
crowd, in that environment,
with great defense? She was
magnificent.
“She’s got a lot of confidence
in herself, she uses the ball
court screen well, you know, she
knows when we really need
her, and when to get the ball
up, so she just has that great
basketball IQ.”

Cable made an important
contribution to the Irish vic-
tory. Although she entered
the game averaging 17.5 min-
utes per game, she played 26
minutes Monday, including
some huge baskets when we
really needed them.”
The Irish return to Big East
play Saturday when they
host Cincinnati at Purcell
Pavilion.

Symposium on Saint Thomas Aquinas
Aquinas and Natural Law: Resources for Women’s Equality

Explore Aquinas’ ethics of the
“natural law” with speaker and
author Dr. Lisa Sowle Cahill,
J. Donald Monan Professor in
Theology at Boston College,
and leading voice in
contemporary Roman
Catholic theological ethics.
Thursday, January 31 at 7 p.m.
Saint Mary’s College • Student Center Lounge • Reception to follow
Free and open to the public
This Symposium is sponsored by the Joyce McMahon Hank Aquinas Chair in Catholic Theology.
Visit saintmarys.edu/Cahill for more information or call (574) 284-4534.
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CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:
ariel winter, 15; Elijah wood, 32; Sarah McLachlan, 45; Frank Darabont, 54.

BIRTHDAY: Face whatever obstacles come your way head-on. The longer you let things fester, the harder it will be to move forward in a positive direction. Make this your count by closing it into a manageable period that leads to your victory. Be honest, creative and determined to do what’s best for yourself as well as those you love.

Your numbers are 8, 10, 16, 22, 31, 38, 43.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Look at the relationships you are in and decide which are nourishing and which are not. Call in favors and make the most of the connections you’ve developed in the past. Put your dreams, hopes and wishes on hold for the time being. A personal matter can easily get blown out of proportion.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): You are likely to face opposition. You will have to do things on your own if you want to reach your goals without interference. Not everyone must you be honest regarding motives or what you have to offer.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Pick and choose what you do according to your needs, not someone else’s. It’s important to express how you feel now and get over it. Be honest about your financial position and don’t paint a picture you can’t deliver. Everyone will rely on you for practical and reliable help.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Pick up all the information you can that will help you avoid looking unprofessional. Don’t be afraid to give anything you pursue your own unique touch.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Change is heading your way. Embrace what’s being offered and you will end up in charge. Be honest about your financial position and don’t promise what you can’t deliver. Everything will ride on how practical and reliable you are.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Emotions will surface and truth will be of utmost importance. Pick up all the information you can that will help you avoid looking unprofessional. Don’t be afraid to give anything you pursue your own unique touch.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Emotions will surface and truth will be of utmost importance. Pick up all the information you can that will help you avoid looking unprofessional. Don’t be afraid to give anything you pursue your own unique touch.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Pick up all the information you can that will help you avoid looking unprofessional. Don’t be afraid to give anything you pursue your own unique touch.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Travel, communication and trying your hand at something you would like to do for a living will all play in your favor. Embrace any alterations being made in your personal life and you will impress someone you love.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Money, health and legal matters must be taken care of. Unnecessary change will make it difficult for you to get what you want if you have too much clutter in your life. Stay on top of every situation you face.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You’ll have to address past regrets before you can move forward. Discipline will be required in order to pursue new goals. Focus on home, family and future security. You are in the right place at the right time to start a new chapter.

PISCIEXX (Feb. 19-March 20): Not everyone will be upfront with you. Ferret out secret information in order to keep the upper hand. Love is in the stars, but honesty regarding your current situation willl be necessary if you want to start a new relationship.

Birthday Baby: You are intuitive, motivated and a humanitarian. You demand attention.
Diggins scores a career-high 33 points as the No. 2 Irish down Lady Vols in Knoxville for first time ever

By CORY BERNARD
Sports Writer

Immediately after No. 9 Tennessee honored legendary coach Pat Summit with a banner before tip-off Monday, an Irish star continued making the case for a banner of her own.

Senior guard Skylar Diggins, the newest member of Notre Dame’s 2,000-point club, scored a career-high 33 points to go along with five assists and four steals, and the No. 2-ranked Irish defeated the Lady Vols (16-4, 7-0 SEC) 77-67 at Thompson-Boling Arena in Knoxville, Tenn. Freshman guard Jewell Loyd added 10 points and junior guard Kayla McBride contributed nine points and 10 rebounds.

Diggins has now led the Irish (19-1, 7-0 Big East) to three straight wins in their series with Tennessee after Notre Dame dropped its first 20 matchups against the women’s basketball powerhouse. With the victory, the Irish became the first program ever to defeat both Connecticut and Tennessee in three straight seasons.

Irish coach Muffet McGraw said she enjoys being in the same elite group as the Huskies and Lady Vols.

“It’s good to be in that elite company,” she said. “I think that’s where we want to be and so we’re really proud of that.”

In the first half, the game looked every bit like a top-10 matchup. Notre Dame entered the locker room holding a 33-29 lead after both teams played a clean, defensively tenacious 20 minutes of basketball. However, the Irish wrested control of the momentum early in the second half with an 11-0 run to build a 16-point lead.

“I was really pleased with the way the game went in the second half,” McGraw said. “I thought the first half, our shot selection was not as good as it could have been, but the second half was much better.”

Irish senior guard Skylar Diggins brings the ball upcourt as she’s defended by Tennessee senior guard Kamiko Williams during Notre Dame’s 77-67 win over the Lady Vols on Monday in Knoxville, Tenn.

Tight-knit ‘Fab Five’ seek followers via Twitter

By PETER STEINER
Sports Writer

They might not have quite taken collegiate athletics by storm yet as their Twitter account states, but the “Fab Five” have brought new energy and plenty of attention to Notre Dame this season.

The “Fab Five” consists of the five freshmen on the Irish roster and the group has already made big strides on the court, off the court and in the world of social media.

Quentin Monaghan, Alex Lawson, Nicolas Montoya, Kenneth Sabacinski and Eric Schnurrenberger make up this freshmen contingent of the Irish squad. But before these rookies joined the Irish and became the “Fab Five,” they already knew each other through other tennis avenues, Lawson said.

“The four American freshmen knew each other pretty well from junior tournaments and national tournaments, even though we weren’t close living by each other,” Lawson said. “Eric is from Switzerland and he’s so nice and friendly. He fits right in.”

Because they spend many hours each day together, the five freshmen have become a close-knit group that does more than just play tennis together, Monaghan said.

“We are just always around each other,” Monaghan said. “It’s practice every day and then we eat dinner together. We continue to hang out and we just enjoy being around each other and working hard.”

In addition to adjusting to normal college life, the freshmen have also adapted to the collegiate tennis format — something much different than they experienced in high school, Monaghan said.

“It’s much different,” Monaghan said. “While playing matches there are fans and the atmosphere is team-oriented. In juniors, it’s just pretty much all you. You care a lot more about the team. They’ll pick you up if you lose, but if you win you’re really helping out the team.”

This team aspect of college tennis has been something the freshmen particularly enjoy, Lawson said.

“We have a really close team and all the guys are really tight, so it’s a great group to hang