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THE INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER SERVING NOTRE DAME AND SAINT MARY’S

THE OBSERVER

RESULTS DELAYED AGAIN

Observer Staff Report

The results of Wednesday’s student body presidential and vice presidential election will be released today at 10 a.m. in the third-floor atrium of the LaFortune Student Center, according to Katie Hennessy, Judicial Council’s vice president for elections.

Contrary to a report in Thursday’s issue of The Observer, the results were not publicized Thursday morning due to an allegation of campaign misconduct made shortly before the 11:59 p.m. deadline Wednesday. The Election Committee, the group within Judicial Council responsible for handling possible campaign violations, met to discuss the allegation and found it had no merit.

The allegation was the third made in this election. Two allegations were made against separate

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PHPELPS PROMOTES ‘GAME DAY’

Former coach encourages student participation in ESPN program

By ANDREW OWENS

Assistant Managing Editor

Former Notre Dame basketball coach Richard ‘Digger’ Phelps has seen it all at Notre Dame.

He recorded an NCAA-record seven wins over No. 1 teams as a head coach and guided the program to its only Final Four appearance.

This weekend, he’s challenging the student body to show the enthusiasm it displayed for so much of his coaching tenure when ESPN’s “College GameDay” visits campus.

Phelps currently serves as an analyst for ESPN’s “College GameDay” and other ESPN programming.

“GameDay,” which visited Notre Dame on Oct. 13 prior to the 20-13 overtime victory over Stanford in football, will broadcast from inside Purcell Pavilion on Saturday from 10 a.m. to noon. Notre Dame is just the seventh school to earn a “GameDay” visit for each sport in one academic year.

“When you’re here for four years, you have certain moments,” Phelps said. “For a student body at your 20-year reunion, it will be ‘Hey, remember Louisville week!’ It was snowy and cold and it was a must-win for us. Here we are cracking the top-25 again and looking to make a statement.”

Phelps visited both dining halls Wednesday to promote the game against Louisville and ESPN’s on-campus appearance.

“To have it here for our student body, it’s second to none. I just want the student body to know that we’re unique,” Phelps said. “‘GameDay’ is about the enthusiasm of the student body.

“What I want is when we played San Francisco here and they were No. 1 and 29-0 and we had the pep rally the night before and the chant for an hour.

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CONFERENCE PRESENTS STUDENT RESEARCH

By MEL FLANAGAN

News Writer

This weekend’s fifth annual Human Development Conference, “In the Field: Cultivating Collaboration and Innovation,” will highlight students’ research on their chosen topics.

“It suggests a duel meaning,” senior and conference co-chair Kara Ryan said. “It can be in the field physically, or in the field of health or art, an abstract field.”

The conference, sponsored by the Ford Family Program in Human Development Studies and Solidarity, features more than 60 student presenters from universities all over the country.

Ryan said the students will present their research on a wide variety of topics that took them to every continent except Antarctica.

“We promote that it’s kind of for everyone,” she said. “We have students who present on architecture and students who present on health or culture.

The conference is organized into a series of panels with different foci depending on the research topics, Ryan said.

“We have a couple health ones, some post-conflict ones,” she said. “Those are interesting because it’s cool to see students who have gone to such different places and have similar themes emerging and compare.”

Other panels are geared toward specific places across the globe. Allowing student presenters from all universities enables the conference to display research from some places Notre Dame students do not travel to, such as Rwanda, Ryan said.

At the end of the

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ADMINISTRATOR SHARES LESSONS

By CHRISTIAN MYERS

News Writer

As part of the Last Lecture series, Lou Nanni, vice president for University Relations, outlined five life lessons in the Hammes Lounge of the Coleman-Morse Center on Thursday.

Nanni said he has learned to seek to be faithful and not successful, to surround himself with great people, to keep the sense of being a beginner, to give abundantly and to develop a long-term vision.

“Leadership is best when it is faithfulness guide you. Success will follow.”

"Part of seeking to be faithful is pursuing one’s passions regard- less of what others think or the money to be made, Nanni said.

"The toughest thing in life is having the courage to follow your passions," he said. "If it is playing the flute that you love, play the flute day and night.

"The second lesson is to find the best, most inspiring people and get to know them, Nanni said.

"Find people whose lives you want to model your lives after, then emulate, imitate and find out what makes them tick," he said.

"Nanni said the third lesson is expressed by a statement of St. Benedict to the effect of "if you think you’ve gotten ahead, it’s a sign you’ve fallen behind."

"Nanni said he was at his best in his work with the South Bend Center for the Homeless when

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Conference presents student research

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The conference is organized into a series of panels with different foci depending on the research topics, Ryan said.

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Week previews Dance Marathon fundraiser

By SARAH SWIDERSKI
News Writer

As Saint Mary’s prepares for its Dance Marathon on March 28, members of the planning committee will host a week of events to involve students in the cause.

Executive fundraising chair and senior Alex Munsey said Riley Week aims to raise awareness of the Marathon, which benefits the Riley Hospital for Children in Indianapolis and has a “Rock of Ages” theme this year.

Senior Meghan Cronin, a member of the fundraising committee, said the group has been planning Riley Week since November.

“Everything from decorating to catering and T-shirt ideas has been bounced around in our meetings,” Cronin said.

Students can contribute to the Dance Marathon by decorating records in the Student Center on Monday. The records will feature positive messages for the dance marathon on March 28, for which they will hang in Angola Athletic Facility during the Dance Marathon.

Munsey said an instructor from Tu Sri Bella Dance Fitness Studio will teach a Zumba class Tuesday in Angola.

It’s in line with the overall theme of Dance Marathon,” Munsey said. “We do a morale dance. It’s like a fun way to tie all that together, dancing and Zumba.”

Wednesday will be Let’s Spoon Give Back Night, Munsey said. Twenty percent of each purchase made with a Riley Week coupon will go to the Dance Marathon, according to the event’s Facebook page.

The Dance Marathon committee will also hold tryouts for the event’s master of ceremonies from 6 to 7 p.m. Wednesday in the Vander-Vennet Theater in the Student Center, Munsey said.

“We’re looking for someone who is upbeat and funny [and who will] encourage people to stay on their feet,” she said.

The Dance Marathon will decorate vases to spread awareness of the event and generate interest Thursday in Regnbeaux Lounge in LeMans Hall.

The week closes with coffee and doughnuts donated by SoulCycle and Dunkin’ Donuts inSpes Unica Hall. There, Dance Marathon committee will discuss its “no zero-zero” policy, which encourages students to raise at least $1 for the cause.

“It makes people accountable ... and helps dancers to feel like they’re a part of the marathon and that they have helped out in some way,” Munsey said.

Cronin said students can contribute to the Dance Marathon by registering as a dancer next week in the Student Center. She said this is the last week to register and get a T-shirt for the event. Students can also drop change in containers around South Bend.

“Riley Week is a fun way to get connected with other students all while supporting a good cause,” Cronin said.

The Dance Marathon is more than just a fundraiser for Munsey. She said the cause is personal because her friend received treatment from Riley.

“I felt in the love with the place because of the doctors and nurses,” she said. “They didn’t treat him just like a patient, but like a real person. They went above and beyond to show him kindness.”

Cronin said she became involved with the Dance Marathon after she heard stories of people who benefited from Riley’s services. She said she was moved by their motivation to beat their illnesses.

“Their happiness was so genuine and their appreciation for the marathon was extremely heart warming,” Cronin said. “I felt obligated to help. Hospital expenses are astronomical and are only increasing. Every person has a right to fight for their life, and money should not be a hindrance.”

Contact Sarah Swiderski at sswide01@saintmarys.edu

Project addresses ideas of beauty

By CATHERINE OWERS
News Writer

The Identity Project of Notre Dame will address contemporary conceptualizations of beauty at this weekend’s Edith Stein Project Conference.

Senior co-chair Samantha Stempyk said the organizers discussed beauty as a broad concept and acknowledged “beautiful” is used to describe many different kinds of women.

They chose “Modern Beauty: Unveiling the Mystery” as the conference theme.

Stempyk said the conference, which takes place today and Saturday, asks what it means to give back.

“No wonder we’re striving for this idea of beauty and never feel fulfilled, because nobody can be both Mother Teresa and Marilyn Monroe,” she said.

Approximately 15 students, professors and professionals will present papers they submitted to the conference Saturday morning, senior co-chair Margaret Kennedy said.

“That’s really cool because this is a full-scale academic conference, and yet students are able to participate,” she said.

 “[The papers] will be related to the conference theme in some way, from ‘a woman’s pursuit of beauty’ to more philosophical perspectives.”

Kennedy said approximately 25 speakers from a variety of backgrounds will also speak at the conference, from magazine editors to professors from other universities.

“Most of the people coming to the conference have a Christian background, but they’re not all religious talks,” Kennedy said.

“They’re meant to be talks that deal with a combination of the academic side and the personal side.”

Professors of theology Tim O’Malley and Fr. Michael Heintz will be among the presenters.

The conference is about femininity, but these issues are relevant to men as well as women, Stempyk said.

Kennedy said although the conference originated to address feminine issues, men can also appreciate the talks.

“As the conference expanded, we have as many sessions that deal with issues related to men as related to women,” Kennedy said.

“That creates a really unique atmosphere where there’s this open engagement from both men and women.”

The conference aims to generate discussion about the complex topic of beauty, Kennedy said.

Stempyk said although the conference will not concretely answer “What is beauty?,” it will give people tools to explore that question in their own lives.

“It’s not like we have all the answers,” she said. “It’s more, ‘Here are some different aspects of this issue.’ It’s more to prompt your own thinking and reflection.”

Stempyk said the conference benefits from being hosted at the University.

“It has this academic element, as well as the personal, contemporary element,” she said.

“The place where I think those two things meet best is at Notre Dame.”

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Columnist addresses politics and journalism

By ANN MARIE JAKUBOWSKI
News Writer

American Studies profes- sor Jack Colwell delivered the fourth and final lecture in the Mendoza College of Business Ethics Week series Thursday, stressing the public’s responsi- bility to stay informed and invested in politics without falling into the trap of “taking things for granted.”

Colwell, who is also a polit- ical columnist for The South Bend Tribune, framed his dis- cussion of ethics with the in- teraction between politicians and journalists, two entities that deeply affect the public experience of government. He said the role of the journalistic has shifted to accommodate the partisanship and divisive nature of politics today.

"Many viewers seek out the that they want to believe," Colwell said. "Objectivity is boring and fact-checking is biased if those factors is what you want to believe.’”

The business of journal- ism affects the content of the message that the public receives, Colwell said, and voters today are very willing to avoid logic and rationality in order to dogmatically adhere to their polit- ical parties of choice.

“Voters want to believe what is claimed by candidates and commentators of their partic- ular side of the political spec- trum,” Colwell said. “They think the other side must be lying, must be cheating, must be stealing the election, must be defeating.”

Colwell discussed the prev- alence of negative political ad- vertisements and their success in altering the public opinion of political figures. The ads’ target populations take the policies of their affiliated par- ties for granted and assume these loyalties should super- sede practicality, he said.

The parties’ unwillingness to compromise severely in- hibits legislative productivity and polarizes news outlets, Colwell said.

“In Congress, it is easy to spout anger at any time, for any purpose, in any way and that is not good for democra- cy,” he said. “Divisiveness and anger in politics is not totally uncommon, but compromise is something I fear we lack today.”

Colwell said the increased number of news sources, le- gitimate or not, creates a dis- connect between the reality of politics and public awareness.

“We need reliable news in our democracy, even if it isn’t coming from newspapers de- livered on our porch like it used to be,” Colwell said. “We need real news. We can’t rely on what is said by that blogger in the basement, nor can we rely on what politicians say in their 30-second spots.”

The ethical dilemma of the political media relates to the unbiased presentation of facts, Colwell said. The ma- nipulation of public opinion to win elections is a danger- ous, ignoble result of the me- dia culture today.

“It’s possible, though I won’t say probable, that the vot- ers will stop taking things for granted,” Colwell said. “And if they do, the political consul- tants will respond. Their job is to win and the negative at- tacks have won (in the past), but if that changes, their strat- egies will change as well.”

Professor of American Studies Jack Colwell, a South Bend Tribune columnist, talks about the relationship between politics and journalism in the Mendoza College of Business on Thursday.
A recent Saint Mary’s alumna and Fulbright Scholar returned to campus Thursday to discuss her time abroad in Asia in a presentation called “Take It With You When You Go: A Fulbright Journey.”

Rachel Chesley received a degree in business administration with concentrations in management and international business from the College in 2011. She then lived and taught in Malaysia for 11 months with a Fulbright English teaching assistantship.

“I loved my experiences abroad,” Chesley said. “I knew the Fulbright Scholarship was something that was for me and something that I’d enjoy.”

Chesley said Sen. J. William Fulbright founded the Fulbright Program, sponsored by the U.S. Department of State, in 1946 to encourage mutual understanding and cultural exchange between countries. The program now operates in more than 155 countries, according to its website.

Chesley served as the student body president during her senior year at Saint Mary’s. She also studied abroad in Rome and Seoul, South Korea, while she was at Saint Mary’s. Those months away from the United States shaped her decision to apply for a Fulbright Scholarship.

“People in my school didn’t have the opportunity to send their children to school, get enough money so they can afford transportation and education,” said Nicole McAlee, News Writer.

“I had to prevent my mind from wandering,” Chesley said. “I thought, ‘There is no way I am going to get [the scholarship],’” she said. “But my mom and dad and professors gave her the push she needed to take the first step.

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angers in the community. Schools were added security to those innocent citizens and forced officers to mistakenly shoot at one location mistakenly opened fire on a guard, and then the department eight years ago. Monica Quan and her fiancé, Keith Lawrence, were found shot in their car at a parking structure at their condominium on Sunday in Irvine. Quan, 28, was an assistant women’s basketball coach at Cal State Fullerton. Lawrence, 27, was a public safety officer at the University of Southern California.

Contact Christian Myers at cmyers@nds.edu

Lecture
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he first began and worked especially hard because he was aware of the knowledge he lacked. He also said it is important to remember where you came from.

"Never forget where you came from, never forget your hometown and never forget childhood friends," he said.

Nanni said he has met people who regret not giving more, but has never met anyone who felt he gave to excess.

"No one has ever said to me: I’ve given too much," he said.

Nanni’s fifth and final lesson was the need to have a long-term vision for one’s life.

“You should be able to say in one sentence your vision for your life,” he said. “When I was 27, I came up with my vision to be the best Christian I could be, and have my identifying roles be husband and father.”

Nanni said people need to overcome the tendency to think in small time increments and to think about the distant future and the end goals of their lives.

A 1984 alumnnus of Notre Dame, Nanni said he spent two years after graduating in Santiago, Chile, with the Holy Cross Associates, teaching school and meeting with female political prisoners.

He said he fell in love with the poetry of Uruguayan writer Mario Benedetti while learning Spanish. Nanni quoted a poem by Benedetti in which a dying woman writes: "To live means this: to be close."

Nanni said his father’s death after battling bone cancer taught him this lesson.

"Death means separation," Nanni said. "Death is loneliness, to be apart. I realized this wasn’t just a metaphor when my father died."

Nanni said he completed Notre Dame’s one-year Peace Studies master’s program after returning from Chile. He then worked on Catholic and economic issues in the Dominican Republic for three years.

He spent the next eight years as executive director of the South Bend Center for the Homeless.

Nanni said he was the fifth executive director in two years and that when he started, the Center was $100,000 in debt.

"After working harder than I ever had before, we were no longer $100,000 in debt, we were $140,000 in debt," he said.

The Center eventually became a very successful national model, Nanni said.

Nanne has been an administrator at the University for 13 years.

"What brought me back to Notre Dame was that I wanted the energy to be present for my kids," he said.

To conclude, Nanni read from the end of Canadian writer Edmund Vance Cooke’s poem "How did you die."

"It isn’t the fact that you’re dead that counts," he quoted. But only how did you die?"

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — A fired police officer who threatened to bring “warfare” to the Los Angeles Police Department went on a shooting rampage that left a policeman and two others dead and set off an extraordinary manhunt that had three states and Mexico on alert for much of Thursday.

The search for Christopher Dorner led hair-trigger officers to mistakenly shoot at innocent citizens and forced police to guard their own.

But the focus of police efforts shifted Thursday afternoon to the snowy mountains around Big Bear Lake, about 80 miles east of Los Angeles, where police found Dorner’s burned-out pickup truck and tracks leading away from the scene.

The search for Dorner, 33, had several weapons including an assault rifle, said police chief Charlie Beck, who urged him to turn himself in.

"I will bring unconventional and asymmetrical warfare to Los Angeles Police Department officers, on or off duty, said the manifesto. It also asserted: "Unfortunately, I will not be alive to see my name cleared. That’s what this is about, my name. A man is nothing without his name."

Dorner, 33, had several weapons including an assault rifle, said police Chief Charlie Beck, who urged him to turn himself in.

Dorner’s dark-colored 2005 Nissan Titan. Two occupants of the vehicle were injured.

A 1984 alumnnus of Notre Dame, Nanni said he spent two years after graduating in Santiago, Chile, with the Holy Cross Associates, teaching school and meeting with female political prisoners.

He said he fell in love with the poetry of Uruguayan writer Mario Benedetti while learning Spanish. Nanni quoted a poem by Benedetti in which a dying woman writes: "To live means this: to be close."

Nanni said his father’s death after battling bone cancer taught him this lesson.

"Death means separation," Nanni said. "Death is loneliness, to be apart. I realized this wasn’t just a metaphor when my father died."

Nanni said he completed Notre Dame’s one-year Peace Studies master’s program after returning from Chile. He then worked on Catholic and economic issues in the Dominican Republic for three years.

He spent the next eight years as executive director of the South Bend Center for the Homeless.

Nanni said he was the fifth executive director in two years and that when he started, the Center was $100,000 in debt.

"After working harder than I ever had before, we were no longer $100,000 in debt, we were $140,000 in debt," he said.

The Center eventually became a very successful national model, Nanni said.

Nanne has been an administrator at the University for 13 years.

"What brought me back to Notre Dame was that I wanted the energy to be present for my kids," he said.

To conclude, Nanni read from the end of Canadian writer Edmund Vance Cooke’s poem "How did you die."

"It isn’t the fact that you’re dead that counts," he quoted. But only how did you die?"

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Fired police officer kills three

Police officers hunt Thursday for a former Los Angeles police officer who, angry over his firing, went on a deadly shooting rampage. He promised to wage "warfare" on those who wronged him.
Military practices for crisis

Associated Press

ANDERSEN AIR FORCE BASE — Fighter jets from the U.S. and two key allies roared into western Pacific skies in the combat phase of annual exercises that have gained importance as the region responds to the rise of China and other potential threats.

The Cope North drills — which could soon swell in participants — are aimed at preparing air forces of the U.S., Japan and Australia to fight together if a military crisis erupts. They also send a vivid reminder to Beijing that America’s regional alliances are strong, though officers leading the maneuvers say they are not looking to bait the Chinese military.

“The training is not against a specific country, like China,” Japan Air Self-Defense Force Lt. Gen. Masaaki Hirakawa said. “However, I think (the fact) that our alliance with the U.S. and Australia is healthy is a strong message.”

The three allies began flying sorties together earlier in the week around the U.S. territory of Guam in a humanitariann phase of the exercises, dropping emergency assistance in the region. On Thursday, fighter jets were joined by bombers, transport planes and tankers to refuel the fighters in mid-air. For the first time, Japanese airfields on Thursday, fighter aircraft have been deployed to Darwin, in northern Australia, and about 9,000 Marines stationed on the southern Japan island of Okinawa are to be moved to this tiny island, Hawaii and other locations.

The changes reflect a deepening strategic concern over the rise of China as a regional military power with the potential to challenge Washington’s ability to intervene in a crisis, particularly around Taiwan or islands in the south and east China seas that are contested by China and U.S. allies such as the Philippines and Japan.

But the emphasis on alliance-building through exercises like Cope North also underlines fears in the Pentagon that major budget cuts looming in Congress could make it difficult for Washington to shoulder the whole burden of keeping China in check.

Pacific Air Forces commander Gen. Herbert Carlisle said he believes the budget cuts now being considered could threaten America’s role as a superpower. He noted that China’s military, and especially its navy, have been undergoing a “massive build-up” and are becoming a more credible challenge to their U.S. counterparts.

So, strategic alliances are now more important than ever.

“The United States and our partners are taking ‘joint’ to the next level,” he said. “The amount of commerce that goes through here, the amount of the world GDP that goes through here, if you look at the world’s population that is in this part of the world, the importance of the Pacific can’t be overstated.”

Washington’s renewed focus on Asia has generally been welcomed by its more-established and prosperous allies — like Japan and Australia — because they share the U.S. concerns that changes in the balance of power could hurt economic growth throughout the region.

“I think nations throughout the region are looking for that increased support that working with the U.S. is likely to bring,” said Royal Australian Air Force Air Commodore Anthony Grady. “Australia welcomes this refocus.”

Japan also has a more urgent need to tout its U.S. alliance. Its coast guard ships and fighter aircraft have been deployed frequently over the past several months to drive China’s counterparts away from a group of small uninhabited islands that both nations claim as their own. The dispute has soured diplomatic and trade relations and shows no sign of abating.

Boy Scouts consider membership policy

Associated Press

It promises to be a campaign as passionate and dramatic as any big election. For the next 14 weeks, the Boy Scouts of America will be the focus of prayers, petitions and pressure tactics aimed at swaying a vote on whether to ease its ban on gays as scouts or adult leaders.

The decision will be made the week of May 20 by the roughly 1,400 voting members of the BSA’s National Council. The policy was supposed to be settled Wednesday by the Scouts’ 70-member national executive board, but the board concluded the issue was so complex that the organization needed more time to study it.

At stake is a proposal to ease the ban by allowing sponsors of local Scout units to decide for themselves whether to admit gays. Gay-rights groups say the plan is inadequate, and that no units should be allowed to discriminate. Some conservative religious leaders and advocacy groups want the ban to stay in place nationwide.

Both sides are girding for intensive lobbying between now and late May, hoping to influence the outcome.

“Keep the pressure on,” was the message Thursday from the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation to its supporters.

GLAAD, which has been active in several recent campaigns opposing the ban, provided information on how to telephone or email BSA headquarters and offered suggestions for how to advocate using Twitter and Facebook.

“Take action!” GLAAD exhorted.

“Send a message to the Boy Scouts that we won’t rest until those in gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender communities are welcome in our Boy Scout units,” Perkins said. “We won’t stop until the ban is gone. We can’t let the Boy Scouts lose points in an annual ‘equality index’ if they continue to support the Scouts as long as any units were allowed to exclude gay scouts.”

Similar campaigns were being waged by conservative groups seeking to keep the ban in place.

“This is far from over,” wrote Tony Perkins of the Family Research Center in an online message. The center “will continue in our efforts to help the BSA stand strong against the corporate executives and activists who care more about conformity than character.”

Perkins said the efforts would include outreach to Scouting parents, liaisons with religious denominations that sponsor Scout units and an extension of an ongoing campaign to flood BSA offices with calls and emails.

Several other conservative groups have joined in an online campaign calling for the resignation of BSA executive board member Randall Stephenson, the CEO of AT&T, who said last year he would try to move the Scouts away from the ban on gays.
I fall a lot. Anyone who studied abroad with me could verify that it’s one of my defining characteristics.

First I wiped out in the cafeteria of my international school in Toledo, Spain. Luckily, I managed to keep all my food on the plate. Talk about the luck of the Irish (or Spanish?).

Then I faceplanted outside a cathedral in Granada. A mildly amused man selling trinkets on the sidewalk asked if I was okay.

When I returned to Notre Dame, I made it through approximately one week of semester before tripping up the stairs in Ryan Hall.

If there’s anything my tendency to fall has taught me, it’s that I should permanently be encased in bubble wrap.

But if there’s a second thing it has taught me, it’s not to take myself too seriously.

When I took my tumble outside the cathedral, I was incredibly frustrated. I grumbled to my friend about why I couldn’t just stay on my feet like a normal person.

Then something surprising happened — she laughed.

After an initial moment of shock, I laughed, too. Within moments, we were both laughing so hard we could barely breathe, latching onto each other’s arms as we strolled away from the building.

Instead of sympathizing and stoking my largely undeserved self-pity, my friend demonstrated to me that I couldn’t just stay on my feet like a normal person.

The candidates vying for the role of student body president and vice president are all ready to make their administrations more transparent and more open. It’s time the Judicial Council worked for that same goal.

The candidates vying for the role of student body president and vice president are all ready to make their administrations more transparent and more open. It’s time the Judicial Council worked for that same goal.
Fostering discussion and debate

Connor Roth
Think. It's Not Illegal Yet

As we are students at one of the most prominent universities in the world, I believe it is our duty to engage ourselves in the realm of public policy. For years, we’ve heard our parents and grandparents say, “You kids are going to be the leaders of the future,” and if that is true, should we not start talking about controversial issues now? One of my professors jokingly mentions “Notre Dame students are too nice,” and I believe part of that is true because no one wants to say anything controversial in fear of backlash. But here is the sad truth: If we are scared to voice our opinions at a university—the literal institution for academic discovery and debate — where else is there for us to discuss such divisive issues? I decided to apply to write for The Observer because I wanted to discuss some of my libertarian-leaning ideas, hoping to probe some response from the student body. It feels like the sky is clouding the younger generation all across America with apathy, and if we, the “young leaders,” want to make the future better than today, it is crucial to start discussing things sooner rather than later.

For these reasons, I would like to think that this is the main reason for gun control who contacted me in agreement with my position — it’s great to hear people care enough to share their support — but I would more importantly like to applaud those who contacted me in disagreement, particularly Ms. Conron, who ran an article, “If gun control is futile, what isn’t?” on Feb. 6. I know I wouldn’t be providing provocative or stimulating articles if I didn’t rustle any jimmies in the process. Criticism is necessary to help us develop our positions where you stand on particular issues and also develops your argument, just as practicing free throws will make you a better basketball player. But, it is this aspect of dissent I would like to discuss in further detail.

I’d much rather discuss something like gun control with someone who completely disagrees with me on the topic than with someone who is indifferent to the issue. Debate is the way we as Americans can change culture and you can’t debate someone who is ignorant to the world surrounding them. One of my favorite concepts in my studies is the idea that “To have come cannot be stopped,” and to be quite honest, I was expecting completely different oppositions to the case. Or is a vote an endorsement? As far as probability of occurrence, the promise of Domer Dollars on Eddie Styd might as well be a monorail running from Zahm to St. Mary’s. The sad fact is many of the election promises and goals are bound to be broken and unfulfilled. For me, it is always tough to get past inevitable lewdness which accompany elections. Maybe it’s because I’m cynical. Maybe it’s because the last election I ran resulted in a loss to a close friend. Regardless, one thing which continued to bother me in this election cycle was the lack of a Catholic identity on any single ticket’s platform. It may be wrong, but I did not see any platform which included something close to building Notre Dame as a Catholic campus. Sure, candidates cited being more inclusive and broadening the Notre Dame brand, but not a single ticket high-lighted the fact that we are the foundation of this University. I feel, if a ticket really wanted to break out from the pack, they would embrace Catholicism in the tradition. If the student body fully embraced these ideals, inclusion and a sense of family would surely follow. Instead, I was left to choose between five similar tickets and one ticket which at best brought about some minor improvements.

My challenge for everyone, including myself, is to look past all the shortcomings of the election. We all need to realize most of the actions items in the platforms will go unfulfilled. But in the end, it is really okay. These candidates will all surely put their best effort forth, but it is our job to realize they are students, like us, who need to balance work, play and potentially running the student government on top of that. If nothing else, it makes more sense to vote for those who I feel best represent the University and its ideals rather than who will get a Redbox on campus the fastest.

If there is a runoff, I implore everyone to ask themselves the aforementioned questions before casting their ballot. Exercising the right to vote is important to be an active member of any society and I hope that we will all learn from this election and apply what you thought about what your vote really means.

Joel Kolb lives in St. Edward’s Hall and is a sophomore studying mechanical engineering. He can be reached at jkolb1@nd.edu

The views expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.
The following is a list of shows that, while not widely adored, redefine the typical definition of a sitcom.

**“30 Rock”**

“Good God, Lemon!” “30 Rock” isn’t your average sitcom. It’s a show that understands the mechanics of television comedy backwards and forwards, allowing it to dance circles around the genre. Its humor often doesn’t connect widely with audiences because it’s a satirical show. But under the obscure references and fast-paced nonsense, the writing is truly smart. The main cast embodies stereotypical and peculiar personas that come off more as caricatures than real people, yet the result is witty and successful. The show laughs at itself, embraces vertical integration and never strays from its oddball format. “30 Rock” changed the game by encouraging future comedies to be weird and find humor in the bizarre.

**“Arrested Development”**

“Arrested Development” is like the “Breaking Bad” of comedies, by which I mean you will incessantly hear from people that you have to watch it. Well, they’d be right to say so, because I can say with confidence that “Arrested Development” is one of the funniest shows of all time. It’s a show about an everyday guy trying to handle his family of imbeciles. Each family member is unique and hilarious in his or her own way, and while they drive each other to the point of insanity, they need one another to get by. The writing is beyond clever and forces you to re-watch and find countless obscure jokes and references. It took a cancellation for audiences to truly appreciate the humor of this show, and with a fourth season arriving soon on Netflix, I insist that you find time to sit down and appreciate what this show has to offer. “Arrested Development” changed the game by encouraging shows like “Community” to focus on wit and quality, even if they aren’t commercial successes.

**“Curb Your Enthusiasm”**

Drawing inspiration from his own life, Seinfeld co-creator Larry David shows through “Curb Your Enthusiasm” that there’s always humor to be found in first world misfortunes. David plays himself in the leading role with each plot focusing on a series of unfortunate circumstances that always build to greater humor. What’s really unique about “Curb” is that each scene of an episode is given a premise and is then completely improvised by the actors. From this we get hysterically absurd, yet completely genuine dialogue. It has a tendency to go beyond edgy but does so to prove that there’s always humor to be found in any situation. “Curb Your Enthusiasm” changed the game by breaking away from scripts and telling us it’s O.K. to laugh at taboo topics.

**“Louie”**

It’s hard to call “Louie” a comedy because it so often strays into dark and dreary territory. But then again, that’s what makes the show stand out. Louis C.K. plays himself as a single dad raising two girls and working as a comedian, all while trying not to let reality suck the life out of him. He highlights that quite frequently, life can be totally a drag … but that’s O.K. Each episode is filled with awkward, dull and infuriating moments for Louie that are not only hilarious but also realistic and often relatable. He opens nearly every episode with a hysterical monologue that, like “Seinfeld,” ties itself into the episode. What follows are stories covering a range of heavy subject matter that audiences can’t help but laugh at. This show is not only smart but also one of a kind and certainly unlike any other series listed in this article. It may be hard to watch at times, but that may be because it’s all too relatable. “Louie” changed the game because comedic genius Louis C.K. shows viewers that the hardships of reality are funny, even when they happen to us.

Contact William Neal at wneal@nd.edu
DINNER: SIGNED, SEALED, DELIVERED

By LAUREN MATICH
Scene Writer

In the dead of a South Bend winter, a step taken into the blistering cold is not taken lightly. Often making the ef- fort to don all of the gear necessary for trudging through salty snow that will eventually stain boot toes and wind so cold that ears ache is just not worth the time it takes. This quandary is especial- ly typical around dinnertime, when the realization hits that I will have to leave the warmth of my room to eat some- thing besides Lean Cuisine and vend- ing machine snacks. Then I discovered delivery.

The different restaurants that extend delivery services in South Bend have gone far beyond my expectations. There is something for every hour of the day or night, every budget and every crav- ing. A quick glance at the Urbanspoon delivery listing details the many piz- zerias and Italian eateries in the area open later than the average restaurant, but if you’re in the mood for something a little more exotic, Dine-In Delivery has a great selection. According to a rep- resentative from the company, there is a noticeable upward trend in ethnic foods being a favorite among students.

Pad Thai from Siam Thai is one such favorite that makes a frequent appear- ance on campus. In addition to the ex- pected dishes, the restaurant offers a variety of chicken, beef, tofu and even a few seafood dishes. While the menu isn’t as extensive as other more exotic options, Siam Thai sticks to the basics and does them well.

The India Garden is also gaining pop- ularity with the younger crowd. A favor- ite across-the-board is the savory, spicy Chicken Tikka Masala, but unlike Siam Thai, there is no end to the spicy and exotic combinations on the extensive menu. You have the choice between six different kinds of naan, along with a host of endless sides, appetizers, soups and desserts.

Aladdin’s Eatery fills in the gap be- tween the infrequent Greek food options and the staples. I recently ordered the grinder from Mishawaka’s Houlihan’s, and needless to say, it lived up to its name. In addition to burgers promising good times, you’re sure to find some- thing that whets your appetite on the menu of sandwiches, salads and home- style entrees. The well-known menus of Chili’s and T.G.I. Friday’s both are only a phone call or a click away through the delivery service as well.

Although not part of the Dine-In Delivery clientele, Einstein Bros. Bagels makes upwards of 50 individual de- liveries to campus per week. Delivery services aren’t limited to large quanti- ties or a catering menu, so an ultimate Blueberry Smoothie and bagel to match really are just a call away.

The next time Eldorado casserole is the best option at North Dining Hall, glance over these delivery menus. On a cold snowy night, the ease of ordering a delicious dinner from a laptop is en- ticing to say the least. Stay inside, keep warm and indulge. You deserve it.

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AZAREEN VAN DER VIJFT OLOOMI’S DEBUT NOVEL

By EMMA TERHAAR
Scene Writer

Notre Dame’s newest addition to the creative writing program faculty, Azareen Van Der Vijft Oloomi, has many reasons to be happy. Not only did she receive several literary awards during her time at Brown University, but also she has a newly published work to add to her already-impressive resume. Her first novel, “Fra Keeler”, was released last fall by independent publisher Dorothy, a publishing project. Oloomi calls it “two joyful things happening at once.”

With reviews cropping up in The Los Angeles Times as well as online jour- nals such as Publisher’s Weekly and The Millions, the book is receiving plenty of positive press. Jenny Hendrix from The Los Angeles Times called it “a stunning psychological thriller, a total identifica- tion with madness that creates drama without either belittling or romanticiz- ing the insane.”

“Fra Keeler” is the story of a man who purchases a home because of the former inhabitant’s intriguing death. He pro- ceeds to investigate the death, slowly re- vealing his own madness to the readers. This unique approach makes readers question the cliché madness motif seen over and over again in similar works, a welcome change that critics have over- whelmingly applauded.

Oloomi attributes much of “Fra Keeler” to the French New Wave films she began to watch while writing the novel. Her new Midwestern surroundings are be- coming influential in their own right as well.

“I have started thinking about writing a piece about South Bend because I’m more interested these days in represent- ing space and landscape,” Oloomi said. Right now it’s just a casual idea tossed around, but a novel about South Bend, or gasp, Notre Dame, would definitely re- ceive a lot of attention on campus. “Fra Keeler” can relate to Notre Dame in its own way as Oloomi suggests.

“There’s a lot of philosophical thinking that happens in the novel,” Oloomi said. “Thinking about death, intellectual mys- ticism, that could relate to the culture at Notre Dame and why I feel that the University is a good place for me in terms of my aesthetics.”

Oloomi is now finishing her second book. She said she is hugely thankful for the support she’s received on campus and from her colleagues.

“They’ve been fantastic,” Oloomi said. “It’s the most supportive department I’ve ever been in.”

She also describes Notre Dame’s cre- ative writing program to be very different from others, especially Brown University, where she completed her Master of Fine Arts (MFA) in literary arts, because of the variety of artists Notre Dame has to offer. Oloomi said Notre Dame’s MFA Program in creative writing is especially rich because of the diversity of aesthetics among its faculty.

Notre Dame’s MFA faculty boasts a line- up including surreal poets like Johannes Goransson and Joyce McLennan, who publish on their own press Action Books, bilingual poet Orlando Menes, nonfic- tion writer William O’Rourke, novelist Valerie Sayers and biotech revolutionary author Steve Tomasula. Tomasula’s most recent novel, “in & Oz”, was published just this winter and is also receiving great reviews.

“Fra Keeler” can be purchased in the Hammes Notre Dame Bookstore as well as online at DorothyProject.com.

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Global argument for the Cup

Andrew Gastelum
Associate Sports Editor

Editor’s note: This is the 10th story in a 10-part series discussing the best events in sports. In this installment, Andrew Gastelum argues for the World Cup.

I remember exactly where I was when I first heard about it. I was in school, and I woke up at 5:30 a.m. just a few days removed from my high school graduation and went to wake my best friend up. Just for the United States vs. Algeria game in the 2010 World Cup. Crazy, yeah, but so was the ending.

In fact, those 90 minutes were the most miserable decision of the summer, until the last 30 seconds.

The words “Go, Go, U.S.A.” now ring in my glory, and true American sports fans remember when Landon Donovan put away the goal that spilt in the face of expected elimination and continued the dance.

But here’s why the World Cup is the best event in sports. Because 10,000 miles away from my cel- ebration flowed tears from an Algerian soccer fan whose hope of soccer relevance was crushed while mine was realized. And 10,000 miles away from that was a Korean soccer fan up way past his bedtime gawking in amaze- ment at that thriller of a finish.

This was a moment to become a hero for America in Soccer. That mo- ment was the sport’s Battle of Yorktown, because it could fi- nally start to legitimately build itself into the fabric of the nation.

While we grow up dreaming about draining a buzzer beater in the NBA Finals or hitting a walk-off in Game 7, every other kid in the world dreams about doing what Donovan did that day in South Africa.

No event in sports tops this global thread, not even the Olympics. Disagree? Well, can you imagine entire countries shutting down and gathering in city centers to watch Usain Bolt run or Michael Phelps swim for days at a time?

Now I’m not just talking about a city or school shutting down for the Super Bowl or national championship, but an entire country for just a group stage game. For just one month, fans of the most intense rivalries in soccer sing the same anthem and cheer the same cheers. You cannot tell a Barcelona fan from a Real Madrid fan when they wear red and yellow: the same goes for an Arsenal and Chelsea fan wearing white with a Union Jack wrapped around their back.

In 2006, the World Cup shut down a country for more than just a day. Try the entire sum- mer. In Ivory Coast, a civil war that left thousands dead and spanned four years forced a truce for the summer because warlords just love their soccer so. Less than a year later, the war ended. I don’t remember a sport- ing event every stopping a war, but then again my memory may just be a little hazy.

The World Cup is the only sporting event that affects just about every country in the world. From the qualifying stages to the event itself, billions of eyes take a glance at this sultan of spec- tacles, this colossus of clot.

It doesn’t just apply to every- one outside the U.S. Can you re- member a sporting event where American patriotism was higher than where it was at the 2010 World Cup after that single goal? Tough call.

It is simply mind-blowing how the World Cup holds this literal, earth-shattering power. But nothing comes close to one month of do-or-die soccer between 32 of the world’s best teams. Call it a global March Madness, where enrollment is in the millions and tailgates become unofficial countrywide holidays.

The World Cup is the ultimate competitive dance of the world’s game. The Olympics are an amateur’s afterthought com- pared to the World Cup. And there is no way to predict a win- ner, especially since there hasn’t been a repeat winner since Brazil won it in 1958 and 1962. It embodies the sport’s most ad- mirable themes: perennial powerhousees, rooting for the underdogs and celebrity status. Even Americans know who Pele is, soccer’s most beloved fig- ure. But what they don’t know is that Pele never played in Europe against the top competition. Yet he is the only player to win three World Cups and because of that he is the globe’s indispensible champ.

The fact that it happens every four years gives it the anticipa- tion of the Olympics with the competitive stage of the Super Bowl. It combines the best of the best, because it truly is the best.

This Sports Authority series over the past two weeks has put us all in the midst of the greatest events in sports. Those moments in sports that we remember for the rest of our lives stem from the 10 discussed in this space right here. It’s the beauty of de- bate, mixed in with the world of sports we all love so much.

But good thing they saved the best for last.

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

RECEPSPORTS | CHEESE FACES 33, W.I. 32

Special to The Observer

This week’s big game cer- tainly did not have the same viewerhip as the Super Bowl, but it did have all the mak- ings of a game to be remem- bered. In the RecSports Game of the Week, the Cheese Faces topped The W.I. 39-32 in 4 vs. 4 flag football.

The W.I. took control early, jumping out to a 19-0 lead after three straight scoring possessions. At the end of the first half, the Cheese Faces got on the board and closed the gap to 19-7.

In the second half, moment- um swung as the Cheese Faces scored on their first possession to further cut the deficit. The W.I. answered with another touchdown to make the score 26-13, but two unanswered scoring drives from the Cheese Faces tied the game at 26 with less than a minute remaining.

The Cheese Faces defeat W.I.

The Observer accepts saddleads every business day from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Notre Dame office, 924 South Dining Hall. Deadline for next day classifieds is 5 p.m. All classifieds must be pre-paid. The charge is 5 cents per character per day, including all spaces. The Observer reserves the right to edit all classifieds for content without seeking refunds.

Cheese Faces defeat W.I.

Tennessee Titans defensive assistant coach Gregg Williams talks to reporters during a press conference Thursday in Nashville, Tenn.

Williams apologized for bounty scandal

Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Gregg Williams knows he’s got to prove himself every day. The former Saints defensive coordinator said he received a “great rebound” Thursday when he was reinstated by the NFL and hired by the Tennessee Titans after serv- ing a nearly yearlong suspens- ion for his role in the New Orleans bounty scandal.

But now that he’s back in the league, he’ll have to change the way he’s done things in the past.

“I’ve got a very positive out- look on things,” Williams said.

“I understand and respect the game an awful lot, and the past is the past and what I’m talking about doing right now is creating a resume from this day forward.”

Williams took the first step when the Titans hired him as their defensive coordinator for the 2012 season. Williams thanked Commissioner Roger Goodell for reinstating him while speaking at a news conference.

“I take full responsibility and apologize for my previous actions, and I’ve used this year to reorganize my life and put focus on positive energy and positive ways to inspire and coach and motivate in this profession,” Williams said, reading from a statement.

“I’m grateful for this opportunity.”

The league issued a statement saying that Goodell cited several reasons for re- instating Williams, including Williams accepting responsi- bility for his role in the bounty program, his commitment to never be involved in any pay- off for performance system and pledging to teach safe play and respect for the rules.

“Williams must fully conform to league rules and will be subject to periodic monitoring to confirm his compliance,” the NFL said in its statement.

While he was out of football in 2012, Williams started his path back.

He said he spoke to football players from the Pop Warner level up to high school over the past year. He also worked with his charity, traveled and tried to improve himself including losing about “a kindergarten” when challenged by his sons to lose weight.

Williams, suspend- ed definitively last March, now is the last person involved in the scandal to be reinstated by league. New Orleans coach Sean Payton had his suspen- sion lifted on Jan. 22.

Saints general manager Mickey Loomis was suspend- ed for eight games and assis- tant head coach Joe Vitt for six.

Four current or former Saints players were also suspended after an investigation found the club had a performance pool offering cash rewards for key plays, including big hits. The player suspensions event- ually were overturned.

Next, a flurry of passing saw both teams trade touchdowns. However, the Cheese Faces successfully converted their extra-point attempt, and took a 33-32 lead to complete the comeback with just seconds remaining.

The W.I. attempted a last- gasp series of laterals on the last drive, but the Cheese Faces intercepted the ball and ran it back for a touchdown to ice the win.

unplanned pregnancy

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Countdown to MLB Spring Training: 4 days until pitchers & catchers report
**FENCING**

**Irish seek to continue success against Duke**

By BRENDAN BELL
Sports Writer

After a strong day at the Northwestern Duals on Feb. 2, Notre Dame will travel to Durham, N.C., for the two-day Duke Duals this weekend.

Sophomore epee Nicole Ameli said the team fenced well together at Northwestern.

“We all fenced really well, and we had solid performances throughout the day,” she said. “We helped each other out.”

The Irish competed against a number of top-ranked teams in Evanston, Ill., last weekend and both the men and women performed well. The women’s side did not drop a match, going 8-0 in dual matches. The strongest performance of the day for the No. 2 Irish women’s team came against No. 1 Princeton, when it won 14-13 against the Tigers. Ameli said the breaks between matches allowed Notre Dame to rest and helped it achieve victory.

“We had a pretty big break between our second-to-last match and the match against Ohio State,” Ameli said. “That turned out really well for us and we are focused for next week.”

The men went 5-1 on the day. The No. 3 Notre Dame men’s team dropped their only match against No. 1 Ohio State. Even in that match, the Irish out-fenced the Buckeyes in two of the three events. Notre Dame went 5-4 in both the foil and sabre, but lost the epee 7-2.

Notre Dame will now divert its attention to the Duke Duals, where the Irish will look to continue their streak of success against top teams. Ameli expects more strong competition this weekend, including the No. 10 Duke men.

Nonetheless, the Irish stuck to the same routine this week as they have most of the season. Ameli said the team analyzed the positives and negatives of their last performances and will be prepared Saturday.

“Usually when we get back from a meet we have a day off and then we have a few days to just recap and look at what we did well and what areas we need to focus on,” Ameli said. “I think we will be ready to go.”

The Irish travel to Durham, N.C., today and begin fencing at the Duke Duals on Saturday before concluding competition Sunday.

Contact Brendan Bell at bbell2@nd.edu

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**ND WOMEN’S SWIMMING & DIVING**

**Team hopes to carry momentum to Toledo**

By ALEX WILCOX
Sports Writer

As Notre Dame’s regular season draws to a close, the team may be treating their last meet against Toledo more as a tune-up. The Irish will travel to Toledo, Ohio, on Saturday, although the outcome does not overly concern them, according to senior diver Jenny Chiang.

“We’re treating this more of a tune-up,” Chiang said. “At this time the end of February rolls around we’re all pretty tired.”

While Chiang and the rest of the divers have had some good momentum going that will hopefully just continue into the Big East championships. This meet is a good feeler to see what we still need to work on.”

Chiang said Notre Dame hopes to carry its current momentum through Toledo and into the conference championships.

“The team feels really good,” Chiang said. “The divers have had a couple of good meets and the swimmers had a really good meet at Ohio State, so I think we’ve got some good momentum going that will hopefully just continue into conference.”

The Irish competed against the No. 2 Buckeyes in two of the three events. Notre Dame went 5-4 in both the foil and sabre, but lost the epee 7-2.

Notre Dame will now divert its attention to the Duke Duals, where the Irish will look to continue their streak of success against top teams. Ameli expects more strong competition this weekend, including the No. 10 Duke men.

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Contact Brendan Bell at bbell2@nd.edu

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**Irish senior diver Jenny Chiang leaps off the board in the 3-meter dive during the Shamrock Invitational on Jan. 25.**

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**Irish freshman foil Lee Kiefer counters after parrying a strike on Oct. 27, 2012. The Irish took first in the Notre Dame Invitational.**

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Irish trek to East Lansing

Irish junior Ryan Bandy sets up to return the ball in Notre Dame’s 4-0 loss to Duke on Feb. 3.

By MEGAN FINNERAN
Sports Writer

No. 30 Notre Dame is on the road this weekend, traveling to East Lansing to face No. 48 Michigan State on Saturday. Both squads are 4-3, presenting equal opportunities for victory as they enter the weekend.

All of the losses for both teams have been to ranked opponents. These include No. 37 Northwestern, No. 28 Harvard and most recently No. 9 Duke (ranked No. 5 when they faced the Irish). Michigan State has fallen to No. 31 Memphis, No. 7 Kentucky and No. 64 Princeton.

Memphis offers the only source of comparison.

The Spartans lost 6-1 to the Tigers, while the Irish took the win with a 4-0 sweep. Despite this match up, Notre Dame is still focused on the present and the competition facing the weekend.

“Michigan State is a very tough team and they are very good at home,” senior Blas Moros said. “Their courts are some of the fastest in the country and take some getting used to, but most of us have played there before and know what to expect.”

The veterans on the Irish will provide leadership this weekend, as many members of the squad have throughout the season. Notre Dame brings four ranked opponents to the competition, led by No. 80 junior Greg Andrews in the No. 1 singles spot. Junior Billy Pecor stands at No. 88, Moros is tied at 110 and sophomore Wyatt McCoy is No. 120. The Spartans do not have any ranked players.

“We are excited and ready,” Moros said. “A win always helps for sure and it is always good to get some different guys in the lineup.”

The Irish come off a split weekend, falling to Duke but bouncing back to sweep IUPUI 7-0. The weekend marked improvement in all areas and added momentum to the squad.

“With big opportunities like these where we have a chance to beat some good teams, motivation is never a concern,” Moros said. “Doubles has been progressing very nicely with our No. 2 team playing especially well.”

If the Irish can win the doubles point, they will start the weekend on a good foot.

The match will begin at Saturday, Feb. 9 at 12 p.m. in East Lansing.

Contact Megan Finneran at mfinnera@nd.edu

Come take a peek!
Drop in to watch ND art students use a 20x24 Polaroid camera instructed by guest artist Jennifer Trausch

Monday, February 11
10 a.m.–12 noon
1:00–4:00 p.m.
Snite Museum of Art
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Four prepare for league finals

Junior sprinter Jessie Christian runs the 100-meter sprint in the Meyo Invitational in the Loftus Center on Feb. 1.

By GREG HADLEY
Sports Writer

With the conference championship just a week away, four Irish athletes will travel to Grand Valley State this weekend for some last minute preparation.

Junior captain Logan Dunn is big, over 300 meters. It’s actually like these where we have a chance to beat some good teams, motivation is never a concern,” Moros said. “Doubles has been progressing very nicely with our No. 2 team playing especially well.”

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Sports Writer

With the conference championship just a week away, four Irish athletes will travel to Grand Valley State this weekend for some last minute preparation.

Freshman Aaron Dunn and juniors Jarod Buchanon and Bryce Wood, all hurdlers, will compete for the men, while junior sprinter Ajahh Urssery will represent the women. Buchanon was a member of the winning 4-by-400 meter relay team at last weekend’s Meyo Invitational. The squad’s time was the 12th best in the nation this year to date.

“This meet is a last chance to either qualify for Big East or get some confidence,” junior captain Logan Renwick said. “It’s a great place to face some good competition,” Renwick said. Teams from all over the Midwest are entered, including Michigan State, Indiana State and Marquette.

Looking ahead, Renwick said the entire team feels confident as they approach the postseason.

“Everyone’s very positive,” Renwick said. “We know that when everyone does what they’re expected to do, we have a great chance to win both (the men’s and women’s) titles. Based off of the last two meets, we’re ready to go down to Ohio and compete.”

The Irish compete one last time before the Big East conference championship at Grand Valley State, this Friday.

Contact Greg Hadley at ghadley@nd.edu

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Michigan
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 29
difficult, no matter the opponent. “I can guarantee you that they’re playing a lot better right now,” Lee said. “That was months and months ago, so they’ve been a team that much longer and been playing together that much longer, and at the same time, it’s the CCHA, getting ready for the final standings and that battle for the last final spots, so no matter what it is, it’s going to be a grind.”

While the Wolverines have struggled most of the season, the Irish have had their own difficulties since the winter break layoff, managing a 2-7-1 record since January. “That was months ago, but I still have confidence in Steven Summerhays,” Jackson said. “He’s shown he can win games like we’ll need to win this weekend. We’ll see this weekend if we’re continuing to progress in a good direction.”

Irish junior goaltender Steven Summerhays has started the vast majority of games for Notre Dame this season, but was pulled after two periods Friday against Ohio State after allowing five goals. In more than four periods of action on Friday and Saturday against the Buckeyes, senior goaltender Mike Johnson allowed just two goals. “Any time we play Michigan, it’s always intense,” Jackson said. “There’s not going to be that much motivation from my end as far as playing this weekend, and I’m sure it’s the same for them. It’s just always an intense series. I won’t need to get them more physically engaged, that’ll happen naturally.”

The Irish and Wolverines will face off at 7:35 p.m. Friday and 7:05 p.m. Saturday at the Compton Family Ice Arena.

Contact Sam Gans at sgans@nd.edu

ND SOFTBALL

Squad begins season in Charlotte

By MEGAN FINNERAN Sports Writer

This weekend, the Irish finally break free from indoor practice and travel to Charlotte, N.C., for the Charlotte Fast Pitch Classic. The season-opening slate includes two games Saturday against Wisconsin and Charlotte and two games Sunday against the Badgers and Presbyterian.

The Irish finished 40-16 last year, concluding the season with an 8-3 loss to Arizona on the final day of the NCAA Regionals. Notre Dame enters this season ranked second in the Big East preseason poll, sitting behind only defending Big East champion South Florida.

The Irish return a majority of last year’s squad, including 2012 All-Big East second baseman Amy Bunting and Big East Pitcher of the Year junior Laura Winter. The squad will also look to sophomore outfielder Kelsey Thornton and junior infielder Chloe Saganovich, who were both named to the 2012 All-Big East second team, for leadership.

Five freshmen also join the roster this season. “I believe each freshman will make valuable contributions to our program this year,” Bunting said. “We will especially look for [pitcher] Allie Rhodes to have a big impact in the circle for us this year. Everyone else will definitely let their names be known with their bats.”

Bunting and Thornton will lead the Irish as captains this season. Infielders Kathryn Lux and Jackie Bowe and pitcher Brittany O’Donnell round out the returning senior class. “We are all very excited and ready to get outside on the dirt this weekend,” Bunting said. “We have had several weeks of practice so we are all ready to take it to the field.”

Notre Dame looks forward to emerging from the offseason and showcasing its hard work after months of indoor training. “Our main focus this offseason has been building our confidence and bringing a presence to the field and to each at bat,” Bunting said. “Physically we are more than ready to take on any opponent, so we wanted to focus a little more on our mental game.”

The Irish begin play in Charlotte, N.C., at the Charlotte Fast Pitch Classic on Saturday morning at 10 a.m. against Wisconsin followed by Charleston at noon. They continue the action Sunday against Wisconsin at 10 a.m. followed by a game against Presbyterian at noon.

Contact Megan Finnneran at mfinneran@nd.edu

Louisville
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 20

It is to be that way Saturday night, but I can’t put my finger on why it’s like that.”

“[Pitino or I] usually says, ‘How many extra do we want to play tonight? One, two, five?’” ESPN’s “College Gametime” will visit campus this weekend as Notre Dame attempts to pass Louisville in the conference standings. It’s the first time the show has featured an Irish basketball game since 2009 when Connecticut snatched Notre Dame’s 45-game home-unbeaten streak.

Brey said his squad gained some experience against the zone defense Monday in a 63-47 loss at Syracuse, who subscribes to a similar defensive philosophy as Louisville.

“We came in Tuesday and watched a lot of our zone stuff against Syracuse,” Brey said. “More of it was not good than good. We had a couple possessions obviously, but I felt we really needed a lesson. The first thing you have to watch is the pressure and two small guards that really get up on you and pressure you in the backcourt. That’s my first concern as we prepare for Louisville.

“Once you get it across mid-court, you’re dealing with the zone and I think there are things we need to clean up in the next two days of practice before we play the 2-3 zone.”

Brey said he’s “thrilled” with Notre Dame’s performance since losing 63-47 to Georgetown on Jan. 21. During that time, the Irish won three consecutive games before dropping its fourth conference loss at Syracuse.

“We were up against it right then and playing bigger,” he said. “Senior center Tom V. Wil has given us great energy and playing two big guys has made us more physically stronger. I think we’re in the middle of improving now that we’ve had a reinvigoration, but I’m also excited about the prospect of if we get our student-athletes back to energize us, whenever that is.”

Brey said Martin, who has been sidelined the past four games with a knee injury, could play Saturday but sounded skeptical about the possibility.

“He hasn’t done anything in two weeks,” Brey said. “I’m interested to see how he moves in shooting drills to see how he feels tomorrow. That’s as far as we can go right now. So that’s kind of my mindset with it. His frame of mind Tuesday was that he wanted to get in there and move around and see how it felt.”

Currently, two-and-a-half games separate the top 10 teams in the Big East. Notre Dame — tied for seventh in the conference heading into Saturday’s game — trails Big East-leading Syracuse by one-and-a-half games with eight contests remaining.

Brey greatly said of the conference’s parity. “How about the drama in college basketball? It’s going to make for an unbelievable NCAA tournament. I just hope we’re a part of it and get one of those 68 spots.”

“Our league continues to be the queen league and the most-watched league. We’re right in this thick of the thing.”

Contact Andrew Owens at aowens2@nd.edu

Big East
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 20

“It’s not good for the [Big East] conference. You get all this talk about when people are leaving instead of who’s in your conference.”

Rutgers announced Nov. 20 it will leave the Big East for the Big Ten. Louisville announced it will join Notre Dame in the ACC. The “Catholic 7” basketball schools — DePaul, Georgetown, Marquette, Providence, St. John’s, Seton Hall and Villanova — have informed the Big East of their plans to exit the conference.

“Especially after the announcement now that you’ve got 10 schools [giving] their intention to leave, I think it’s impossible to negotiate to make that as early as possible,” Swarbrick said.

Syracuse and Pittsburgh are also believed to be both leaving the Big East for the ACC at the conclusion of this season. The Orange and Panthers are also believed to be the highest paying schools to leave, with more than $7.5 million fees each, according to ESPN.

Contact Mike Monaco at jmonaco@nd.edu
counterparts were heading into that mid-October weekend: a solid squad needing to prove itself against elite competition, in this case No. 11 Louisville.

Notre Dame had its chance to do so against No. 9 Syracuse on Monday night at the Carrier Dome, but the Irish shot 34.6 percent from the field en route to a 63-47 loss.

It seemed that maybe Notre Dame got its signature win against Kentucky way back on Nov. 29, when the Irish upset the then-No. 8 Wildcats 64-50 and the students stormed the court.

But the court didn’t deserve to be stormed. Not against an inferior and inexperienced opponent playing on the road at Purcell Pavilion. The court now sits empty, waiting for the “GameDay” gang to set up shop. The time for a signature win wasn’t a week after Thanksgiving. The time is now.

Notre Dame sits at 18-5 overall and 6-4 in the Big East. “Quality” wins on the NCAA tournament résumé likely read as follows: Cincinnati (maybe), Kentucky (maybe), Villanova (maybe) and BYU. I use the term “quality” lightly here because NIT teams might be able to beat those squads.

So the Irish undoubtedly need a marquee win against Louisville in a conference tilt, in a primetime matchup against an elite program that will still be elite at the season’s end.

Notre Dame has few chances remaining to get a statement victory that not only boosts its stock in the eyes of the tournament selection committee, but also sets the tone for the rest of the season. And think about the Stanford game for the football team. That team had one more true chance (Oklahoma) to make believers out of the BCS constituents.

The Irish hoopsters are running out of chances themselves. Sure, they get another crack at the Cardinals and the Bearcats, and they take on Marquette in early March, but those are three of the last four games of the regular season. The Irish need momentum now, not heading into the Big East tournament.

If this was an experienced squad, I’d be fine with Notre Dame getting hot in Madison Square Garden and riding that surge into March Madness. But the Irish aren’t the veteran squad we thought they were heading into the season.

This is a team trying to find itself, especially without graduate student guard Scott Martin. Junior guards Eric Atkins and Jerian Grant and senior forward Jack Cooley may be upperclassmen, but they are each just in their second seasons as starters. Sophomore guard/forward Pat Connaughton is still young. So are freshmen.

Sophomore guard/forward Pat Connaughton defends the paint in Notre Dame’s matchup against Georgetown on Jan. 21. Notre Dame went on to lose the home game 63-47 to the Hoyas.
By SAMANTHA ZUBA
Sports Writer

After Irish coach Muffet McGraw celebrated her 700th win Wednesday against Villanova, she quickly got back to business. No. 2 Notre Dame has another game to play against Seton Hall.

McGraw, who stresses focus and defense, doesn’t want her team to forget that.

“I think for us going into every game with real focus is something we have to work on on the road,” she said. “We’ve got a big game coming up because it’s the next game on the schedule.”

With Winter Storm Nemo threatening the Northeast this weekend, Notre Dame (21-1, 9-0 Big East) heads to South Orange, N.J., to face the Pirates on Saturday. Despite these below-average scoring outputs, McGraw said Seton Hall also plays excellent defense.

“They’re just a good defensive team,” McGraw said. “They’re holding teams to 60 points per game, and we like to put up 80. I think it will come down to our offense versus their defense.”

Although the Irish entered the game averaging 81.4 points per contest, the offense mustered only 59 points in the win over Villanova on Tuesday. Cincinnati managed to hold Notre Dame to 64 points Saturday. Despite these below-average scoring outputs, McGraw attributed the team’s recent success to remarkable performances by key starters.

“[Junior guard] Kayla McBride has been phenomenal and [junior forward] Natalie Achonwa has been playing great basketball this year,” McGraw said. “[Junior guard] Skylar Diggins has been great of course. We’ve been getting more production from the bench. We’d like them to add to the offense. [Sophomore guard] Madison Cable is ready. [Freshman guard] Michaela Mabrey is looking for more playing time.”

The Irish and their high-powered offense will take on the Pirates at 2 p.m. Saturday at Walsh Gymnasium in South Orange, N.J.

Contact Samantha Zuba at szuba@nd.edu
**MEN’S BASKETBALL**

**Irish hope to avoid overtime with the Cardinals**

By ANDREW OWENS
Assistant Managing Editor

It’s occurred four of the last five times Notre Dame and Louisville have played. It’s essentially become standard procedure when the Irish and Cardinals face-off. It’s even gotten to the point where the two coaches joke about it with each other.

Regardless of venue, dates or ranking, the annual Notre Dame-Louisville matchup seems destined to require overtime. Heading into Saturday night’s marquee matchup between the No. 25 Irish (18-5, 6-4 Big East) and No. 11 Cardinals (19-4, 7-3), it’s the top storyline as the programs try to navigate their way through the jumbled Big East standings.

“There’s just been great games,” Irish coach Mike Brey said of the rivalry with Louisville. “Hard-played, kids really competing and I expect that to just continue. It’s the Big East race makes every game important from that standpoint.”

The Irish had a bad first half,” Jackson said. “That doesn’t mean you can’t recover from it. So they certainly concern me. They’re a much better team.”

Irish senior forward/center Jerian Grant makes a move past a Villanova defender in the home matchup on Jan. 30. Grant went on to score 12 points and have 10 assists in Notre Dame’s 65-60 win over the Wildcats.

**HOCKEY**

**Squad looks to repeat sweep against Wolverines**

By SAM GANS
Sports Writer

As No. 12 Notre Dame attempts to make a move toward the top of the CCHA standings, it will welcome a familiar foe to the Compton Family Ice Arena when Michigan comes to town.

The Irish (16-11-1, 12-7-1-1 CCHA) and Wolverines (10-16-2, 7-13-2-2) will meet for the third and fourth times this season Friday and Saturday, respectively. Notre Dame swept the Wolverines at Yost Arena in Ann Arbor, Mich., in November, its first sweep at Michigan since 1978.

Michigan was selected first in the CCHA preseason media poll and began the season ranked no. 3 in the country, but has not performed up to preseason expectations and currently sits tied for eighth in the 11-team conference. However, the Wolverines swept Michigan State last weekend and are playing better hockey lately with the recent returns of junior defenseman Jon Merrill and sophomore defenseman Brendan Severson from injury and improvement from freshman goaltender Jared Buttridge, Irish coach Jeff Jackson said.

“Michigan had a bad first half,” Jackson said. “That doesn’t mean you can’t recover from it. They’re a much better team.”

Irish junior left wing Jeff Costello looks for the puck in Notre Dame’s game against Ferris State on Jan. 25. The Irish lost 3-1.

**CONFERENCE REALIGNMENT**

**ND to stay in Big East for 2013-14**

By MIKE MONACO
Sports Writer

Notre Dame Director of Athletics Jack Swarbrick told ESPN on Thursday that Notre Dame will remain in the Big East for the 2013-14 season.

“It’s important to say all we’re confirming is where we are next year,” Swarbrick said. Swarbrick’s comments came on the heels of the announcement made by Irish men’s basketball coach Mike Brey, who said during a teleconference on Thursday that Notre Dame would play in the Big East next season before heading to the Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC). Notre Dame announced Sept. 12 that it would join the ACC in all sports except football and hockey, which will be independent and join Hockey East, respectively.

“We do know we’ll be in the Big East next season,” Brey said when asked of scheduling for the 2013-2014 season. “That decision was made [Feb. 1]. So thank God we have some direction. We will play in the Big East next year.”

Swarbrick said the decision to remain in the conference applies to those other sports, excluding hockey and football, as well. The timetable for the move to the ACC, however, was initially unclear in September. Big East rules stipulate that a school must wait 27 months before leaving the conference and must pay an exit fee. Schools typically have the ability to expedite the process by paying a larger exit fee.

Swarbrick told ESPN on Thursday that he thinks it’s in everyone’s best interest for Notre Dame and the nine other Big East schools planning on exiting the conference to do so “sooner rather than later.”

“I think it’s in the interest of everybody to figure out a way to get it done sooner rather than later,” said Swarbrick.

**Team positioned just right for late season surge**

**See LOUISVILLE PAGE 16**

**See GAMEDAY PAGE 17**

**Michael Kramm | The Observer**