Corps recognizes University

Notre Dame places 18th in Peace Corps’ internal review of top volunteer universities

By AUBREY BUTTS
News Writer

Notre Dame graduates again swelled the ranks of Peace Corps volunteers during the past year, earning the University the 18th slot on the Peace Corps’ annual review of the top volunteer-producing mid-sized colleges and universities across the country.

The University website reports that about 80 percent of Notre Dame students are involved in service through the Center for Social Concerns, while at least 10 percent of graduates spend a year or more volunteering.

Mike Heebeler, a director in the Center for Social Concerns said this culture of service at the university as a principle reason why Notre Dame graduates again are involved with Junior Parents Weekend.

Heebeler said juniors and their parents will be able to find unstructured activities as well as academic events put on by various groups and departments.

Hallihan noted that groups from various departments and organizations with parents at the university website reference a principle reason why Notre Dame places 18th in Peace Corps' internal review of top volunteer universities.

Tuition increases by 3.8 percent

Observer Staff Report

Undergraduate tuition will increase to $44,605 for the 2013-14 academic year, according to a Feb. 13 University press release.

The rise in tuition amounts to a 3.8 percent increase over the current cost, an uptick consistent with the previous three years’ tuition rate increases. This 3.8 rate of increase is the highest since 1960. Including average on-campus room and board rates of...

Campus prepares for Junior Parents Weekend

By NICOLE McALEE
News Writer

Parents of Notre Dame junior students will flock to campus for this weekend’s Junior Parents Weekend (JPW) festivities to celebrate their child’s time at Notre Dame, starting tonight with the opening gala.

Elizabeth Owers, chairperson of the Junior Parents Weekend Executive Committee, said months of hard work, planning and organization by the committee have gone into making this weekend a memorable one. The committee has taken care of everything: from organizing mailings to setting up a hospitality room staffed by freshmen and sophomores in LaFortune Student Center.

“My job has been working with the committee to coordinate all the activities of the weekend [by] communicating with other students, staff, and faculty, and also communicating with parents to answer questions they might have,” Owers said.

Vice Chairperson Melissa Hallihan noted that groups from all over campus come together to help make JPW a success.

“We’ve been in contact with decorators, catering, DJs, the staff of the Joyce Center, Campus Ministry,” Hallihan said. “It’s amazing how many departments and groups on campus are involved with Junior Parents Weekend.”

After tonight’s Opening Gala, events continue tomorrow with College Workshops hosted by each of the four colleges, hall luncheons at each residence hall, Mass in the Purcell Pavilion, and the President’s Dinner in the Joyce Center Fieldhouse.

The last event of the weekend is Sunday’s Closing Brunch, which will feature a speech by Dr. James McKenna of the Department of Anthropology.

Hallihan said juniors and their parents will be able to find unstructured activities as well throughout the weekend.

Activities around campus are not limited just to these events,” Hallihan said. “There are numerous band and choral concerts, sports events, CSC events and academic events put on by various groups and departments. Students and their parents...

Immigration advocates speak

By CHRISTIAN MYERS
News Writer

While immigration reform proposals work their way through Congress, representatives of the all-volunteer humanitarian group No More Deaths (NMD) visited Notre Dame as part of a national speaking tour Thursday.

NMD is a faith-based coalition formed in 2004 that is focused on addressing human...

see LECTURE PAGE 5

Belles explore College’s past

By KELLY KONYA
News Writer

Saint Mary’s students will have the opportunity to trace the footsteps of earlier Belles during Heritage Week, to be held this year Feb. 18 to 22. Heritage Week celebrates Saint Mary’s history, giving students insight into the traditions of the College.

Heritage Week will feature tours of Saint Mary’s landmarks and workshops from around campus.

Senior student government vice president Meghan Casey said she hopes students take the time to enjoy the events offered during the week.

I am hoping for good attendance at events because they...
QUESTION OF THE DAY:

What time is your alarm set for?

Clare O’Mara

sophomore

McGlinn Hall

“7:30 a.m.”

Max Brown

sophomore

Duncan Hall

“5:28 a.m.”

Roshan Dutta

freshman

Sorin Hall

“Alternating between 7:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.”

Sabine Mosal

sophomore

Lyons Hall

“8:15 a.m.”

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

THE NEXT FIVE DAYS:

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

Friday

Junior Parents Weekend
Campus-wide through Sunday
Contact jpw@nd.edu

Notre Dame Band

JPW Concert
DeBartolo Performing Arts Center
6 p.m. - 7 p.m. Annual JPW concert.

Saturday

Men’s Tennis

Eck Pavilion
12 p.m. - 2 p.m.
Notre Dame vs. Michigan.

Saturday Vigil Mass

Basilica of the Sacred Heart
5 p.m. - 6 p.m.
Mass at the Basilica.

Sunday

Mass at the Basilica

Basilica of the Sacred Heart
11:45 a.m. - 12:45 p.m.
Mass at the Basilica.

Family First Classes

Rockne Memorial
1 p.m. - 2 p.m.
Family Climbing to improve well-being.

Monday

Blood Drive

Rolls Sports Recreation Center
11 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.
Call 574-631-6100.

Tuesday

Four: 7 Catholic Fellowship
Cavanaugh Hall
8:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.
Student-led fellowship.

Workshop:

“Exploring Career Options.”

Flanner Hall
12 p.m. - 1 p.m.
For graduate students.

Students gathered at LaFortune last night to participate in the Notre Dame version of the viral video “Harlem Shake.” The video of the dance, which is the newest dance craze to sweep the nation, was filmed and organized by Patrick A. Matthews and was edited by Bobby Reiche.
Corps
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1
for Notre Dame's 18th spot on the list.
"A good number of students are actively engaged in service learning projects, community service, and international development. Many students come in with these interests, and the university does a great job of deepening those interests," Hebbeler said.
In a press release announcing celebrations for the 50th anniversary of the Peace Corps, Rok Teasley, a Peace Corps recruiter, also commented Notre Dame students for their ability to translate their classroom learning into practice.
"Notre Dame students enter into service with an excellent understanding of the issues global communities are facing," Teasley said. "I am especially inspired by the students I speak with and their passion and commitment to social justice, sustainable change and working to bring peace into the world."
This is the 13th consecutive year Notre Dame has made the Corps' list. Since the Peace Corps was formed in 1961, 865 Notre Dame alumni have served as Peace Corps volunteers. Twenty-three graduates currently volunteer with the Corps abroad.
Still, Hebbeler said students often fear entering into post-graduate service programs because of their perceived effect on their future careers.
"So often, I hear students say, 'I'm falling behind' or 'my friends are advancing their careers,'" Hebbeler said. "They see other classmates getting a job offer. As our recruiter likes to say, if you spend two years though doing project development in Moldova and you return to the States to find friends working for a certain firm, you're going to come back and be their boss."
This year, Hebbeler said students often view post-graduate service as time off. Hebbeler said students should embrace these programs as opportunities for maturation and becoming more independent and creative, all skills transferrable to the American workforce.
"You can call it a job or you can call it service. The work doesn't change," Hebbeler said. During the Peace Corps, Hebbeler observed that students fully consider their motivations for entering into a service program.
"The first step is taking a moment to think more deeply about what they felt called to and what is stirring within them," Hebbeler said. "I challenge them as a university to consider post-graduate service as time off, and how that might live out the gospel, how you might work for justice and you might live out the gospel, how you might work for justice, and you might live out the gospel, how you might work for justice, and you might live out the gospel, how you might work for justice, and you might live out the gospel, how you might work for justice, and you might live out the gospel, how you might work for justice, and you might live out the gospel, how you might work for justice, and you might live out the gospel, how you might work for justice, and you might live out the gospel, how you might work for justice, and you might live out the gospel, how you might work for justice, and you might live out the gospel, how you might work for justice, and you might live out the gospel, how you might work for justice, and you might live out the gospel, how you might work for justice.
"The Peace Corps has opportunities for students from all disciplines, and Hebbeler encourages students from across the campus to consider post-graduate service.
"Take the time to listen to what's stirring within you and think deeply about how you might live out the gospel, how you might work for justice and contribute to the common good," Hebbeler said. "The Peace Corps allows you to live out these motivations daily."

Tuition
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1
$12,512, total student charg-

Weekend
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1
certainly won't be in want of things to do.
With most of the hard work behind them, Owens said members of the JPW Executive Committee can relax and enjoy the fruits of their labor this weekend.
"As far as the Junior Parents Weekend itself is concerned, the Executive Committee takes a step back to enjoy the weekend with our families and friends," Hallihan said.
Though Owens acknowledged the standard has been set high, she said she is "most excited" for tea time.
The week kicks off Monday with Heritage Room tours with Sr. Veronica Wiedower, Casey said.
Tuesday will feature Tea Tours at the Riedinger House. The Riedinger House once played host to some of the College's classes but now is only used for special events.
Sophomore Grace McSorley said she is "most excited" for tea at the Riedinger House.
"I have always wondered what the inside of that little house looks like because it's so cute looking," she said.
Saint Mary's students will tour the archive rooms in Madeleva on Wednesday, Casey said.
On Friday, the Belles will gather for dinner during half hours, where chair of the board of trustees Mary L. Burke and Wiedower are speaking, Casey said.
"I am really looking forward to hearing her speak from Sr. Veronica," Casey said. "I am excited to hear her speak and I just love the whole week. It really shows the importance of knowing the history of the College and the support that students, faculty and staff give to college. It's been really fun to plan and get ready for.
On Friday the Belles will commemorate Saint Mary's Family and so to see how the friends that people have made, the relationships that people have formed," Owens said. "It really shows the students of the class of '94 that we were part of the Notre Dame family and so to see how family has grown over the past two and a half years is going to be really, really cool."
SO MUCH HAPPENED BEFORE DOROTHY DROPPED IN.

Wicked
The Untold Story of the Witches of Oz

May 8 – 19
The Morris Performing Arts Center

Tickets on sale tomorrow

8 AM Tickets at The Morris Center Box Office.
10 AM 574.235.9190, morriscenter.org and other outlets.
Outlets: Hammes Bookstore/Eddy Street Commons, South Bend;
and Super Sounds/TG Music, Goshen.
Groups of 20+, call 1.866.314.7687
The Mexican-American border is extremely porous, allowing many migrants to cross illegally into the United States every day, changing their lives for the worse. But for those we do run into, it changes their lives, she said.

Migrant and border patrol agents—especially among the high turnover rate among the group’s efforts to work with the Border Patrol agents—consider it an abuse of human rights and consider it an abuse of human rights that someone is forced to risk their lives when traveling in the harsh desert environment.

Many Afghans have complained that the house raids are culturally offensive. Having male troops search Afghan females is taboo. So is touching a family’s Quran, the Muslim holy book, or entering a home without being invited. Another focus of anger has been the disregard for privacy and the treatment of women and children. Women and children are usually home during the raids.

The men on the team prepared to raid the house and arrest or kill the target. Abdali and two other female colleagues were tasked with making sure no women or children were harmed during the operation. The most dangerous part of their assignment was the possibility that the main target was hiding among the women perhaps in disguise so Abdali and her colleagues had to stay alert to make sure they themselves were not attacked while getting innocent women and children out of harm’s way.

The military advantages to having Afghan female special forces soldiers, however, have not been realized. The Afghans fear that foreign forces to carry out operations in their homes, but they have never sent female special forces units and cooperated with them in many operations.

When we were faced with so many problems when we didn’t have female special forces in our units, Yafaliy said. Female special forces are quite useful.

On a recent frigid winter morning, an Afghan special forces unit, comprising 30 men and women soldiers, drilled at a target and practiced shooting.

As part of the exercise, the unit was told that an insurgent leader was hiding in a house and women and children were inside with him.

The missions have taken on increasing importance and the raids are culturally offensive. Having male troops search Afghan females is taboo. So is touching a family’s Quran, the Muslim holy book, or entering a home without being invited. Another focus of anger has been the disregard for privacy and the treatment of women and children. Women and children are usually home during the raids.

The raids now are conducted jointly by U.S. and Afghan forces, but the female Afghan special forces soldiers play an important role. Their job: Round up women and children and get them to safety while guarding against the potential dangers of female suicide bombers or inhabitants disguised in women’s clothes.

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Airlines merge for $11 billion

CHICAGO — A merged American Airlines and US Airways will carry more passengers around the world than any other airline, even though the world’s largest airline flying doesn’t need eight hub airports on the ground.

That means amid the hoopla of Thursday’s merger announcement, there are a few mayors, a handful of chambers of commerce leaders and lots of frequent flyers worried about what’s to come. Expect their sales pitches to start soon after why their city should remain a hub.

“Nobody has that many hubs,” said Robert Poole, an aviation expert and director of transportation policy at the Reason Foundation. “Eight hubs for the merged American would just not be sustainable — too complex and not really meeting enough of the travel needs.”

But while local governments can build airports to support hubs — helping airlines come up with the billions of dollars needed for new terminals, parking garages and runways — it’s up to the airlines to set up homes inside. When an airline decides to leave town, the loss of hub status can erode the value of that investment, leaving behind empty terminals.

US Airways CEO Doug Parker says the combined airline will keep all eight hubs, but the result will be “a better housing situation that’s unlikely in the long run.”

Whole airports at Pittsburgh International Airport and Houston Intercontinental Airport have been abandoned since US Airways began winding down its hub there in 2001. Thousands of jobs have vanished, and an airport that once served more than 20 million passengers a year had just 8 million last year.

Also in 2001, American Airlines parent AMR Corp. bought Trans World Airlines out of bankruptcy. It didn’t take long for the new AMR to shut down TWA’s hub in St. Louis, where officials had moved major roads and bulldozed hundreds of homes in a bid to free up 30 billion runway that’s no longer needed.

“These are risks for cities, particularly when they develop airport expansions based on having a large transfer hub,” Poole said. “You get an airport configured for something that’s way more than the size of your community justifies in terms of origin and destination traffic, and then if the hub goes away — Whooops! You are really stuck.”

In the shakeout of American’s merger with US Airways, experts believe American’s hubs in Chicago, Dallas-Fort Worth, New York, Los Angeles and Miami are likely to emerge as winners, if only because those markets can support a large amount of traffic on their own. That leaves US Airways’ facilities in Philadelphia, Phoenix and, most especially, Charlotte, N.C., most at risk.

Roughly 60 percent of the 40 million travelers who pass through Charlotte-Douglass International Airport transfer to another flight, including direct flights to more than 30 destinations in Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean.

Airport officials said the city has prospered from hub status, with 8,000 new companies investing more than $7 billion in the area to create more than 78,000 jobs since the current terminal opened in 1982. Among them is QuikTrip Brands International, which announced in 2011 it was abandoning Cincinnati in large part because of greater access to foreign flights from Charlotte. Cincinnati’s airport had been hit hard by Delta’s decision to shift flights to other hubs after merging with Northwest Airlines in 2007.

Charlotte-Douglass also benefits from its location outside of the Northeast Corridor, where congestion in New York and Philadelphia’s overlapping airspace is a frequent problem. But all of that may not be enough to ensure Charlotte’s future, said Adie Tomer, an associate fellow at the Brookings Institution. With 1.8 million people, the city just isn’t big enough.

“There’s a lot of advantages to Charlotte, but they don’t have the local base to fall back on, so they have to constantly incentivize the airline itself to keep flying through there,” he said. “They just really have a connectivity that vastly out-ranks their metropolitan, economic standing.”

The merger comes at a critical time for Philadelphia International Airport, which is about to begin a $6.5 billion expansion that includes a runway extension that will allow it to serve the biggest jets currently flying. Officials in Philadelphia have been preparing for the merger for months, getting ready to make a case for the combined airline to move some international air traffic from the American hub at New York’s JFK.

“If the new airline would place some of those long-haul aircraft into Philadelphia, we might be able to gain access to the potential that they are going to be able to offer,” airport CEO Mark Gale said.

The new airline will be based in Texas, near American’s headquarters. Margaret Hagan, a_n airport executive behind the current terminal opened in 1982. Among them is QuikTrip Brands International, which announced in 2011 it was abandoning Cincinnati in large part because of greater access to foreign flights from Charlotte. Cincinnati’s airport had been hit hard by Delta’s decision to shift flights to other hubs after merging with Northwest Airlines in 2007.

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Horsemeat sold as beef in France

PARIS — The price, smell and color should have been clear tipoffs something was wrong with shipments of horsemeat that were fraudulently labeled as beef. French authorities said Thursday. The government pinned the bulk of the blame on a French wholesale meat supplier at the heart of a scandal sweeping in Europe.

Police in the U.K., meanwhile, announced the arrests Thursday of three men on suspicion of fraud at two meat plants inspected earlier this week by the country’s Food Standards Agency.

The two separate developments were part of an escalating crisis that has raised questions about food controls in the European Union — and highlighted how little consumers know about the trading operations that get food from producers to wholesale to processors to stores and to their dinner table.

Europol, the European Union police agency, is coordinating a broad continent-wide fraud investigation amid allegations of an international criminal conspiracy to substitute horse for more expensive beef.

In Paris, Benjamin Hamon, the government’s consumer affairs minister, said it appeared that in the most prominent case fraudulent meat sales had been going on for several months, and reached across 13 countries and 28 companies.

He did not name the countries or companies.

He said there was plenty of blame to go around, but most of it rested with Spanghero, a wholesaler based in southern France.

Officials at Spanghero denied knowingly buying and reselling horsemeat but French authorities immediately suspended its trading activities.

Hamon said Spanghero was one company in a chain that started with two Romanian slaughterhouses that says they clearly labeled their meat as horse.

The meat was then bought by a U.K.-registered trader and sent to a warehouse in the Netherlands.

Spanghero bought the meat from the trader, then resold it to the French frozen food processor Comigel. The resulting food was marketed under the brand name Faim in France as well as lasagana and other products as containing ground beef.

Hamon said Spanghero was well aware that the meat was mislabeled when it sold it to Comigel.

“Spanghero knew,” Hamon said. “One thing that should have attracted Spanghero’s attention? The price.”

Hamon said the meat from Romania cost far below the market rate for beef.

A representative for Spanghero said company officials have been interrogated by authorities, who have raided Spanghero headquarters several times in recent days, but no one has been arrested.

The representative insisted the company acted “in good faith” and that it never knew the meat it bought and sold was horsemeat. The representative said he was not authorized to be publicly named according to his contract with Spanghero.
Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — National Rifle Association leader Wayne LaPierre renewed his call Thursday for armed guards in schools and urged gun owners to “stand and fight” for the Second Amendment.

In a speech billed as the NRA response to President Barack Obama’s State of the Union call for new gun regulations, LaPierre noted in remarks to the National Wild Turkey Federation in Nashville that the speech didn’t mention school security. He dismissed Obama’s calls for background checks for all firearms purchases and bans on assault weapons and ammunition magazines that hold more than 10 rounds.

“We will not be duped by the hypocrisy in the White House or the Congress who would deny our right to semi-automatic technology, and the magazines we need to defend ourselves and our families,” he said.

LaPierre said the proponents’ real intentions would be to “ban every gun they can, tax every gun sold and register every gun owner.”

George Thornton, the CEO of the National Wild Turkey Federation, said his group agrees with LaPierre’s positions, even though not all of the gun-control proposals would directly affect hunters. “You really don’t need large clips for hunting,” he said. “However, I have a very strong belief when you start to limit things, that the limits continue to chip away.”

LaPierre also said a universal background check would not stop criminals or the mentally ill from getting firearms. “Even when prohibited people are flagged by the system now, they are almost never stopped,” he said.

Mark Kelly, husband of former Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords, who was shot in the head in 2011, said in a statement that background checks are a simple and fair way to keep children safe. “If a dangerous criminal can’t buy a gun in a store, they shouldn’t be able to buy a gun at a gun show or on the Internet,” he said. “That’s just common sense.”

While LaPierre was critical of the president in the speech, the remarks were milder than sentiments he expressed in an opinion piece published this week by The Daily Caller, a conservative website, in which he predicted the president’s financial policies will lead to chaos.

“Nobody knows if or when the fiscal collapse will come, but if the country is broke, there likely won’t be enough money to pay for police protection. And the American people know it,” LaPierre wrote.

“Hurricanes. Tornadoes. Riots. Terrorists. Gangs. Lone criminals. These are perils we are sure to face — not just maybe,” he said. “It’s not paranoia to buy a gun. It’s survival.”

Don Robinson, a turkey hunter from Dyersburg who attended the speech, said he supported LaPierre’s call for armed school security and agreed that universal background checks wouldn’t catch criminals and people with mental illness.

“Mentally ill folks that have no right or reason to have firearms in their hands, we should have a system in place to prohibit that, rather than a law-abiding person having whatever they need to protect themselves and their country,” he said.

Fellow hunter Steve Gage of LaGrange, Ind., said he’s concerned that politicians “don’t have a full understanding of the weapons that are being discussed,” which he said could lead to unintended consequences for recreational firearms.

“As an example, my shotgun that I carry for turkey hunting would be illegal in New York because it has a pistol-grip stock,” he said. “So the laws they’re talking about passing have an effect on the guns that we’re using.”
InSIdE CoLumN

I got a fever

Mel Flanagan
News Writer

As I sit here trying to think of something to write about for this column, I can’t focus. I’ve been incredibly distracted all day, unable to concentrate on even the miniscule amount of homework I have, and I know exactly why. It’s because of the Broken Hearts Party at Club Fever, Michiana’s hottest nightclub and my favorite place in South Bend.

My friends and I are Fever people. Each week we look forward to dressing up, pregameing way too hard and running around Fever’s three glorious floors. The place has everything you could ask for in a bar. It’s large enough that it never gets crowded, with the exceptions of syllabus and finals week. It has the basement for socializing, the main floor for dancing and the side bars for doing shot-skis. And for the truly adventurous spirits, it has a cage.

All of Fever’s perks result in Thursday being my favorite night of the week. Unlike a large portion of the senior class, I look forward to Thursday, not particularly a Finny’s person. I do enjoy Wednesdays there, but I’d still rather stay in on a Wednesday in order to mentally and physically prepare for the next night rather than risk being too tired or hungover to make it to Fever. And after Thursday, the weekend often feels like it’s winding down regardless of the fact it hasn’t actually begun.

I really don’t understand why everyone doesn’t have a similar love affair with Fever. Thank God I was abroad last spring when everyone started going to Brothers on Thursdays instead, but every once in a while someone still asks if I’m going to the Eddy Street bar instead of Fever. I usually can’t help the look that comes on my face when this happens, a hideous mixture of disgust and disbelief. As one of my roommates put it, “If you like going to Brothers over Fever, you’re not someone I ever want to hang out with.”

The great part about Fever is that it’s the only night of the week we do something different. Every other bar in South Bend is pretty similar; I always feel like I’m going to the Eddy Street bar instead of Fever. I usually can’t help the look that comes on my face when this happens, a hideous mixture of disgust and disbelief. As one of my roommates put it, “If you like going to Brothers over Fever, you’re not someone I ever want to hang out with.”

Stop. Look around you. Where are you? Maybe you’re somewhere on the Notre Dame or Saint Mary’s campuses. You might be sitting at your desk in the offices of a major financial firm in New York or Chicago. Or you could be using medical expertise to provide health care to people in need in another country.

How did you get there? Not in the literal sense of modes of transportation, but in terms of the experiential journey you took to arrive at this particular physical location and moment in your life.

Now ask yourself — could you have gotten to that place without an excellent education?

Chances are the answer is a resounding “no.”

From the time most of us began preschool, higher education and career aspirations were probably a topic of occasional dinnertime discussion or at least casual thought. Whether you dreamed of being a doctor or lawyer, a teacher or CEO, those dreams were predicated on progressing through at least 18 years of education before attaining your respective goal. We understood such long-term goals couldn’t be achieved overnight, and hard work and perseverance in school were necessary means to the end of realizing our personal ambitions.

No matter where we grew up, we were lucky to have access to the kind of educational experiences that paved the path to where we find ourselves right now.

But for too many young people in the United States today, those educational opportunities are declining in number and quality every day. Too many students graduate high school unable to read at an 8th grade level. Schools all over the country fail to meet expectations set by standardized testing.

This is a serious problem in need of equally serious attention.

For those schools unable to fully meet the needs of their students, the impact of such a lack of resources and opportunities is felt years and decades after children leave school and become adults. These limitations hinder students’ ability to succeed in every field of the workforce, from engineering and medicine to business and journalism.

Our nation, exceptional in many measurable areas, ranks only 17th in education among its developed peers, according to a 2012 global report by the education firm Pearson. We are losing educational ground quickly, and this trend bears negative implications for American innovation, technological advancement and global participation.

President Barack Obama acknowledged the unsettling decline of American education in recent years and pledged to take action to improve educational shortcomings during his State of the Union address Tuesday. But he alone can’t bring the entire nation to a higher standard of academic excellence.

That’s where we, as Notre Dame and Saint Mary’s students, come in.

Sound like a lofty goal? It is. But we’re not telling everyone that we have to commit our lives to teaching or serving as school principals. We can have a tangible impact on children’s futures even during our undergraduate years. Since the earliest years of education are arguably the most formative, we can take it upon ourselves to start tutoring at the Robinson Center or La Casa de Amistad. We can work as camp counselors during the summer. Notre Dame and Saint Mary’s partner with local schools and organizations to run mentoring programs for young people in the South Bend community. Even the simple act of a friendly hug can mean more than you know.

If teaching seems like a feasible career path for you, apply for Teach for America or the Alliance for Catholic Education to make a difference in both public and private underserved schools across the country.

Even if we don’t see teaching or school administration in our career paths, we have countless opportunities to contribute our own voices to the education debate. Whether we realize it or not, education will continue to affect us even after our own formal educational experiences end. And whether we pledge to volunteer in local schools, dedicate our lives to shaping education policy or even just serve on the local PTA, we can make a difference.

It’s not enough to sit on the sidelines while the education debate rages on before our eyes once we leave the education system. We have been educated at a world-class institution of higher learning, and we have the power to use the broad base of knowledge we’ve gained in college to change the future of American education. How will you share the gift of education that has been given to you with the rest of the country?
Jack Rooney
The Liberal Medium

Last week, President Barack Obama signed a rather peculiar piece of legislation into law. This law is not odd in Washington these days because it connotes a genuine and innovative idea that ultimately aims to make Congress work better and more efficiently.

At its most basic level, the law states that if Congress does not pass a budget, then representatives do not receive their salary until a budget is passed. The law, which won’t take effect until 2014, is beautiful in its simplicity and fundamentally aims to force our elected officials to do their jobs. Let’s face it; if I, as a student, were to stop doing my homework or assistance was provided. I could not reasonably expect to receive the same grades that I was doing all of my work. In the same way, this law requires representatives do perhaps the most important part of their job before they receive any payment.

A statement on the group’s website, No Labels, describes the group as “a grassroots citizens’ movement of Democrats, Republicans and every citizen in between dedicated to promoting a new politics of problem solving.” No Labels is not a lobbying group. Nor is it a special interest group. And it is certainly no super PAC. It is simply a group of dedicated to promoting a new politics of problem solving.” No Labels is not a lobbying group. Nor is it a special interest group. And it is certainly no super PAC. It is simply a group of professionals who wants for our country what all of us should demand from our leaders. No Labels is not confined to one party or ideology and neither does it care about political issues. Their only concern is stopping the political gridlock we have all become far too accustomed to and making the government focus on actual achievement and progress.

The best part about No Labels, though, is that No Budget Pay is only the tip of the iceberg. In Dec. of 2011, the group released its 12-point plan including citizens’ movement of Democrats, Republicans and every citizen in between dedicated to promoting a new politics of problem solving.” No Labels is not a lobbying group. Nor is it a special interest group. And it is certainly no super PAC. It is simply a group of dedicated to promoting a new politics of problem solving.” No Labels is not a lobbying group. Nor is it a special interest group. And it is certainly no super PAC. It is simply a group of professionals who wants for our country what all of us should demand from our leaders. No Labels is not confined to one party or ideology and neither does it care about political issues. Their only concern is stopping the political gridlock we have all become far too accustomed to and making the government focus on actual achievement and progress.

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“Just Ain’t Gonna Work Out”  
Mayer Hawthorne

I remember the first time I heard Mayer Hawthorne. It was my sophomore year and I attended Notre Dame’s kickoff Block Party concert. I was there mainly because I was excited about seeing Guster, but when Mayer Hawthorne came out in his thick-framed glasses and belted soulful songs of love and heartache with his multi-piece band, I was pleasantly surprised. Since then, I have fallen more in love with his music which exudes a 60s soul vibe with its brass accompaniment and catchy choruses.

“Sleep”  
Allen Stone

This song certainly won’t be putting you to sleep. It’s infectiously upbeat, aided by a blues organ, great backing vocals, and the melodic and expressive voice of Allen Stone, a singer/songwriter who defines himself as “a hippie with soul.” You can hear the influences of gospel and vintage R&B music that Stone grew up listening to in his songs.

“Stay Away”  
Charles Bradley

I was taken aback when I first heard this song on the radio on a summer afternoon drive from Maryland to South Virginia. Fans of Nirvana may recognize the title from their 1991 album “Nevermind.” This cover is so far from the original (I know what you’re probably thinking, “A SOUL cover of a Nirvana song?”), but it surprisingly works. Really well. The “waahs” of the guitar, Bradley’s screams, the keyboard and bass — it’s just fantastic. It definitely ranks among my favorite covers.

“Hold On”  
Alabama Shakes

When Brittany Howard sings, she doesn’t hold back. And this track is no exception. The Alabama Shakes, who were nominated for best new artist at this year’s Grammys, put out songs that make you feel like you’re going back in time to the good old days of bluesy-rock and soul. And if you haven’t seen the Levon Helm tribute “The Weight” at the Grammys featuring Brittany Howard, watch it now.

“Hospital Beds”  
Cold War Kids

Don’t let me wrong, I love synths and keyboards (especially when used in my beloved dream pop), but I do feel like there’s not enough piano featured in its beautiful pure form. I think that’s what really grabs me about “Hospital Beds.” That and singer Nathan Willett’s wailing vocals makes me want to go get sick enough to go to the hospital and have this song playing while I wallow in my misery. Make sure to look out for the Cold War Kids’ new album, “Dear Miss Lonelyhearts” which hits the shelves April 1.

“She’s Long Gone”  
The Black Keys

The Black Keys have been cranking out tunes since 2002, but their 2010 album “Brothers” was the first I heard from them. “She’s Long Gone” has become one of my favorites. Vocalist and guitarist Dan Auerbach lays it all out on the table, especially with his shredding bluesy guitar solo. I can’t help but feel like I’ve got soul when I’m riding down the highway in my sunglasses with this song blasting.

“Put the Gun Down”  
ZZ Ward

From the first note, you know that you’re going to be singing this song to yourself for the rest of the day. ZZ Ward’s unique vocals and blend of various musical styles, from blues to hip-hop and neo-soul, are really special.

“I’m Shakin’”  
Jack White

I wasn’t really sure how Jack White was going to do when he left The White Stripes to go solo, but when “Blunderbuss” came out, all doubts were quickly wiped away; he deserved every nomination that he got at this year’s Grammys. “I’m Shakin’” is chock full of elements that make it great — White’s fantastic guitar playing (which never disappoints), lovely backing vocals and an upbeat tempo.

“Tightrope”  
Janelle Monáe

This song makes you want to get up and dance. Plain and simple. There’s even a special dance to go along with it that I still can’t get right (check out the YouTube video to try it out for yourself). Monáe provides soulful vocals accompanied by a great beat and a “classy brass” section for a real feel-good track.

“MoneyGrabber”  
Fitz and the Tantrums

When I first played this song for my mom she promptly asked me “Is Motown making a comeback?” You would certainly think so with the vibe that this tune exudes. There’s saxophone, piano and a general grooviness expressed in Michael Fitzpatrick and Noelle Scaggs’ vocals. And even though there are no guitars (shocking!) you won’t be missing them.

“Three More Days”  
Ray LaMontagne

This track is a bit of a departure from Ray LaMontagne’s generally folky, acoustic style, but I can’t help but dig it. LaMontagne can never go wrong with that beautifully raspy voice. If I were a guy, I’d want a voice like his. Or Sting’s.

“Nothing But a Miracle”  
Diana Birch

Opening with a wonderful keyboard solo, “Nothing But a Miracle” is a gem of a heartbreak song. Diane Birch has a voice that is distinctly hers and she owns it. She brings the lyrics to life with interesting runs and articulation for a retro sound.

Bones”  
Michael Kiwanuka

You may have a difficult time believing that this song was recorded just this year. Michael Kiwanuka’s voice is rich and timeless, enhanced all the more by a wonderful musical arrangement. This winner of the BBC Sound of 2012 poll is not to be missed.

Contact Lizzie Schroff at eschro01@saintmarys.edu
By CLAIRE STEPHENS

Three generations of women huddled in front of the TV in a small living room, sobbing like there was no tomorrow. As my mom and grandma wept on, I paused for a moment and cursed the man behind this story — darn you, Notre Dame alum Nicholas Sparks, and your films. I was perfectly content not being in touch with my emotions, thank you.

I still remember when I finally watched “The Notebook” in 2011. I knew I was arriving a little late to the party — people of both the male and female persuasion had been telling me to watch it since the days when instant messaging was the latest trend and my email address was gabster-ella@aol.com.

Although at first I was impressed by Nicholas Sparks’ work, I realized that he was far from a one hit wonder. As a stand-alone story, I had lauded “The Notebook.” However, as “The Last Song,” “Dear John” and “A Walk to Remember” swirled around my lovesick head, I suddenly realized this Sparks guy has a monopoly on sappy romance stories.

What is it that makes Nicholas Sparks’ romances stand out? Why do we keep coming back to read and watch them? Like an investigative reporter, I was set on getting to the bottom of the Sparks romance formula.

Imagine me on a Thursday night, reviewing the evidence: On the TV “A Walk to Remember” blares, on my Mac plays “The Last Song,” on my friend’s old, nearly dead Toshiba rings “Dear John” and still hanging out in my head is “The Notebook.”

As any typical sleuth would, I examined these movies carefully to find out exactly what makes a Nicholas Sparks love story tick. After years of intense preparation, I feel as if I gathered enough evidence to present my findings.

**What You Watch/Read**

Assume whatever new couple graces the pages of a Nicholas Sparks novel will be made up of two B-list Hollywood stars. These two hotties will have lots of baggage — I’m talking two huge suitcases and a carry-on.

Ten minutes in, they will begin to un-pack said metaphorical baggage onto each other. But boy, love is not easy. Slowly but surely though, the couple overcomes all these pesky obstacles. Love prevails. You get that same feeling as when you watch cute kitten videos on YouTube; I believe it’s called happiness.

**Why You Watch It**

Everyone loves a love story. Even cynics who spent Valentine’s Day shut up in our room reading Herodotus and folding laundry melt from the cuteness when Phil and Claire Dunphy share a tender moment. That’s true “Modern Family” love right there, folks.

Yet, what makes Nicholas Sparks novels and their subsequent films stand out is how they end. No happy endings in the novels of this Notre Dame grad. And this is where the true genius of Nicholas Sparks comes in.

Sparks plays up on the idea of catharsis, the traditional notion from Greek tragedy. Catharsis, in the classical sense, relies on a heartbreaking event in an attempt to let out all the suppressed emotions in the audience.

For example, we walk into a Nicholas Sparks movie stressed about midterms, sans PW carnations, feeling a little down in the dumps. However, we walk out thinking, “That’s the saddest thing I’ve ever seen,” wipe away a tear, and then smile. You realize, “Hey, my life really isn’t that bad.”

The day looks a little brighter. Homework seems more manageable. You feel refreshed and ready for another date night at the library with your study guides. For this renewed pep in your step, you can thank catharsis — and Nicholas Sparks.

**His Latest Flick**

“Safe Haven” is the latest Nicholas Sparks film to open in theaters. If you’re looking to leave all your Valentine’s Day woes behind or if you’re just looking for some good catharsis, then “Safe Haven” is a good choice. But if you’re thinking of going to this film for a surprising original romance, I’m guessing that perhaps you should check out “Silver Linings Playbook” instead.

Contact Gabriela Leskur at gleskur@nd.edu

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**SEE ‘SIDE EFFECTS’**

By CLAIRE STEPHENS

“Side Effects” is a diamond in the rough of movies currently in theaters, made up of a compelling storyline among a lot of iffy dramas and outright bad action and comedy flick moments.

While the plot is certainly an intriguing story to follow and unrelieve, the incredible performances by Jude Law, Rooney Mara and Catherine Zeta-Jones make the movie (with an appropriately limited amount of Channing Tatum as well). Most of all, “Side Effects” resembles director Steven Soderbergh’s film “Contagion,” using the incredible star power of the actors to sell the size and complexity of the plot.

Soderbergh creates an atmosphere that blurs the line between sanity and delusion, putting the audience in a place very similar to the main characters’; under the influence of the drug-like style that gives the action a sense of urgency and suspense throughout the film. The movie is evenly paced, leaving the audience in a constant state of mystery, wonder and subtle fear.

The story follows Emily (Rooney Mara), who becomes anxious and depressed around the time her husband Martin (Channing Tatum) is finally released from four years of prison for insider trading. After Emily’s suicide attempt, Dr. Banks (Jude Law) takes her in as a patient, prescribing a new experimental anti-depressant suggested by Emily’s former psychiatrist, Dr. Victoria Siebert (Catherine Zeta-Jones).

The side effects of the medication change the lives of the people around her and bring to light the tricky questions of morality and legality surrounding the treatment of the mentally unwell. The main character’s actions and state of mind leave the audience constantly on edge in a state of suspense, wondering what she might do next in her fragile state of mind.

While Law and Zeta-Jones can be relied on for well played dramatic performances (in this case, convincing doctors), Mara continues to rise in the critics’ eyes and show her talent in each Hollywood performance. Law’s role as the protagonist brings in the audience’s emotions, vicariously trying to understand the truth, morality and mystery of what is happening. Mara draws in the audience like a moth to the flame, just as her character Emily does to all those around her in the movie. After “Girl with the Dragon Tattoo,” Mara has found another chance to shine alongside the big stars well known for their acting chops.

Credit for the subtle suspense and intrigue of the film must also be given to the composer. The accompanying score sounds like a fairy tale spinning out of control, the clock tinkering out of time to understand what is going wrong. A quiet darkness and a hazy, looming cloud of doubt pervades every scene, making the audience constantly wonder what is really happening and who to believe.

If you’re going to hit the movie theaters and are looking for an engaging and entertaining drama, “Side Effects” is your best bet, especially in the current dry spell of high quality films following the flood of Oscar nominees from winter break.

Contact Claire Stephens at cstephe4@nd.edu

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**“Side Effects”**

Open Road Films

**Director:** Steven Soderbergh

**Starring:** Jude Law, Rooney Mara, Catherine Zeta-Jones, Channing Tatum
Yesterday morning, I woke up with a gasp to breaking news: "Oscar Pistorius, double-amputee Olympic runner, arrested on charge of murdering his girlfriend." Was this the same Pistorius who inspired millions of view- ers, handicapped and able-bodied alike, this summer with his performance on the track in London? How could the Blade Runner be the lone suspect thus far in a case in which his girlfriend was shot four times inside his home? Now, I’m not going to berate Pistorius for a crime for which he has yet to be found guilty. But this situation does bring up a pertinent truth that we must address, especially here in America: We glorify our athletes too much.

But this expectation is the perfect level we must strive for: the fans and admirers and certainly not the athletes themselves. The players idolize have "I am not a role model…just because I can dunk a basketball doesn't mean I should raise your kids." Charles Barkley NBA Hall of Famer better than average genes, an incredible work ethic and an unabating will to win that propels them to victory. At their core, though, they are still hu- man and therefore still prone to err. Regardless of how many MVP titles they’ve earned or how many championships they’ve won, they are flawed creatures like everyone else. Whether a person is a movie star, pop star, or all-star, we shouldn’t trust that he or she will remain perfect and mis- take-free, and we shouldn’t be shocked when they finally stumble. A fall from grace wouldn’t be as devastating for fans if we stop idealizing every aspect of our favorite athletes’ lives. They face temptation as much as we do, and for many, it is only a matter of time before this temptation gets the best of them. Imagine yourself 10 years ago, and think of which sports figures you loved and admired most at that time. This list undoubtedly includes a few now-shadowy names for a lot of fans.

"I'm excited to come here because Brian Urlacher’s been such an important part of this (organization)," Trestman said Thursday. "To talk about where that thing is going, it would be premature, but I'm excited to talk about at this time." Trestman said he and Urlacher recently spoke on the phone for about 60 min- utes about the team, not his situation. "I don't think there was any question that he loves Chicago and this is a place that he would like to be," Trestman said. "There was no question there. I’ll leave it at that. I don't think it's any more than that. Coming in here as I have, I'm not as attuned to the entire sit- uation, certainly not the econom- ics and all the things that go into it. That's the thing that is going to be a process between Brian and the organization as we move forward." At 34, Urlacher is coming off a difficult season in which he hardly resembled the explosive player who’s been causing hav- oc for 13 seasons.

If this is the end for him in Chicago, he goes down as one of the best linebackers in franchise history, right there with Dick Butkus and Mike Singletary. But it remains to be seen if he is finished with the Bears. Even though he wasn't at full strength, teammates valued his leadership. And with Nick Roach’s contract also up, the Bears could have a shortage of linebackers.

That's just one issue facing them after missing the playoffs for the fifth time in six years. It was a scenario few would have envisioned after Chicago got off to a 7-1 start, and the Bears collapsed for the second straight year, costing Smith his job. They hired Trestman from the CFL’s Montreal Alouettes to get the most out of quarterback Jay Cutler and fix an offense that had consistently struggled under the previous regime.

On defense, it’s more about continuity than change. Tucker will add a few touches, but the Bears aren’t in for an overhaul in that area. They’re keeping the same terminology. “I really think that it’s impor- tant to hit the ground running,” said Tucker, who spent the past four years as Jacksonville’s de- fensive coordinator. “Because of my background — I’ve done 4-3, I’ve done 3-4 — I want to look at the group of guys you have and say, ‘How can we get this group up and running as fast as possible?’ It’s not about me. It’s about the play- ers and what they can do right now. I felt like these guys were playing at a fairly high level here in the scheme they were playing. We need to get better. Obviously, we’ll do that, but … I think they’ll be more produc- tive for me to learn their termi- nology than for me to come in and scrap everything they’ve done and bring in something totally new.” Tucker wouldn’t say if he en- visions last year’s first-round draft pick, Shea McClellin, staying at defensive end or moving to linebacker at some point. “Now is not the time for that,” Tucker said.

Another issue for the Bears is Devin Hester. The receiver and record-setting return special- ist was so upset by Smith’s fir- ing that he said at the time he was considering retirement. It’s not clear what his role on offense would be if he comes back. The bigger concern is that he didn’t return a punt or kickoff for a touchdown last season.

As for retirement? New spe- cial teams coordinator Joe DeCamillis said they spoke, and he’s under the impres- sion Hester wants to play next season.

“Sure, he was feeling emotional afterward,” DeCamillis said. “And I’m sure he wants to still compete. That’s really what we talked about — was com- peting. Hopefully, that’s what comes about.”

Ms. Green at mgreen8@nd.edu
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SPORTS AUTHORITY

FROM THE DESK OF JIM DURGAZ

As for the Chicago Bears’ defense, will they look similar under Trestman? Associated Press

LAKE FOREST — The Chicago Bears’ defense will likely have a similar look next season, with or without Brian Urlacher.

New coach Marc Trestman and defensive coordinator Mel Tucker said the Bears will stick with a 4-3 set and won’t change much schematically with a defense that ranked among the league’s best under Lovie Smith.

The big question is whether Urlacher will be a part of it. The eight-time Pro Bowl line- backer has an expiring con- tract and missed the last four games with a hamstring injury after being slowed by a knee problem.

"I’m excited to come here because Brian Urlacher’s been such an important part of this (organization),” Trestman said Thursday. “To talk about where that thing is going, it would be premature, but I’m excited to talk about at this time.”

Trestman said he and Urlacher recently spoke on the phone for about 60 min- utes about the team, not his situation. "I don’t think there was any question that he loves Chicago and this is a place that he would like to be,” Trestman said. "There was no question there. I’ll leave it at that. I don’t think it’s any more than that. Coming in here as I have, I’m not as attuned to the entire sit- uation, certainly not the econom- ics and all the things that go into it. That’s the thing that is going to be a process between Brian and the organization as we move forward.”

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Men’s Tennis

Notre Dame hosts No. 21 Wolverines on Saturday

Coming off a thrilling 4-3 loss in the final set to No. 7 Kentucky, No. 29 Notre Dame will next host No. 21 Michigan on Saturday. This weekend will present the 74th meeting of the two squads. While the Wolverines (4-2) have the historical advantage at 44-29 overall, the Irish (5-4) have won seven of the last 10 contests.

The two teams both present a wide range of leadership. Notre Dame’s junior Greg Andrews was named Big East Player of the Week on Tuesday, gathering his second title with the title this season. Andrews recently moved up in the rankings from No. 80 to No. 71 in singles play. Michigan’s senior Evan King received the Big Ten Athlete of the Week award Feb. 6. King stands ranked No. 16.

Beyond these two individuals, both squads bring deeper rankings to the court. In singles play, junior Vlad Stefan stands at No. 50 for Michigan. The No. 9 duo of King and junior Shaun Bernstein will compete in the No. 1 slot this weekend, facing the No. 1 Irish tandem of Andrews and senior Spencer Talmadge.

When comparing losses, both Notre Dame and Michigan have only fallen to ranked opponents. Notre Dame carries losses from No. 9 Duke (No. 5 at the time of play), No. 33 Northwestern (No. 37 at the time of play), No. 47 Harvard (No. 28 at the time of play) and No. 7 Kentucky. Michigan has also fallen to Duke and to No. 14 California.

Most recently, Notre Dame and Kentucky battled set by set, alternating the leading team multiple times. While the match ended in a loss, the acquisition of the doubles point was a crucial step for a squad that was put onus on it the last few weeks.

“We came out ready to go and that was apparent when we captured the doubles point,” Moros said. “We knew we were still a long way from a win but it was a great start.”

Despite Tuesday’s loss to Kentucky, Notre Dame is looking forward to using this opportunity to continue what they learned against the Wildcats.

“It was a tough loss but I think we all know now that we are right there with a top ten team,” Moros said. “I’m proud of our guys and look forward to hosting Michigan.”

Doubles play will begin Saturday afternoon at 1 p.m. in the Eck Tennis Pavilion.

Contact Megan Finneran at mfinnera@nd.edu

By MEGAN FINNERAN
Sports Writer

Softball

Team travels for second tourney

By MEGAN FINNERAN
Sports Writer

With one tournament of outdoor competition under their belts, the Irish next travel to San Diego, for the Campbell/Cartier Classic. This will be Notre Dame’s third appearance at the tournament, where the squad has gone 2-4 overall.

The biggest challenge of the weekend will be Oklahoma, a team ranked No. 1/2. The Irish have never beaten a No. 1-ranked foe in program history, but are looking forward to the opportunity.

Undefeated Oklahoma will be the final game of the five-game weekend. The squad will also face Washington (4-2), Cal Poly (1-4) and San Diego State (3-2).

“Our focus going into this weekend is going to be energy and stringing some hits together to keep our momentum going,” senior catcher Amy Buntin said. “I think if we can do that we’ll end the weekend on a very positive note.”

The Irish head to the California Fast Pitch Classic last weekend the Irish took two big wins at the Charlotte Fast Pitch Classic. Notre Dame beat Charlotte 5-1 and Presbyterian 8-5, led by senior pitcher Brittany O’Donnell. Sophomore catcher Cassidy Whidden hit a three-run home run against Charlotte on Saturday afternoon to fuel the Irish offense. Sophomore infielder Jenna Simon led in the final game of the tournament against Presbyterian with six hits, four stolen bases and four runs.

In each of its two losses, the squad only fell by one run. This weekend the Irish look to make minor improvements to finish close games similar to the 1-0 and 6-5 losses to Wisconsin last weekend. The concentration will be more on offense this weekend as the team works toward scoring more runs.

“We have been focusing on our bats lately and breaking down our fundamentals,” Buntin said. “Our defense is solid.”

The weekend will begin with the first pitch against Washington at 9 a.m. PST Friday morning. Friday afternoon the Irish will face Cal Poly again at 11:15 a.m., followed by San Diego State at 6 p.m. The weekend will conclude with Oklahoma Sunday morning at 9 a.m.

Contact Megan Finneran at mfinnera@nd.edu

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By MEGAN FINNERAN
Sports Writer

“arlier this month, senior Spencer Talmadge was named Big East Player of the Week after leading Notre Dame to victories against Duke and Duke. The Irish lost the match 4-3. Irish freshman Alex Lawson prepares to return a serve during his doubles match on Feb. 5 against Duke. The Irish lost the match 4-3.

Contact Megan Finneran at mfinnera@nd.edu

By MEGAN FINNERAN
Sports Writer

Softball

Team travels for second tourney

By MEGAN FINNERAN
Sports Writer

With one tournament of outdoor competition under their belts, the Irish next travel to San Diego, for the Campbell/Cartier Classic. This will be Notre Dame’s third appearance at the tournament, where the squad has gone 2-4 overall.

The biggest challenge of the weekend will be Oklahoma, a team ranked No. 1/2. The Irish have never beaten a No. 1-ranked foe in program history, but are looking forward to the opportunity.

Undefeated Oklahoma will be the final game of the five-game weekend. The squad will also face Washington (4-2), Cal Poly (1-4) and San Diego State (3-2).

“Our focus going into this weekend is going to be energy and stringing some hits together to keep our momentum going,” senior catcher Amy Buntin said. “I think if we can do that we’ll end the weekend on a very positive note.”

The weekend will begin with the first pitch against Washington at 9 a.m. PST Friday morning. Friday afternoon the Irish will face Cal Poly again at 11:15 a.m., followed by San Diego State at 6 p.m. The weekend will conclude with Oklahoma Sunday morning at 9 a.m.

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Contact Megan Finneran at mfinnera@nd.edu
Irish ready for USFA National Junior Olympics

By JOHN SANDBERG
Sports Writer

Notre Dame fencers return to the mats today for another East Coast event as they square off in the USFA National Junior Olympics in Baltimore, one week removed from competing in the Duke Duals.

The Junior Olympic Championship, which runs today through Monday, is open only to those fencers ages 20 and under, providing a good test for several of the underclassmen fencers.

Freshmen epeeists Garrett McGrath and John Poremski will start things off for the Irish today on the men's side. McGrath is ranked third in the preliminary seeding of 227 fencers. Poremski is seeded No. 61.

On the women's side, the top ranked Irish are coming off a 2-1 performance last weekend. Freshman Sarah Followill will compete today in the women's foil, which begins at 1 p.m.

Saturday's highlights will include the men's saber competition. Freshman John Hallsten will take the mat for the Irish. Hallsten has been a solid contributor for the men's team all season.

Last weekend at Duke Hallsten combined with senior teammate Jason Choy in leading the men's saber team to a 17-10 record on the day. Hallsten has set his personal goal for the weekend high, as he said he is aiming to win the men's saber competition. He has some experience in that category, having won this same tournament last year.

While this weekend's tournament is composed primarily of fencers with little experience at the NCAA level, the event looks to be as competitive as any other for the Irish. Hallsten said it's important to maintain the same level of focus that he's had throughout the previous competitions.

“It stays the same,” Hallsten said about his mindset. “If you think about your opponent too much you take yourself out of the mindset of just winning.”

Hallsten also said he and the other freshmen on this Irish team have quickly been gaining confidence throughout this season. This increasing confidence can be attributed, at least in some part, to the attitude the Notre Dame coaching staff has been promoting among all of their fencers.

“We've really been focusing on helping each other out,” Hallsten said. “I kind of felt like last weekend some guys got down and other guys had to pick them back up. This week in practice everyone has been working a little bit harder with that.”

This weekend’s competition ultimately presents a prime opportunity for the Irish men to get back on track after a frustrating tournament at Duke last weekend, in which the men went 1-2. Despite the disappointment last weekend, Hallsten said there is still value to be taken from it and applied to future bouts.

“If you're struggling just don't back off,” Hallsten said. “If you just keep looking forward you're not going to worry what's behind you and you're not going to focus on wins or losses that were in the past. If you just focus on the next bout I feel like that’s the best way to keep your confidence up.”

Contact John Sandberg at jsandb1@nd.edu
Teams head to Big East championships in Ohio

By LAURA COLETTI
Sports Writer

Sixty-six Irish athletes will compete at the Big East championships this weekend in Geneva, Ohio. The men’s side will be looking to repeat as champions, while the women’s team will try to improve upon their fourth-place finish from a year ago.

Senior pole vaulter and captain Chrissy Finkel said that the teams adjusted their training this week in order to stay fresh for the weekend.

“A lot of the groups started to lighten up earlier in the week, because they really want everyone to be well-rested going into this weekend,” she said. “That’s something that’s got to happen for us to win.”

On the women’s side, Finkel was confident in their abilities based on improvement she saw from last indoor season to the outdoor season, during which they placed second at the conference championship meet.

“We’re absolutely in the running this year to come in first,” she said. “It’s not going to be by a landslide, though. It’s going to be really close.

The men are in a similar situation, facing a very competitive field. Irish coach Joe Piane said that it’s going to be a great two days of action.

“There are a handful of schools on both sides that could easily bring home a title, and I feel like we are among the handful that have a great shot,” he said. “If we have good solid performances throughout all the events I think we should give ourselves a good chance to win.”

Notre Dame has been using other meets thus far in the season to prepare for the Big East championships. Finkel said that all of the athletes competing this weekend have done a good job getting ready.

“The individuals that did really well [last weekend], it was absolutely reassuring to see them continuing to improve,” she said. “And for those who maybe didn’t have their best performance, it is okay because they got it out of their system, and hopefully will be able to put that behind them and go into this weekend really strong.”

Members of the Irish who are hoping to be a part of this weekend ranked in the top-25 include junior sprinter Pat Feeney (3rd) and sophomore sprinter Chris Giesting (21st) in the men’s 400m, as well as senior middle distance runner Rebecca Tracy (24th) in the mile; sophomore hurdlers Jade and Kaila Barber (14th and 23rd, respectively) and senior hurdler Nevada Soteresen (17th) in the 600 m hurdles; and sophomore jumper Mary Esther Gourdin in the triple jump.

“We have a lot of people who are doing exceptionally well right now,” Finkel said. “It’s been amazing to watch them this season. We have a large group and it’s one of the major reasons why we feel like a cohesive team.”

The Irish will open competition at the Spire Institute on Saturday morning.

Contact Laura Coletti at lcoletti@nd.edu

Belles compete at MIAA championships

By D.H. KIM
Sports Writer

The Belles began Thursday sitting in seventh place in the MIAA Swimming and Diving Championships in Jenison, Mich., but moved up to sixth place with two days of competition left. Sophomore Anna Nolan, senior Ellie Watson and freshman Carolyn Neville were key on Thursday. The Belles stayed in track for qualifiers. Watson finished ninth in 500-yard freestyle with a time of 5:15.85, while Nolan finished 10th in the 50-yard freestyle with a time of 25.19. The women’s 400-yard medley relay had a phenomenal run with freshman Megan Knoblock, senior Liz Litke, senior Genevieve Spittler and senior Kristyn Gerberth finishing fifth, but could not quite get into the next round. The women’s 200-yard freestyle relay team did not qualify, but Nolan, Watson and Neville, who were on the relay, contributed in other events.

“We swam really hard today and gave our best effort,” Spittler said.

Friday will be the last day of the MIAA championships where qualifying teams will compete in the 200-yard freestyle relay, 500-yard freestyle, 50-yard freestyle and 400-yard medley relay.

All of our players worked hard to get where they are and hopefully the qualifiers will step up and compete tomorrow,” Spittler said. The Belles, the MIAA championships will resume at 10 a.m. today in Jenison, Mich.

Contact D.H. Kim at dkim16@nd.edu

Irish open season in Tallahassee

By GREG HADLEY
Sports Writer

A successful fall campaign, the Irish women open their spring season this weekend in Tallahassee, Fla., at the Match-Up Invitational hosted by Florida State.

It’s been nearly four months since the Irish last competed in October, but the winter weather has stopped them from preparing. Instead, the team practiced indoors.

“We were able to get about three-and-a-half weeks of practice in,” Irish coach Susan Holt said. “We worked a lot in our indoor golf facility. It’s one of the best in the country. Also, a lot of the girls are from warmer climates, so they were able to practice over winter break in addition to the three weeks.”

Thus, Holt expects her squad to be very strong this weekend.

“We’re excited to get the chance to get out and play,” Holt said. “We’re not making any excuses because we’re from the north. That’s what our facilities are for. It’s time to compete.”

The Irish have lots of momentum to build on. Their fall season was one of the most successful in program history, culminating in six victories over top-25 opponents and a No. 14 midseason ranking. However, Holt doesn’t want to dwell on that success but instead focus on continuing it.

“We had some pretty lofty goals at the beginning of the year,” she said. “The fall season set us up well to follow through and accomplish most of our goals this spring.”

Looking ahead to realizing those goals will be freshman Lindsey Weaver, who was ranked first in the nation at the winter weather break, and has yet to lose to a top-50 opponent.

“Lindsey is a very solid all-around golfer,” Holt said. “She’s very dedicated. I just want her to keep on working and practicing hard and to stay as steady as she’s been all season.”

Looking ahead to this weekend, the Irish will go up against top teams, including No. 6 Oklahoma and No. 21 Texas A&M. Holt thinks that this invitational will give her team valuable experience for later on in the year.

“The girls are very excited,” she said. “This invite has the top competition to prepare us for tournaments later in the year, like the Big East or NCAA’s.”

Contact Greg Hadley at ghadley@nd.edu

SMC SWIMMING

By GRANT TOBIN
Sports Writer

The belles began Thursday sitting in seventh place in the MIAA Swimming and Diving Championships in Jenison, Mich., but moved up to sixth place with two days of competition left. Sophomore Anna Nolan, senior Ellie Watson and freshman Carolyn Neville were key on Thursday. The Belles stayed in track for qualifiers. Watson finished ninth in 500-yard freestyle with a time of 5:15.85, while Nolan finished 10th in the 50-yard freestyle with a time of 25.19. The women’s 400-yard medley relay had a phenomenal run with fresh- man Megan Knoblock, senior Liz Litke, senior Genevieve Spittler and senior Kristyn Gerberth finishing fifth, but could not quite get into the next round. The women’s 200-yard freestyle relay team did not qualify, but Nolan, Watson and Neville, who were on the relay, contributed in other events.

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Contact D.H. Kim at dkim16@nd.edu
Irish junior center Anders Lee looks to pass the puck during Notre Dame's 7–4 victory over Michigan on Friday.

Irish CONTINUED FROM PAGE 20

ponds as boys. There will be — and has been — a lot of hype and attention paid to Sunday due solely to the novelty an outdoor game provides.

But the game in Soldier Field, it's important to remember, is not some exhibition or showcase event for fun. It is a game between two rivals that counts. A lot.

Sunday will be the second game of the weekend for Miami and Notre Dame. The two teams meet in Oxford, Ohio, Friday, before heading to Chicago to practice Saturday in preparation for Sunday's game.

Both games are huge for Notre Dame. The Irish currently sit third in the CCHA behind Western Michigan and Miami, trailing the Broncos and RedHawks by two points and three points, respectively, with six games remaining. Notre Dame is also one of five teams tied for 12th in the PairWise rankings. The five conference champions and top 11 at-large teams from the PairWise at the end of the season make up the NCAA tournament field.

Should Notre Dame win Friday, a win Sunday would give the Irish control of their CCHA fate with two games against the Broncos the following week, and put Notre Dame in great position to make the NCAA tournament. On the opposite end of the spectrum, a loss Friday coupled with a loss Sunday would all but eliminate the Irish from the CCHA title race and be devasting to their postseason hopes.

That is the incredible thing about Sunday's game. Yes, there is the buzz, excitement and natural elements that come into play with an outdoor game. But that's nothing new. Imagine Sunday's game was at the Compton Family Ice Arena or Steve Cady Arena and not Soldier Field — and the first sentence of this column might still be true.

Irish players and coach Jeff Jackson alike are consistent they are solely focused on Friday's game, which is the way it should be, even if fans and the media are not. In the tangible sense, Friday's game counts the same as Sunday's. It could be the contest that Notre Dame looks back on in March as making the difference in its season, either positively or negatively.

Friday's game will pass, however, and when it does, it will be on to Chicago. The game in Soldier Field will be particularly meaningful to the seven Illinois natives on the Irish roster — many of whom grew up fans of the Chicago Bears — but it will also provide nostalgia for players throughout the Irish roster. It will not be easy to stay focused on the game and avoid the hoopla that surrounds it.

But that's what senior defensive Sam Calabrese, who hails from Chicago suburb Park Ridge, Ill., said the Irish will try to do.

"We can really practice and take it all in Saturday, and hopefully fully get all the jitters out and get the neatness of the experience out on Saturday," Calabrese said. "Hopefully Sunday will be all business."

Ultimately, Calabrese is correct that what truly matters Sunday is whether the Irish win or lose, especially based on Notre Dame's positioning both in the CCHA standings and nationally.

"We'll be at our best for the players to not fully embrace this potentially once-in-a-lifetime event. Practicing outdoors in Soldier Field might be a cool experience, but it will pale in comparison to the game Sunday in front of a packed Soldier Field with a top-notch opponent.

That is the balance the Irish should attempt to find: there should be enough focus to accomplish their goal, but enough looseness that the moment does not fully get all the jitters out and get the neatness of the experience out on Saturday," Calabrese said. "Hopefully Sunday will be all business."

The RedHawks lead the Irish by 3 points in the CCHA standings, and with only a few weeks left, these games will have a massive impact on the standings. The players are also hoping to bring attention to what they feel like has been an overlooked rivalry.

"We all know how big the Miami rivalry is," Tynan said. "The hockey guys know how good Miami is, and how well we have to play to beat them."

Irish coach Jackson knows that in order to beat the RedHawks, his team will have to buck recent trends.

"The rivalry has been real one-sided lately," Coach Jackson said. "But based on their rankings in the standings there is always that enthusiasm to play them."

The Irish seem to have solved many of their issues this past weekend, but a few persist, most noticeably the play of their special teams units. The penalty kill team has struggled throughout the second half, while the power play team has allowed 3 short-handed goals the past two weekends.

"Special teams will be huge this weekend; it's probably what will make or break our season," junior goaltender Steven Summerhays said. "Especially penalty kill — I think improving the penalty kill starts with me, or [senior goaltender Mike Johnson] if he's playing."

The starting goaltender is another question that needs answering. Jackson is still unsure of his starter for this weekend after each goalie gave up two goals in their starts last weekend. Regardless of which goalie starts, the team knows that these next few weeks are going to have a playoff atmosphere.

"Even though it's not playoff time, we have to win these games to stay alive and get into the tournament," Tynan said. "We just have to focus on the importance of this game, and that's what makes this time of year exciting."

Notre Dame will challenge Miami at 7:35 p.m. on Friday in Oxford, Ohio, before traveling to Chicago to face the RedHawks at 7:05 p.m. Sunday in the OfficeMax Hockey City Classic at Soldier Field.

Contact Casey Karnes at wkarnes@nd.edu

Irish CONTINUED FROM PAGE 20

at this level, all the guys are going to be used to the crowd and the crowd noises and the whacky stuff that's going to be going on."

Senior defensive Sam Calabrese, a native of Park Ridge, a suburb of Chicago, said he is excited about the opportunity to play at Soldier Field.

"I've been to a lot of games as a football fan, but I never imagined playing hockey out there," Calabrese said. "Growing up, outdoor hockey games weren't really thought of... Now that they've been doing it, for my senior year to play at Soldier Field, it's going to be an unbelievable experience."

Tynan, a native of Orland Park, another suburb of Chicago, agreed with Calabrese's sentiment.

"Obviously it's special outdoors with your teammates, but especially being from Chicago and being a Blackhawks fan, it's going to be real special for all of us," Tynan said.

The teams arrive on Saturday in order to get a feel for the outdoor environment and venue, Tynan said.

"I think all the jitters will get out of the way Saturday when we practice and we figure out exactly what it's going to be like," he said. "The risk is still the same size. You're on the ice, between the boards. But it will be different, because we'll be outside and they'll be a lot more open space."

Senior goaltender Steven Summerhays, an Alaska native, said outdoor games are nothing new to him.

"Up until high school, we had practice once a week outside usually," Summerhays said. "It's something I've grown up doing. I didn't mind the weather or if it was going to be fun, hopefully I'll get out there and play Sunday."

Irish coach Jackson said the 1954 Red Wings game in Chicago was an event but the Irish should not get too caught up in the festivities.

"It'll be just the spectacle," Jackson said. "I really like how the outdoor feel to it, which is more like we played when we were kids. We called it sunny. We can't play sunny anymore, because there's too much on the line."

The Irish will first take on Miami (OH) in Oxford, Ohio, on Friday, with a win then to travel to Chicago to play Miami in the Hockey Classic at Soldier Field.

Contact Isaac Lorton at ilorton@nd.edu

RedHawks CONTINUED FROM PAGE 20

junior center T.J. Tynan said. "We know how much these games mean, and we just have to focus on [Monday], that first period."

The RedHawks...have won six of their last seven games, and have allowed two or fewer goals in their last eight. Their stingy defense will pose a serious challenge for an Irish offense that had been struggling before an offensive explosion versus Michigan.

"We're two similar teams. We both play up tempo, and they like to outnumber you in the D-zone," senior defense Sam Calabrese said. "We have to stay physical... matching their intensity, especially on the road, will be huge."

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Contact Casey Karnes at wkarnes@nd.edu

Irish junior center Anders Lee looks to pass the puck during Notre Dame's 7–4 victory over Michigan on Friday.
Team ready for Purdue after 11-day respite

By KATIE HEIT
Sports Writer

After two close victories decided in the final point, the Irish are confident their 11-day rest has prepared them to dominate Purdue on Friday at 4 p.m. at the Eck Tennis Pavilion. Notre Dame, who is 15-0 over the Boilermakers at home.

The Irish have won eight of the last ten matches against Purdue, but are not taking the game today lightly.

Senior captain Chrissie McGaffigan said the break in play has given the Irish time to practice the weakest part of their game—doubles. Notre Dame has lost the doubles point in their last two matchups, putting them at an immediate disadvantage going into singles competition.

“The doubles point is huge,” McGaffigan said. “When you come into singles already down, it’s hard to gain back the momentum. It’s huge getting that point. We’ve been working all week on the doubles game in practice so we’ll be ready for Purdue.”

McGaffigan said while the close matches are stressful, they are also a learning experience for the team.

“I think getting the close matches builds our confidence,” McGaffigan said.

McGaffigan is one of two members of the Irish still undefeated in singles. She and sophomore Molly O’Koniewski are both 5-0 in singles, with one unfinished match apiece at No. 4 and No. 6 singles respectively.

Freshman Quinn Gleason is right behind the upperclassmen with a 5-1 record. Though the Irish have won every matchup against Purdue at home, McGaffigan said the Boilermakers should prove to be tough competition.

“Purdue is always a talented team,” McGaffigan said. “They’re pretty highly ranked going into this match.”

McGaffigan said no matter whom they play, the Irish always come out with a winning mindset.

“We don’t care who we are playing,” McGaffigan said. “We go into every match wanting to win and knowing we always have a tough match ahead of us.”

On Sunday, the Irish face another challenge at No. 10 Northwestern. The Irish were eliminated from the NCAA Championships by the Wildcats last May. This will be the 40th meeting in program history and the Wildcats lead the series 28-11.

The Irish will be back in action against the Boilermakers today at 4 p.m. at the Eck Tennis Pavilion. They will then travel to Evanston, Ill. to take on the No. 10 Wildcats.

Contact Katie Heit at kheit@nd.edu
**Irish junior guard Eric Atkins brings the ball up the court during Notre Dame's 82-78 overtime victory over DePaul on Wednesday.**

**Irish junior guard Kayla McBride goes up for a layup during Notre Dame's 93-64 victory over Louisville on Monday.**

**Irish junior guard Bryce Cotton leads the Friars in scoring, averaging 20.5 points per game. Cotton buried a three-pointer with 2.2 seconds remaining to beat Villanova 55-52 on Feb. 3.**

**Junior guard Bryce Cotton**

**McGraw continued from page 20**

a break at all. In the final week of the season, we have four games in eight or nine days. I think, so the girls need to rest their bodies and, mentally, they need to rest."

McGraw said the additional practice time would allow the Irish (23-1, 11-0 Big East) to make some adjustments and improvements. "I think we can put some new things on the offensive side and, defensively, I think we can work on some ideas we've had — work on our zone a little bit more," she said. "I think there's a lot of things we can fine-tune."

If the Irish were in need of fine-tuning, they didn't show it Monday night, as they never trailed against the Cardinals (20-5, 8-3). Although Notre Dame only led by 10 at halftime, the Irish outscored Louisville 48-29 in the second half to win by a final margin of 29.

"It was a great win for us because I saw so much improvement on the offensive side," McGraw said of the Louisville game. "I thought we executed well, I thought we did a great job of looking into the post for [junior forward] Natalie Achonwa and I was just really pleased with how well we shot the ball — it was the best we've shot all year long."

Notre Dame dominated the boards Monday, out rebounding Louisville 44-23. Achonova accounted for 12 of the rebounds, but freshman guard Brooklyn Pumroy, who has started 22 of 24 games in her first season, "[Marquette] has a good inside game," McGraw said. "Poullie is somebody that's played internationally, and she's had a lot of experience. They also have a couple of good guards.

Sunday's nationally televised contest will also be Marquette's Play4Kay pink game, an event that raises breast cancer awareness and funds for research in the memory of the late North Carolina State coach Kay Yow.

Notre Dame will take on Marquette at 2:30 p.m. on Sunday at the Al McGuire Center in Milwaukee.

**Contact Brian Hartnett at bhartnett@nd.edu**

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**Brey continued from page 20**

Connaughton [on] Wednesday and save him for the weekend? I said, 'What?' I said, 'I need all my guys for the weekend.' I said, 'What?' I said, 'I need all my guys in this league.' ... We need all hands on deck, so everything is survive and advance. That's why we were burning one time."

"We'll do everything we need to do to get a league win. I don't care if it's against a team that's 8-2 or 2-8. Just do what you've got to do to get a league win."

Connaughton started and played 30 minutes after injuring his ankle against the Cardinals on Saturday. Notre Dame has played 110 minutes and six overtimes in the span of two days.

"He was pretty sore the last two days, but I knew he would play when I saw him Monday," Brey said of Connaughton. "There's not a tougher athlete at this school. He's a tough dude, so he will now go on to the next game — win or lose — and get a league win." He's a tough athlete at this school.

The Friars are 9-4 at home this season. The last time Notre Dame went on the road to face Providence was 2011, when the then-No. 9 Irish eked out a 94-93 victory over a Friars team that entered the game at 13-14. Providence senior guard MarShon Brooks set a Big East record with 52 points in the losing effort.

"The lead the Irish maintained throughout against Providence with a 16-9 record. Though the Friars have not beaten Notre Dame since 2004, Brey said he expects a challenge. "Providence is just really a good basketball team," Brey said. "I caught the second half last night against South Florida and they just exploded down there in Tampa. They have beat good people all year. ... So we're going to be challenged against a very good team again on Saturday."

Notre Dame tips off against the Friars on Saturday at noon at the Dunkin' Donuts Center in Providence, R.I. Contact Mike Monaco at jmonaco@nd.edu

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**Duncan Hall // Lewis Hall // Campus Ministry // Voices of Faith present:**

**BLACK. CATHOLIC.**

What does it mean to be both?

Sun Feb 17. Lewis Chapel. 9pm Talk. 10pm Mass. All are welcome.
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Crossword

Across
1. Pets named for their British Isles origin
9. Angel
15. Question before and after "or"
16. Madrid-Barajas Airport code
17. Fry cook's concern
18. Symbols of impending trouble
19. "Right!"
21. Brooklyn player
22. Back covers
25. Wall St. Journal news subjects
26. Vegetable that's often fried
27. Was short
28. A.A.A. courses
29. Something to chew on
30. Chio.
31. Lose a liking for
32. Some club tunes
33. Women's firearm
35. Some crosswords patterns
37. Concert momento
40. Cut (off)
41. Sausage king from in "Pesto, Basset's Day Off"
42. What you might do some light reading on?
43. ... cheese
44. Count
45. Madhouses
47. Several Rodins
49. 1979 and 1986 World Cup winners; Abb.
50. Fearsome figure in Greek myth
51. Loaded a nominal call to
52. Feather source
53. Bob Marley, e.g.
54. Key discovery of 1799
55. Give for free
56. Look for
59. A lot of oil moves through it
60. Boot
61. Something to
62. Cut down
63. Runkum

Down
1. "No ___!"
2. Raise, with "up"
3. Naught
4. Looked into?
5. Singles out, say
6. Bureau employees:
7. "Jersey Shore" co-star
8. Bars
10. ___-minded

Sudoku: The Mepham Group

Level: 1 2 3 4

Wicked Step

Next Week: The Oscars

Answered:

Lenny Rago & Patrick Cross

Highly PuniLefly

Christopher Brucker

Crossword

Horoscope

Celebrities Born on this Day:
Drew Bledsoe, 41; Enrico Colantoni, 50; Meg Tilley, 53; Florence Henderson, 79

Happy Birthday: Retest old ideas, places and people. It's time to reexamine what you last digit in the past due to other responsibilities and circumstances. Put your efforts into improving your finances, health and future prospects, and make a concerted effort to make things happen the way you want. Don't shy away when you should be taking action. Your numbers are 9, 13, 25, 37, 41, 46.

Aries (March 21-April 19): Nurture partnerships that are under pressure. It's better to be too early than too late, and to get in on the ground floor. Be careful as others who are left to flounders will escalate. Taking care of past regrets or problems will set you on a new course.

Taurus (April 20-May 20): Disciplined and practical applications will help you solve any problems you face. Showing your concern for others will lead to an interesting alliance. Favor will be granted if you are straightforward regarding what you want and need.

Gemini (May 21-June 20): Make the most of your day. It's time to sharpen your focus and concentrate. What you're doing is of a sensitive nature. Back away from people displaying erratic behavior.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22): You will enhance your outlook, ideas and imagination if you visit places or people that are unusual or offer something you've never experienced before. Take care of what's necessary, then take care of you.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Engage in pastimes or groups that will introduce you to new and exciting people. It's time to spice up your life and put yourself on display. Romance is on the rise and a chance to enhance your love life is apparent.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Home is where you belong. Turn your abode into your den for both work and play. Set aside time to take care of your personal desires and to explore possibilities that will shape your future. Let your intuition guide you.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Look and you shall find. Don't mess with what's working. Focus on what you can do to improve your life, your position and your home base. Your ideas are solid -- now all you have to do is implement your plan of attack.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Sentence the letters to form an answer as suggested by the above cartoon.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Ease into whatever you want to pursue. Make the most of your opportunities. That way you will save yourself from a scam. Keep your conversations to the point and as honest as possible. You will be misunderstood if you are too exuberant. Changes at home will end up being beneficial.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Take care of things to really want to pursue. Make your communications to the point and as honest as possible. You will be misunderstood if you are too exuberant. Changes at home will end up being beneficial.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20): Take everything you do seriously and show others that you mean business. It's your attitude that will make the difference at the end of the day. Own your position and correct your decision. Simplicity and moderation will lead to victory.

Birthday Baby: You are unpredictable and imaginative. You are outgoing, assertive and productive.

Jumble

That Scrambled Word Game

What she had when she saw her wedding cake -- TIERS OF JOY

Lower Your Expectations

Lenny Rago & Patrick Cross

Print your answer here:

Now arrange the circled letters to form the answer suggested by the above cartoon.

Work Area

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HOCKEY

Squad battles for first in Oxford and Windy City

By CASEY KARNES
Sports Writer

A playoff atmosphere is building as the Irish prepare for a unique weekend faceoff with the RedHawks of Miami (OH).

Coming off a sweep of rival Michigan, the No. 12 Irish (18-11-1, 14-7-1 CCHA) must prepare for another rivalry matchup against No. 3 Miami (18-7-5, 13-5-4-4). Complicating matters is the exciting trip to Soldier Field for the second game of the doubleheader after Friday’s matchup in Oxford.

Players are looking forward to the rare opportunity to play outside, but know that Friday night is where their focus must be.

“We realize that Miami is a very good hockey team,” said sophomore forward Pat O’Neill.

Irish return to action at MU

By BRIAN HARTNETT
Sports Writer

After a 93-64 thrashing of No. 10 Louisville at Purcell Pavilion on Monday, the last thing No. 2 Notre Dame probably wanted to see was a six-day layoff potentially kill its momentum.

But Irish coach Muffet McGraw said the break before Sunday’s game at Marquette would go a long way toward helping her team prepare for the home stretch of the season.

“The break comes at a good time of the year, since February is a grind,” McGraw said. “The Irish hung on to edge Depaul 82-78 in just five extra minutes.

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On the outside, looking in

Outdoor game at Soldier Field garners excitement

By ISAAC LORTON
Sports Writer

Playing outside is nothing new to the Irish.

It’s part of the history of the Notre Dame hockey program and its part of the childhood of many Notre Dame players.

Notre Dame first began fielding a hockey team in 1912. From that time until Notre Dame received NCAA Division I status in 1968-69, — and even some games — were contingent on whether St. Joseph’s Lake was frozen over and able to hold a hockey game. Players and coaches would have to clear off the layers of snow with shovels in order to compete.

Now instead of players and coaches readying the venue, three organizations and a team of workers have prepared Soldier Field in Chicago for the back-to-back games of No. 12 Notre Dame (18-11-1, 14-7-1 CCHA) vs. No. 3 Miami (18-7-5, 13-5-4-4) and No. 2 Minnesota vs. No. 8 Wisconsin.

Intersport, a Chicago-based sports and entertainment marketing company, teamed up with Soldier Field, the home of the Bears, and the Chicago Parks District in order to host the inaugural Hockey Classic. For the past two weeks, Soldier Field has been a hub of events in celebration and preparation for the Hockey Classic.

The festivities include two days of school and adult hockey events at Soldier Field (with a seating capacity of 61,500) is far larger than any other game at Soldier Field in 45 years as a varsity program, and will be played in a stadium that seats more than 60,000 people. Though some Irish players could play outdoors again — either in future years at Notre Dame or professionally — this will be the only opportunity for many since they laced up their skates on local frozen

ND WOMEN’S BASKETBALL

Irish, Bears, and Buckeyes compete for a win

By MIKE MONACO
Sports Writer

Irish freshman Jewell Loyd brings the ball up the court during Notre Dame’s 93-64 victory over Louisville on Monday.

Irish junior center T.J. Tynan battles for the puck in a faceoff against Michigan senior A.J. Treais during Notre Dame’s 7-4 victory over the Wolverines on Friday. The Irish face Miami this weekend.

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Players must focus on critical series but enjoy experience

By SAM GANS
Sports Writer

Sunday’s matchup against No. 3 Miami will be the biggest regular-season game No. 12 Notre Dame’s players compete in while wearing an Irish jersey.

It seemed likely that would be the case when Notre Dame’s participation in the Hockey City Classic at Soldier Field in Chicago was made official in July. Sunday marks the first outdoor game for the Irish in 45 years as a varsity program, and will be played in a stadium that seats more than

Irish men’s basketball

Team to face Friars on the road

By MIKE MONACO
Sports Writer

After slogging through six overtime periods in their last two wins, the No. 21 Irish aim for their third consecutive win Saturday square off with the Friars (13-11, 8-3). The Irish now head east to Marquette, tied for first place at Syracuse, Georgetown and Marquette, tied for first place at 8-3. The Irish now head east to square off with the Friars (13-11, 5-7 Big East) with the opportunity to keep ascending the standings.

Irish coach Mike Brey said after the win over DePaul he is solely focused on grinding out victories in a challenging league.

“I’m in that mode all the time in the Big East: survive and advance,” Brey said. “Somebody said, ‘Well, are you going to rest [sophomore guard/forward Pat]...? I think the amount of fans and the venue should not be affect Notre Dame’s play. “I think we are used to it. We’ve played in some pretty tough environments,” Tynan said. “Obviously there’s not as many fans, but it’s pretty loud some places. They get pretty rowdy. I think at Soldier Field that Friday night is where their focus must be.

“We realize that Miami is a very good hockey team,” said sophomore forward Pat O’Neill.

Irish junior center T.J. Tynan said the break before Sunday’s game at Marquette would go a long way toward helping her team prepare for the home stretch of the season.

“The break comes at a good time of the year, since February is a grind,” McGraw said. “The season is long, and we’ve had a lot of weeks where we didn’t have...”