Candidates propose ideas for next year

Senior, junior and sophomore class council tickets campaign for students’ votes in today’s election

Observer Staff Report
Sophomore Class Council

Jake Grefenstette, Michael DeSantis, Jane Goodson and Megan Schilling

The Grefenstette ticket said it hopes to leverage its experience within student government to improve campus programming and expand community ties to campus. With Grefenstette, Goodson and Schilling serving as Freshman Class Council vice president, treasurer and secretary, respectively, the trio is confident it can follow through with its goals.

“Our goals include creation of a student-run [DeKartolo] coffee cart, puppies during exam weeks, increase of communication between the University and South Bend and a cookout and carnival on South Quad,” Grefenstette said.

Additionally, the ticket intends to coordinate dances, a bonfire and a Chicago trip for

see COUNCILS PAGE 5

Professor receives public policy fellowship

By ANN MARIE JAKUBOWSKI
News Writer

The Stanford Woods Institute for the Environment has honored biology professor Jennifer Tank as one of this year’s Leopold Leadership Fellows, a group of 20 academics selected to undergo intensive training intended to empower them to impact public policy.

Tank will begin the fellowship with a training session this summer, joining the group from around the world at Stanford University in California. Tank said she applied for the fellowship to improve her communication skills, which would better equip her to discuss her work and its implications with the general public and leaders who make environmental policy.

“The fellowship was developed a number of years ago because they were finding problems with scientists who were doing great work yet were unable to translate that science for the public,” Tank said. “It’s really a mechanism to link.”

Jennifer Tank
Leopold Leadership Fellow

see FELLOWSHIP PAGE 7

PEMCo. to premiere ‘How to Succeed in Business’

By LESLEY STEVENSON
News Writer

The opening of “How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying” this weekend will mark the culmination of nearly one year’s worth of preparation for the Pasquerilla East Musical Company (PEMCo.). “This season started with ‘Next to Normal’ back in October, but really the whole process of this started in the beginning of March.”

Freshman Joel Ostdiek portrays the character J. Pierrepont Finch during dress rehearsal in Washington Hall on Tuesday.

see PLAY PAGE 3

Campus Ministry answers call for ‘Year of Faith’

By CATHERINE OWERS
News Writer

Pope Benedict XVI declared this liturgical year a “Year of Faith,” a time of faith renewal for Catholics worldwide. Building off this theme, the Office of Campus Ministry at Notre Dame has sponsored a number of projects and events to encourage students to reexamine and deepen their relationships with God.

Kate Barrett, assistant director of undergraduate ministry, said recent activities include the “Think you know Moreau?” scavenger hunt and “Retreat on the Run,” a program that will continue through February that helps students incorporate prayer into their busy lives. Barrett said the scavenger hunt was a success with almost 200 participants.

“We challenged participants to travel the campus as quickly as possible, finding clues and along the way learning more about Blessed Basil Moreau, … the founder of the Congregation of Holy Cross, as well as other remarkable Holy Cross priests such as Fr. Edward Sorin … and St. Andre Bessette,” she said.

“Annum Fidei” combined readings and songs to highlight some of the themes Pope Benedict outlined at the beginning of the Year,” Barrett said.

In the second half of the semester, Barrett said Campus Ministry will focus on programming to assist students in keeping their prayer lives active during the summer months away from campus.

“That will be called ‘Portable Prayer’ and will have very practical tips and suggestions for students,” she said.

Barrett said she believes the Year of Faith calls for both personal and communal renewal, and Campus Ministry is offering activities that will assist in both.

“A personal call will end
QUESTION OF THE DAY:
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Wednesday
Mark Brazaitis
Reading
Eck Center Auditorium
7:30 p.m.
Author reads from "The Incurables."

Thursday
Sewing Circle
Sne Museum of Art
10 a.m.-7:30 p.m.
Artist Marie Watt hosts a day-long sewing circle.

Friday
Women’s Tennis
Eck Tennis Pavilion
5 p.m.-7 p.m.
Game vs. Baylor.

Saturday
Fencing
Joyce Center
Fieldhouse
All day.
Free admission.

Sunday
Men’s Basketball
Joyce Center
2 p.m.-4 p.m.
Game vs. Cincinnati.

The construction of the Ralph C. Stayer Center for Executive Education is almost complete. The Stayer Center, scheduled to open later this month, will become the home of the Executive Education department in the Mendoza College of Business.

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

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Saint Mary’s candidates run unopposed

By BRIDGET FEENEY
Associate Saint Mary’s Editor

Juniors Kat Sullivan and Maddy Martin will run unopposed for 2013-14 Saint Mary’s student body president and vice president.

The ticket’s candidacy was announced Tuesday, one day after submitting its platform.

Sullivan and Martin bring extensive experience on Student Government Association (SGA) and on other campus boards. Sullivan, has been a member of the Student Activities Board since her first year at the College. This year, she holds an executive position on SGA as the vice president of external affairs. Martin also holds a position on SGA as the vice president of finance.

Sullivan, a communication studies major with business administration and film studies minors from Melrose, Mass., said she wants to be student body president to give students a louder voice in policy and programming at Saint Mary’s.

“I want to make sure my fellow Belles know that they can come to SGA with any questions or concerns we need the Saints of the Saints,” she said. “I realize how vital it is that the voices of the students are heard.

Sullivan said she wants to follow in her mother’s footsteps as student body president. Joan McDermott Sullivan served as Saint Mary’s student body president as a senior during the 1975-76 school year.

“My mom has always held a special place in her heart for the school and her memories here.” she said. “It would mean a great deal to me to be able to share this with her.”

Martin, a biology and Spanish double major from Grand Rapids, Mich., said she saw room to improve the student government’s approachability.

“I would love to focus on better communication between SGA and the student body,” she said. “I feel like there is still some disconnect and I would love to try to eliminate that. I want students to be able to know who we are and that they can come to us for anything.”

In their platform, Sullivan and Martin said they plan for students, clubs, administrations and SGA to work together as a community.

Sullivan said assembling the right team would be essential to reaching this goal.

“I want to make sure that we really hit the ground running for the 2013-14 academic year,” she said. “It will be really important to have a well-established structure and continue with what previous SGA leaders have already accomplished. That being said, choosing girls who want to have a positive impact at Saint Mary’s will be key.”

In addition to better communication and effective leadership, Martin said the team intends to introduce initiatives and plan events to instill more unity on campus.

“I would really like to increase the school spirit around campus,” she said. “I am so proud to be a Saint Mary’s Belle and I believe all girls should feel this way.”

Sullivan echoed Martin’s goal for an increased sense of school spirit and inclusion.

“I’d love to focus on sisterhood and community,” she said. “Saint Mary’s girls have a lot of pride in who we are and what this school stands for. I want to make sure that every girl on this campus, both current and future Belles feel welcome and comfortable.”

Sullivan said she wants to improve the quality and attendance of campus programming.

“My personal goals include increasing attendance at events through a better understanding of online information platform Ongryn and building on the strong bonds that Saint Mary’s women have,” she said. “I want to raise awareness on issues that are prevalent on campus such as bullying, depression, anxiety and eating disorders, just to name a few.

“By making these issues more known we will better able to help Saint Mary’s women who struggle with these issues and bring the community together.”

Though only one ticket is running, Sullivan and Martin must receive a majority vote on Feb. 28 in order to assume their new positions upon the April 1 SGA turnover.

“1m happy about (being the only ticket) but I hope that people feel confident in our abilities as leaders,” Sullivan said. “I want people to trust us to voice their concerns. I think that campaigning will still be important because people should still know who we are so they know who to ask when they need something done at Saint Mary’s.”

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Play

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

last year,” senior PEMCo, producer Nathan Williams said.

“How to Succeed” is the second show in PEMCo’s 2012-13 lineup and Williams said he is pleased with the group’s progress as Thursday’s opening night nears.

“It really came together in a fun way I think,” Williams said. I3’d seen it before and I didn’t like it; I thought it was dated and sexist, and then watching this whole vibe of the ’60s and this whole nostalgic kind of thing, it’s really fun.”

Sophomore director Shannon Kirk explained that the show’s seemingly-sexist humor is satirical.

“It’s similar to ‘Mad Men’ in that when you’re watching it, obviously the characters aren’t self-aware that it’s sexist,” Kirk said. “It’s just from our perspective of watching it and how the actors portray it now. You have the retrospective awareness, and it adds so many more layers to [the show] from when it originally premiered.”

Kirk noted that the recent popularity of ’60s-era television shows like “Mad Men” influenced the choice of “How to Succeed” after the group was unable to secure rights to the original selection, “My Fair Lady.”

“With this we were trying to think of things that people would want to audition for and people would want to come see,” Kirk said. While the show wasn’t the troupe’s first choice, Kirk said she is pleased with the outcome.

“I’m actually really glad we got to do this,” she said. “My Fair Lady’ is probably a better show overall if it’s done perfectly, but this is definitely a more fun show to do in terms of ensemble involvement, and this is more of a comedy.”

Williams said while keeping the cast focused and motivated could be challenging, ultimately the entertainment of rehearsals and valuable friendships formed made the long process worthwhile.

“I think part of the challenge is just maintaining it over such a long process,” he said. “We started with auditions in late October and rehearsals right after that … and then there’s a month off in the middle.”

Despite the demands of a lengthy schedule, Kirk praised her cast’s commitment to the show.

“Energy hasn’t been much of a problem for any of us,” she said. “I think people just really enjoy the show and they kind of feed off each other’s energy and the energy the music is bringing.”

Kirk whittled the cast down from 100 hopefuls who turned up at the first auditions to the final cast of around 25 people, Williams said.

During callbacks, Kirk said she was able to customize the some- what flexible characters to fit the potential actors.

“The main character Finch could be very cute and ambitious, or he could be very conniving, and I like the cute, ambitious one better because they by the end of the show you’re not sick of him,” Kirk said.

As a nonacademic organization, PEMCo. offers an opportunity for a diverse array of students — across both majors and class years — to collaborate together.

In his PEMCo. debut, freshman Joel Ostdek portrays rising business star J. Pierrepont Finch.

“Joed doing great,” Williams said before Tuesday night’s dress rehearsal.

Senior Claire Lis, who plays Rosemary Pilkington, agreed.

“He came in at the first rehearsal and was thanking everyone and talking about how honored he was to be there,” she said.

“How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying” opens at Washington Hall Thursday at 7:30 pm. Tickets can be purchased in the LaFortune Box Office.

Contact Lesley Stevenson at lsteven1@nd.edu
Nurse discusses assault treatment program

By SARAH SWIDERSKI
News Writer

Saint Mary’s students gained insight Tuesday into the workings of Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners (SANEs) during a talk with Francine Henley, SANE program coordinator at St. Joseph Regional Medical Center.

Henley said the SANE position developed approximately 30 years ago in response to the needs of sex-crime victims who were receiving insufficient treatment.

“Different groups were doing research… The biggest point that [victims] made was that they felt like they were re-assaulted,” Henley said. “[The victims] received no compassion.”

The response came in the form of “pioneer nurses” who sought training to offer better care and to become better expert witnesses in the proceedings after an assault, Henley said. “A SANE often serves as a calming presence when someone seeks medical attention and walks with them throughout the examination.”

Connie Adams
Belles Against Violence Office director

Performing a certain amount of sexual assault exams, auditing a court case, riding along with law enforcement and visiting a crime lab.

“They train you in everything,” Henley said, “They train you how to testify [and] what to wear in addition to [how to perform] the examination.”

Belles Against Violence Office director Connie Adams said SANE programs are credibly valuable assets to communities. “SANEs deeply impact the lives of survivors of violence and their loved ones. A SANE often serves as a calming presence when someone seeks medical attention and walks with them throughout the examination.”

SANEs receive special training to learn how to properly perform a sexual assault exam and assist in the legal proceedings that often follow, Henley said. After 40 hours of training, SANEs fulfill follow-up requirements, such as performing a certain amount of sexual assault exams, auditing a court case, riding along with law enforcement and visiting a crime lab.

“They train you in everything,” Henley said. “They train you how to testify and what to wear in addition to how to perform the examination.”

In addition to informing audience members about the nature of the work of SANEs, Adams said the event intended to enable victims and friends of victims to act in an informed way in response to an assault.

“Violence and abuse are a part of college communities across the country and they impact Saint Mary’s as well,” Adams said. “Providing education to women provides options. While attendees may not personally need the information, it can be invaluable to share with a friend or family member. Women have the right to know what to expect and how to seek support.”

Contact Sarah Swiderski at sswide01@ saintmarys.edu

Faith

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

up enlivening all of our communities of faith,” Barrett said. “When any of us feel renewed, recommitted, re-energized in our faith, and then we come together for Mass or to engage in service to the poor or to welcome the lonely, then the Church as a whole — and in each and every parish, or hall chapel — is renewed and re-energized.”

Barrett said the response to Campus Ministry’s Year of Faith activities has been positive.

“We’ve had good responses from residence halls who are following our themes when they plan events in the halls,” she said. “For example, back in November when our theme was ‘Sacred Places,’ several halls started Grotto walks in which groups of students walk over to the Grotto together to pray.”

Despite the successful programming across campus, Barrett said the Year of Faith is meant to focus on long-term faith development.

“However, our hope was always for the Year of Faith to be quietly durable rather than splashy,” Barrett said. “We hope that people take away from the Year good habits of faith that remain with them for a long time.”

Information about past and upcoming activities for the Year of Faith can be found at campusministry.nd.edu.

Contact Catherine OWers at cowers@nd.edu

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next year’s sophomore class, according to the ticket’s website. Its community outreach efforts will center on working with the Robinson Community Learning Center and the South Bend Center for the Homeless.

Andrew Stoker, Cody Mason, Mary Grace Gallagher and Darby Mountford

1

“...next year is to make sure everyone is informed about what we’re doing,” Stoker said. “I’d like to make a website listing all of our upcoming events as well as where to buy class apparel and how to contact Council members.”

The group plans to organize recreational programming to promote class unity, such as an attempt to break a world record as a class. Stoker said the success of this and other potential events will be driven by the ticket’s focus on making information easily accessible to members of its class.

“Awareness for events is really important because the more people that go to an event, the more fun it is,” he said. If elected, the team would expand on class apparel, according to the plan. They hope to set up buses to shuttle students to events similar to the national level and in our local home,” she said.

“Though we are a close knit group of friends, each of us has a personal passion we wish to execute if elected,” said Rizk.

Potential programming includes a class of 2016 Carnival on South Quad and a “Puppy Pause” event, which would allow students to reduce stress by playing with local puppies once a month. They also intend to bring a “vast enhancement” to class apparel, Rizk said.

Rizk said the team would be inspired to work hard in its leadership positions by the efforts of the class it would represent. “We promise that, if elected, we would put forth our best efforts in order to make the class and, most importantly, Notre Dame a better place than when we found it,” Rizk said. “Our classmates work too hard for us not to match, or exceed, their enthusiasm and passion in order to best serve them.”

Junior Class Council

Edward Flood, Alexander Kroeger, Alyson Kirt and Stephanie Scherer

Edward Flood said his Junior Class Council ticket is excited to bring new blood and new ideas into the Council this year. While Flood and Scherer lack student government experience, Kroeger and Kirt have experience with hall councils. Flood said his own outgoing nature will be an important asset as a class leader.

“My strength is that I’m outgoing, and I know a decent amount of people on campus, so I’ll be in the know,” he said. The ticket plans to host a class prom to bring the positive aspects of residence hall formal to a single event for all juniors. They also want to expand the current Class Council study break events beyond finals weeks to help students deal with busy schedules throughout the semester.

They hope to set up bus shuttles to the Indiana Dunes Saturdays in the spring, Flood said, and they would hold an event similar to the national Color Run. “We want to have a charity 5k that’s actually a paint run, so students can have fun throwing paint at each other before working out for a great cause,” Flood said.

Olivia LaMagna, Caitlin Smith, Briggs Hoyt and Martin Walsh

The LaMagna ticket said it plans to improve the experience of next year’s junior class by making information about class and campus programming more accessible to students.

“We want to make a more dominant online presence and plan bigger, better events,” Walsh said.

While the ticket has preliminary ideas about potential programming, they hope to use student feedback to prioritize and allocate funds, Walsh said. “We’re thinking a barn dance, a beach party or ski trip and career-oriented speakers,” Walsh said. “Insert any dream events of the Class of 2015 and we can make magic happen next year.”

Walsh said his ticket has the skills and experience to serve next year’s junior class. “We want to make sure your junior year is the best one yet,” Walsh said. “Our ‘dream team’ has the experience, the looks and the know-how to plan events that you’ll never want to miss.”

Senior Class Council

Carolina Wilson, Patrick Tomby, Elizabeth Gibbons and Michael Nichols

The Wilson ticket hopes to provide a “fun, resourceful and meaningful” year for their senior class, Wilson said. The team plans to focus on fostering enjoyable and memorable semesters, as well as practical programming. “We hope to grow together as a class, to be prepared for the world after graduation while never forgetting our home here at Notre Dame,” she said.

If elected, Wilson said the group plans to expand free programming and on-campus resources for post-graduation preparation, including employment recruiters, Career Center connections and study groups.

Above all, Wilson said her team hopes to “help seniors take their next step” in preparing for the transition from Notre Dame to the real world by providing opportunities for students to interact with the professionals in their field and national communities.

“We want to give seniors a year that makes them feel equipped and ready for what lies ahead and humbled to be an active member of the Notre Dame community who gives back to the university, school and national communities.”

The Thompson ticket said it hopes to enliven its class’s senior year experience with more class outings and a senior service project.

One of the major themes of the officers’ term would be making the last of their class’s college years a memorable experience, Thompson said. “Some of our ideas include a monthly bowling night or other events at South Bend venues,” Thompson said. “Or, if a pep rally we could do a senior pep rally with a beer garden or something kind of tailgate — those kind of things.”

Leaving a legacy of service is important to the ticket’s platform, Thompson said. “We hope to collaborate with the B+ Foundation, which is an organization that raises money for patients and families dealing with childhood cancer,” Thompson said.

Thompson said her team’s past experience in student government and other extracurricular activities leaves it capable of serving next year’s senior class. Thompson has served on Notre Dame’s Student Council and as vice president of Ryan Hall for two semesters, Perrin served on Sophomore Class Council and on a Student Senate committee, Diamond is the president of the Environmental Club and Mungenast was on Freshman and Sophomore Class Councils.
Rubio challenges Obama on immigration

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The White House on Tuesday sought to keep delicate immigration negotiations on track, as a key Republican senator distanced himself further from a draft bill President Barack Obama’s aides are reading in case congressional talks crumble.

Florida Republican Sen. Marco Rubio’s office said Obama’s plan “injected additional partisanship into an already difficult process.” The White House, following the weekend leak of its draft legislation, insisted the president wants the bipartisan Senate group Rubio is a member of to put forward its own bill instead.

Obama spoke with Rubio on Tuesday to reiterate his commitment to the Senate process and to make clear that he had his own legislation ready, the White House said. The president also called Republicans Sens. Lindsey Graham of South Carolina and John McCain of Arizona, two other GOP lawmakers involved in the immigration negotiations.

“as long as Sen. Rubio and the rest of the group are making real progress on immigration reform, we are happy to be on the sidelines and even serve as a punching bag every once in a while,” Dan Pfeiffer, Obama’s senior adviser, said.

The White House insisted it did not intentionally leak details of its immigration plan, which circulated widely at key government agencies. Top Obama aides tried to clear up the mess over the weekend, sending apologetic emails to the offices of the eight senators, including Rubio, at the center of the Capitol Hill negotiations.

Obama officials say the documents represent draft proposals, not a final bill. The president and his aides have repeatedly said publicly that the White House was drafting legislation and would submit it to Congress if the Senate process stalls. The draft White House proposal and the principles outlined by the Senate group overlap in many areas, though there are some key differences.

The administration’s draft proposal would create a visa for those in the country illegally and allow them to become legal permanent residents within about eight years as part of a broader pathway to citizenship. The Senate group is looking at a 10-year timeline before people already in the U.S. illegally could get green cards.
Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — Microsoft is so confident it has the Internet’s best email service that it is about to spend at least $30 million to send its message across the U.S.

The barrage began Tuesday when Microsoft’s twist on email, Outlook.com, escalated an assault on rival services from Google Inc., Yahoo Inc., AOL Inc. and a long list of Internet service providers.

As part of the process, all users of Microsoft’s Hotmail and other email services operating under different domains such as MSN.com will be automatically converted to Outlook.com by the summer, if they don’t voluntarily switch before then. All the old messages, contacts and settings in the old inboxes will be exported to Outlook.com. Users will also be able to keep their old addresses.

Email remains a key battleground, even at a time when more people are texting each other on phones.

People still regularly check their inboxes, albeit increasingly on their smartphones. The recurring email habit provides Internet companies a way to keep people coming back to websites. It gives people a reason to log in during the day, to sell them what email can really be.

Microsoft expects to spend somewhere between $30 million to $90 million on the Outlook campaign, which will run for at least three months.

The Outlook ads will overlap with an anti-Gmail marketing campaign that Microsoft launched earlier this month. The “Scroogled” attacks depict Gmail as a snappy service that scans the contents of messages to deliver ads related to topics being discussed.

The Gmail ads are meant to be educational while the Outlook campaign is motivational, said Dharmesh Mehta, Outlook.com’s senior director.

“We are trying to push people who have gotten lazy and comfortable with an email service that may not be as great and help show them what email can really do for them,” Mehta said.

By Microsoft’s own admission, Hotmail had lost the competitive edge that once made it the world’s largest email service. The lack of innovation left an opening for Google to exploit when it unveiled Gmail nearly nine years ago.

Gmail is now the industry leader, although estimates on its popularity vary. Google says Gmail has more than 425 million account holders, including about 20 million that defected from Hotmail, according to Microsoft. Comscore listed Outlook with 38 million users through December.

The new features being introduced in Outlook include: the ability to send massive files, including hundreds of photos at a time, in a single email; address books that automatically update new contact information; connections post on Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn; and about 60 percent fewer ads than Hotmail.

None of these features are revolutionary. Google already has been giving its users the option to switch to a new version of Gmail that also allows for larger files to be sent in a single email. And, address books in Gmail already fetch new contact information posted on Google Plus, although it doesn’t yet mine Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn.

Google declined to comment on Outlook.com. The company, which is based in Mountain View, Calif., plans to convert all of its Gmail users to its redesigned format within the next few months.

Yahoo, which is based in Sunnyvale, Calif. revamped its email service last year in an effort to provide a more consistent experience on personal computers and mobile devices.

Outlook.com is the latest in a series of major product changes from Microsoft, which has been struggling to regain the cachet that once made it the world’s most valuable technology company.

Microsoft set to unveil new Outlook service

Microsoft employees and guests mingle during the company’s annual meeting of shareholders in Bellevue, Wash., on Nov. 28, 2012. Microsoft will move Hotmail users to new service called Outlook.com.

Microsoft employees and guests mingle during the company’s annual meeting of shareholders in Bellevue, Wash., on Nov. 28, 2012. Microsoft will move Hotmail users to new service called Outlook.com.

Fellowship

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

today’s great, cutting-edge science with better communication skills.”

Tank described the program as a sort of “nursery school in communication skills” for scientists, named after prominent environmentalist Aldo Leopold. She said the extensive application process included a series of essays meant to show a serious commitment to sharing research with the public.

“They want to keep the group very small because the program actually lasts for two years, with 10 days at a retreat center this summer,” Tank said.

“When you go back for the second year, you’ve had the chance to practice, so you can focus on honing those skills you learned in the first year.”

She said her specialty within ecology pertains directly to public policy as it relates to agriculture.

“I’m a freshwater ecologist, so I work on streams and rivers, mainly on nutrient cycling,” Tank said. “The work I’ve been doing recently has to do with how land use, like intensive agriculture, influences freshwater resources.”

Tank’s work focuses on finding a proper balance between the economic needs of farmers and the health of the environment and considers issues like fertilizer runoff and irrigation, she said.

“You can’t protect the environment at the cost of the people who are supported by it, but you also can’t protect farmers at the expense of the environment,” she said.

Tank will learn communication skills through the fellowship that will help her better convey the product of her research with policymakers who can take action to approach this balance, she said.

“They really challenge you [through the fellowship] to see if you can relate the value of your research to the people who need to hear it, to see if you can give them a take-home message in a nutshell,” she said. “They’ll train you about print communication as well as various types of digital media, including the effective use of social network options like Facebook and Twitter.”

Tank said she hopes to apply what she learns about communicating with the public to her work in the classroom.

“All the things that go into being a good teacher also go into the process of being a good communicator,” she said. “I’m excited about it, and I hope I can do Notre Dame proud.”

Contact Ann Marie Jakubowski at ajakuboi@nd.edu

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Military leader resigns for personal reasons

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama is looking for a new candidate to lead American and allied forces in Europe after his first choice, Marine Gen. John Allen, bowed out Tuesday and announced his intention to retire for what he called personal reasons.

The move further clouds the picture for Obama as he repositions key figures on his national security team and in key military leadership roles. The White House is fighting for Senate confirmation of Chuck Hagel as defense secretary, a confirmation vote was stalled last week by Republicans but is expected to happen next week.

Obama also is switching commanders at Central Command, which is responsible for U.S. military operations throughout the greater Middle East, and Africa Command.

After meeting with Allen at the White House, the president issued a statement praising Allen's service. He called the 57-year-old Allen "one of America's finest military leaders, a true patriot, and a man I have come to respect greatly."

Allen appeared to be a shoo-in as the next top commander of all U.S. forces in Europe. Obama nominated him last Oct. 10, but in November, Defense Secretary Leon Panetta stunned many by announcing that Allen was being investigated for potentially inappropriate email exchanges with a Florida socialite, Jill Kelley. Panetta put Allen's nomination on hold.

Last month, shortly before Allen completed a 19-month tour as the top U.S. commander in Afghanistan, the Pentagon announced that Allen had been cleared of any wrongdoing and the White House said it was prepared to re-nominate him for the Europe job.

Even so, it was not clear that Allen would choose to go ahead with a Senate confirmation hearing, given the nature of the email probe.

Allen is held in high regard by Democrats and Republicans on the Senate Armed Services Committee, which would have voted on his appointment, and he was expected to win full Senate confirmation. It came as no surprise to many on Capitol Hill when Allen was cleared of wrongdoing in the email probe, which several lawmakers had indicated was not as troublesome as some had initially suggested. The actual emails between Allen and Kelley were never made public.

One of Hagel’s biggest detractors, Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., showered Allen with praise Tuesday, saying the nation owes him a great debt and "his leadership in the future will be appreciated by the American people."
China passes United States as world’s biggest trader, denies title

Associated Press

BEIJING — China has a new status its government doesn’t want — world’s biggest trader.

Official Chinese and American trade data indicate China passed the United States last year in total imports and exports by a margin of $3.866 trillion to $3.822 trillion. That is about $4.4 billion, or just over 1 percent of China’s total.

The Commerce Ministry has taken the unusual step of publicly denying China is the new No. 1. It says China still trailed the U.S. by $15.6 billion last year — or a razor-thin 0.3 percent — under World Trade Organization standards for valuing goods.

Beijing wants to be a global leader but insists it still is a poor country. It is wary of any change that might erode that status and fuel demands for action to stimulate the global economy or concessions on trade and climate change.

“I think there is some concern from the Ministry of Commerce that this might be used as evidence by Western countries that China is not doing its part to rebalance the global economy,” said Xianfang Ren, China analyst for IHS Global Insight.

China’s explosive trade growth has abruptly altered global business. It created new opportunities for some but prompted complaints by the United States and others over its multibillion-dollar trade surpluses, market barriers and currency controls.

In just five years, China has surpassed the United States as a trading partner for much of the world, including American allies such as South Korea and Australia, according to an Associated Press analysis of trade data.

As recently as 2006, the U.S. was the larger trading partner for 127 countries, versus just 70 for China. By 2011 the two had clearly traded places: 124 countries for China, 76 for the U.S.

Trade is especially sensitive amid anxiety over a possible global slowdown. Beijing’s trading partners accused it of hampering a recovery from the 2008 crisis by obstructing access to its market.

For 2012, Beijing reported a $231 billion global trade surplus on exports of $2.049 trillion and imports of $1.818 trillion. The United States reported a $1.547 trillion in exports and $2.335 trillion in imports, for a deficit of $788 billion.

The Commerce Ministry’s statement last week said a WTO global trade report due out this month or in early March would recalculate those figures and should show China still No. 2. Also, some commentators have questioned whether China’s trade data can be trusted because many companies are believed to misreport imports and exports to avoid taxes or get trade-related payments.

“Of course, it is only a matter of time before China becomes No. 1,” said Ren. Behind the headline numbers, China and the United States are drastically different traders.

China is the world’s low-cost factory, assembling most of its mobile phones, home appliances and other goods. But its factories need imported technology and components. Much of the value of its exports flows to U.S. and European technology suppliers and to producers of components in Japan, Taiwan, South Korea and Southeast Asia.

That has meant surpluses for Asian countries used to run trade deficits with the United States, which has shifted its trade to China’s column in U.S. national accounts.

By contrast, the United States uses its own technology and adds more value to goods such as jetliners and factory machinery. So it keeps a bigger share of the value of its exports.

China’s stock price jumps

Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — Google’s stock price topped $800 for the first time Tuesday amid renewed confidence in the company’s ability to reap higher profits from its dominance of Internet search and prominence in the growing mobile market.

The milestone comes more than five years after Google’s shares initially hit $700. Not long after breaking that barrier in October 2007, the economy collapsed into the worst recession since World War II and Google’s stock tumbled into a prolonged malaise that eventually led to a change in leadership.

Besides enriching Google’s employees and other shareholders, the company’s resurgent stock is an implicit endorsement of co-founder Larry Page. He replaced his managerial mentor, Eric Schmidt, as CEO in April 2011. Google’s stock has risen by 36 percent since the start of the year. By contrast, the benchmark Standard & Poor’s 500 index has climbed by 15 percent over the same stretch.

Markets of Google’s gain occurred in the past seven months — a period that has overlapped with a sharp downturn in the stock price of rival Apple Inc. The iPhone maker’s market value has plunged by about $230 billion, or 35 percent, since late September.

“All that Apple money had to go somewhere,” said BGC Financial analyst Colin Gillis.

Standard & Poor’s Capital IQ analyst Scott Kessler concurred, reasoning that many investors who have abandoned Apple are gravitating to one of its biggest rivals.

Google makes and distributes its free Android software to Samsung Electronics Co., HTC Corp. and other mobile device makers looking to compete with Apple’s iPhone and iPad. Since its 2008 introduction, Android has established itself as the most popular mobile operating system, partly because the free software makes it easier for device makers to undercut Apple’s prices for iPhones and iPads.

And it is set up to feature Google’s search engine and other services, giving the company a chance to sell more ads.

“If you are looking at Apple’s peers in its space and see who seems to be really doing well right now, it makes a lot of sense to invest in Google now,” Kessler said.

Despite its diminished luster, Apple remains the most valuable U.S. company with a market value of $432 billion. Google now ranks third with a market value of $266 billion, with Exxon Mobil Corp. holding the spot in between at $402 billion.
My pet peeves

Steph Wulz
Graphic Designer

Recently in an interview, they asked me what my pet peeves were and why they bothered me. I figured I’d share my responses with you, since you may feel the same way about them and because I was on a deadline to get this Inside Column written.

The first one was simple: slow walkers. It gets pretty frustrating when you are walking down South Quad and the people in front of you are walking at the pace of a snail. Let it be known that I do appreciate those who take in their surroundings and take some time to breathe in the cold, crisp air, but when you are dragging your feet and taking up the entire sidewalk with your group of friends, it can really bog a girl down. Either way, this was only the foundation. The real pet peeve was the icing on the cake.

Texting during meals. Man, do I sound like a broken record? If I am going with someone to a meal, why do they have to be connected with selected members of their social network on their phone? I can understand if you are awaiting an important email, call or Snapchat (level of importance debatable), but if we are sitting together, why can’t we have a conversation without frequent texting interruptions?

More recently, my friends and I have realized that our phones were keeping us from some great conversation. We attempted to remedy this by stacking all of our phones in a pile in the middle of the table. Therefore, when someone’s phone would buzz we wouldn’t know whose it was. We could talk about the interesting music selection in South Dining Hall or why the squirrels here are so domesticated. This tactic actually started to really impact our daily conversations as tempting as it was to reach for our phones, we soon became more immersed in discussion of past embarrassing stories or what our current favorite Harlem Shake video is. Our conversations became present and progressive, rather than being blocked by the constant iPhone email checks, status updates and group texts.

Some of you will hate the idea of getting off your phone. Some may try it. It gets fun if you take this into a bar setting and challenge each other not to check your phones the entire time there. You could wager a drink and see who loses. Either way, I encourage you to chat it up a bit more. With the semester coming close to spring break, we will realize too late that our time here is limited. We don’t have much time physically together but we will always be connected through social networking later, so lay the phone down and get chatting.

Contact Steph Wulz at swulz@nd.edu

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

Carter Boyd
God, Country, Notre Dame

I awoke Feb. 11 with several exams and tests later that week. I shared the same sense of shock many of us felt in hearing Pope Benedict XVI had announced his resignation from the papacy. The first thought that came to my mind was that this must have been some kind of joke. I then checked several other news sites confirming the information that I had just read. After receiving validation from multiple sites, my second thought was, “He can’t resign. That has to be illegal.”

After stepping back and realizing the ability of a pope to resign is not a matter of legality, I was still troubled by the pope’s announcement. I can’t help but think of the causations and implications of such a move. While I do not have all the questions answered in my own head of the pope’s resignation, I hope to shed some light on his difficult decision to step down from his role.

From my brief research on the resignation, it is evident that Pope Benedict’s announcement hinted that he has had some kind of health complications. This is the prevalent belief of most observers of the recent announcement, and seems to be a plausible and likely cause considering his mid-80s age. Many people I have talked to believe that the pope stepping down due to poor health is a wise and embarrassing decision for the pope to make. These peers of mine reason that since Pope Benedict XVI has prayerfully discerned he will not be able to lead the Church as it needs to be led, then his resignation is admirable. My question is why no other popes have done this. In recent history, all of our popes have died serving God as leader of the Church. These popes were not young, healthy men at the time of their deaths, but instead suffered from failing health leading up to their deaths. While I know the pope must be undergoing immense suffering, I am concerned that his decision might be confusing to many of us.

There are many people throughout the world that suffer amid the jobs, roles and vocations God has placed them in. Are we all at times of hurt, pain, suffering, declining health, or times where we lose the vigor and ability we once had supposed to step down, to give up?

I think not. I think we are supposed to have the faith, the hope and the love for our benevolent and merciful God to turn to his son Jesus Christ, to his suffering and his teachings, and to ask the Holy Spirit for guidance in our lives. We should use our pain and suffering, whether it be emotional pain, physical pain, the loss of a loved one or a perpetual ailment, to draw us closer to God and the suffering Jesus went through on the road to Calvary. While easier said than done, this is what I wanted my pope to have announced Feb. 11.

I wanted him to tell the world that he knows his health is dwindling, that he knows he has lost the strength he once had and that his abilities have been weakened. I wanted him to tell the world that he has the immense faith to turn to the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit to ask for their support, knowing that his inabilities, that his weaknesses, that his declining health will be transformed into ability, strength and a renewed vigor to serve as the leader of the Roman Catholic Church for the rest of the time he has left here on earth.

Yet, I also realize that I cannot make that judgement or second guess our most humble Pope Benedict, who undoubtedly has been in deep prayer and discernment regarding this decision.

I know that Pope Benedict, as hard as it is for me to understand, did pray to our heavenly Father, who is guiding him during this perplexing time not only for our pope but for our Catholic Church. As others have pointed out to me in my struggle with his decision, God may bring in the next pope just at the right time. God may have a plan far beyond the eyes of what we can see, and I strongly believe that He does.

I do pray for our pope, for our Church leaders and the Catholic Church through this transitional period, that we will remain rooted and united in our faith as we move forward as the Body of Christ. May this humbling act of faith from Pope Benedict be a catalyst for all of us to becoming stronger in our faith, steadfast in our love and unwavering in our hope.

Carter Boyd is a freshman studying science-business. He can be reached at cbp31@nd.edu

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EDITORIAL CARTOON

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THE OBSERVER | WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2013 | NDSCMOBERVER.COM
LETTER TO THE EDITOR

A standard for celebrities

Mr. Schieltzinger, I agree with the main argument presented in your article “Innocent until proven guilty?” (Feb. 19). However, I absolutely do not believe that the case of the murder of Reeva Steenkamp is an example of such attacks. You and I may be reading different newspapers, but almost all of the coverage I’ve read—including articles in The Guardian, The New York Times, and The Washington Post—have not “rushed to judge and attack” Oscar Pistorius.

On the contrary, following the event I have read descriptions of Pistorius as a hero and an inspiration. A New York Times article attempts to explain his actions as resulting from being an “adrenaline freak” and “not as cautious as he always should be,” while also saying that this event was a tragedy for Pistorius.

This might be disturbing in itself. Though Pistorius has not been convicted of any crime, he has a documented history of domestic abuse against Steenkamp and other women. Describing Pistorius in such a way is extremely representative of our culture’s perception of domestic violence, as are the descriptions of Jovan Belcher as a “family man” following his murder of his girlfriend Kasandra Perkins.

What is even more disturbing than the media lauding Pistorius is their treatment of Reeva Steenkamp. In a Washington Post article, the first sentences that talk about her at all call her a “leggy blonde” known for her “bikini-clad, vamping photo spreads.” Reeva Steenkamp is a murder victim and does not deserve to have her actions shamed and criticized. Many articles barely mention Steenkamp, focusing instead on Pistorius “fall from grace.” I would like to point out that your article did not mention her name once. Because these celebrities, as you argue, are not morally different from regular people, I say we should hold them to the same standard as anyone else. And for anyone else, shooting and killing someone would not be excused by a person’s affinity for adrenaline.

Domestic violence and the way it is addressed in popular discourse is a huge problem in our society. This case is a prime example of that.

Shelly Chatman
junior
off campus

UWIRE

Obama’s manufacturing solution

Paul Sherman
Michigan Daily

For the past four years, Americans have been waiting for the solution to the economy they thought would have come sooner. Four years ago, in his first State of the Union address, President Barack Obama said that Americans had to “answer history’s call” in the light of a potential “second depression.” This time, as he entered the House chamber and looked in the television cameras for a fifth time, he focused on the idea that creating middle class jobs must be the “North Star that guides our (economic) efforts.”

While there are many important issues that face this country, I was pleased that the president brought up manufacturing. He said that Washington must “guarantee that the next revolution in manufacturing is made in America.” With the Republicans reeling and looking to find support, Obama must strike a bipartisan agreement on the fiscal issues facing this country. Now is the time for Congress to finally make America a “magnet for jobs and manufacturing.”

Though there have been signs of erosion, the American manufacturing industry is still one of the largest in the world. A January 2012 Congressional Research Service report found that America’s share of global manufacturing activity has decreased in recent years. China’s manufacturing sector is almost as large as in the United States, valued at $1.814 trillion and $1.756 trillion respectively. In December 2012, the manufacturing sector made modest gains in manufacturing activity and factory hiring.

One of the common arguments related to manufacturing thrown around recently is that American companies are outsourcing jobs to other countries because their labor laws allow manufacturing operations to be more profitable. However, this is not as big of an issue as most Americans think it is. As the Bureau of Labor Statistics has found, the effect of outsourcing has been minimal. In the third quarter of 2012, when more than 100,000 workers were laid off, firms told BLS that less than 1 percent of these workers had their jobs moved to another country.

An article from The Atlantic reported that American companies are seeing the economic benefits of keeping jobs in America and have, in fact, started to “insource” jobs. China’s Foxconn, the Chinese manufacturing giant, is actually planning on increasing their operations in the United States. American companies are realizing the benefits of keeping jobs in the United States, which will limit the effect that outsourcing will have on the economy.

On the other hand, what’s preventing companies from producing in the United States is the attractiveness of production in other countries. Part of the issue is that the value of the dollar made producing goods in the United States less attractive than other countries with cheaper labor and production costs and lower marginal tax rates. If America wants to become more competitive in this regard, the federal government must be willing to create a plan that provides subsidies and “lowers tax rates for businesses and manufactures that (will) create jobs right here in America.” This would help reduce the costs of production in the U.S., which would make companies more willing to attract new jobs without having to reduce workers’ salaries.

One point that President Obama has been stressing is that increasing our focus on alternative energy will make America a stronger manufacturing country. According the Department of Energy, in August 2012 the wind sector was employing 75,000 American workers, including workers at manufacturing facilities up and down the supply chain, as well as engineers and construction workers who build and operate the wind farms.” People are now feeling the benefits of alternative energy manufacturing. On top of providing jobs, it will help Americans save money on energy consumption. This is the direction the manufacturing sector is going. If we fail to recognize the importance of alternative energy, America will fall behind.

Manufacturing is what has driven America over the past century. If we plan to give up on manufacturing, we are throwing the future of this country away. But words can only go so far. This plan will not completely revive the American car industry or the steel industry. While it’s not complete, President Obama’s plan will make American manufacturing industry more competitive that it is today so that we can be authors of the next great chapter in our American story.

This column originally ran in the Feb. 13 edition of Michigan Daily, serving the University of Michigan.

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

Lizzy Schroff
Scene Writer

“Young Man In America” — Anais Mitchell
I gushed in a previous article about my love of Anais Mitchell (my review of her 2010 album "HadesTown," to which I gave five out of five shamrocks). Her 2012 album "Young Man in America" does not disappoint either. The narrative lyrics are influenced by the recession and uncertainty in modern America, Mitchell says, and her unique girlish voice brilliantly expressed these words and interweaves the songs’ beautiful harmonies.

“Barton Hollow” — The Civil Wars
This song starts on a memorable note, keeping a strong foot-stomping beat throughout. The harmonies between John Paul White and Joy Williams are impeccable, filled with emotion, heart and just the right amount of twang. (No wonder Adele has said they are the best live group she has seen in concert.)

“Please Read the Letter” — Robert Plant and Alison Krauss
Rock god Robert Plant and bluegrass/folk queen Alison Krauss? Who ever thought that would be a good pairing? I know that’s what you’re thinking, but believe me, it works. Oh so well. Just look at the all of the Grammys their album "Raising Sand" and its single “Gone, Gone, Gone (Done Moved On)” won. Six. That’s right. SIX.

“Talking Empty Bed Blues” — Jay Farrar, Will Johnson, Anders Parker and Yim Yames
I came across the "New Multitudes," an album consisting solely of Woody Guthrie covers, just by happenstance. But I am so glad I did. The album honors the 100th anniversary of the birth of folk god Woody Guthrie, putting new spins on his legendary songs in a variety of genres.

“For the Roses” — Joni Mitchell
I think Joni Mitchell has one of the most beautiful voices. It’s pure, honest and unashamed. And it’s backed by a unique playing style on the guitar and deeply introspective lyrics. This song professed her ensuing period of absence from the music business and the demands of fame.

“Everything Is Moving So Fast” — Great Lake Swimmers
The Great Lake Swimmers have a way of evoking an atmosphere of openness and peacefulness in their music with echoing vocals and acoustic instruments. You can’t help but feel enticed to go for an afternoon walk in the woods and breathe in the great outdoors.

“Dearest Forsaken” — Iron and Wine
This song has an old-style feel about it, from the twangy intonation of the acoustic guitar to the rough vocals. It’s featured on Iron and Wine’s compilation album of B-sides and rarities that make you feel like you were dropped down in the middle of a scene from "O Brother, Where Art Thou?"

“Star Witness” — Neko Case
Neko Case has one of those voices you’ll never forget, which makes the poignant and melancholy lyrics of "Star Witness" all the more effective. There are so many layers to this track — acoustic and electric guitars, harmonies from Neko, gentle and steady drums, cellos and much more. And if you’ve got the time, check out the YouTube cover by Canadian students Kate Macdonald and Janelle Blanchard.

“Just a Boy” — Angus & Julia Stone
This song from the brother and sister duos from Australia has a beautiful simplicity about it. No flashiness or special effects — just pure and plain melodies, relatable lyrics, piano and some harmonica thrown into the mix that make for a charming tune.

“If I Had a Boat” — James Vincent McMorrow
I just have to start out by saying that I LOVE this song. The track begins with haunting a cappella vocals before gliding into the ethereal and enticing body of the song, filled with piano, banjo, beautiful backing vocals and expressive guitar. James Vincent McMorrow’s voice has a slight roughness that brings out a depth of emotion that pulls you right in from the get go.

“Place to Be” — Nick Drake
Though Nick Drake tragically passed away at an early age, the brief time that he spent making music has left a lasting legacy. He almost never performed live, which led to his lack of fame during his lifetime. It’s a shame that more people didn’t experience his genius in a live setting. His songs feature intricate, nonstandard rhythms and alternative tunings that practically set his music in a category of its own. This, along with lyrics inspired by British writers and symbols from nature, make for a mystical musical pairing.

“Ship Out On the Sea” — The Be Good Tanyas
I just had to round off the playlist with a track from this Canadian all-girls group. Their old-fashioned bluegrass style is sure to satisfy your folk cravings.

Contact Lizzy Schroff at eschro01@ saintmarys.edu
Keough Hall rector Fr. Pete McCormick has talents that can be applied in many places: in the Church, in the dorm, in Campus Ministry — and on the dance floor. McCormick juggles the roles of priest, rector and collar poppin’ disc jockey. Born and raised in Grand Rapids, Mich., he earned his Master’s of Divinity at Notre Dame, spent some time as an assistant rector in Dillon Hall and is currently rector of Keough Hall and Associate Director of Vocations. But to those who love to hit the late-night dancing scene, he’s DJ McSwish.

Claire Stephens: Why DJ McSwish?
Fr. Pete McCormick: The name comes from one of my favorite basketballs, called McCormick’s Wish. When I was a kid growing up, my dad would always write McCormick on our basketballs so we’d know whose basketball it was. One day I needed positive energy and wrote SWISH under it. My friend Lenny DeLorenzo, [director] at Notre Dame Vision, saw it and said “McSwish,” which was coined as a result. He and I died at Legends together last semester: He’s DJ Mal Hatter.

CS: When did you first start to DJ?
FPM: It started when I was growing up. My family would play “Name that Tune” a lot, and I would lead positive energy and wrote SWISH under it. My friend Lenny DeLorenzo, [director] at Notre Dame Vision, saw it and said “McSwish,” which was coined as a result. He and I died at Legends together last semester: He’s DJ Mal Hatter.

CS: What is your favorite kind of music?
FPM: People just don’t believe it. This coming fall — and I’ve done this in the past — I’ve done the wedding then DJ’d it later that night. There’s a [Notre Dame] couple I knew while they were here that I’m going to marry in October, and they called up and asked if I’d DJ their wedding. It gives me something to do at the reception. There’s not much to do as a priest, and it allows me to be actively engaged in some level, and I very much enjoy it. I love it.

CS: What kind of music do you play?
FPM: That morning I DJ’d, I was asking folks what music people like, and they gave me some ideas. I went online and mined songs from the past two years, some “Hot 100” stuff that I thought would work. Lenny and I were collaborating on this: what’s the mood of the group, what song do we think is going to work, what do we try to shift into, then we play the song and see what happens. It’s always a bit of a nerve-wracking thing. Are people going to react or walk off the dance floor? You keep people engaged by playing a mixture of songs to keep every person engaged in some level. You can’t play all new stuff. You have to throw some old school stuff people enjoy too. I think of it as a big puzzle, and that’s why I enjoy DJing so much.

CS: What is your favorite kind of music?
FPM: Country. I love country music, but I grew up listening to a lot of 90s rap. I have an appreciation for hip hop and top 40 stuff, but my greatest admiration is for country music, by and large. Being aware of mu- sic and what people are listening to is a way into their lives. People get passionate about certain things and, if music is one of them, you can enter into conversa- tion into other things going on in their lives. It’s one way of staying current and aware and to have that level of connection with people.

Contact Claire Stephens at cstephe4@nd.edu

By CLAIRE STEPHENS
Scene Writer

Keough Hall rector Fr. Pete McCormick has talents that can be applied in many places: in the Church, in the dorm, in Campus Ministry — and on the dance floor. McCormick juggles the roles of priest, rector and collar poppin’ disc jockey. Born and raised in Grand Rapids, Mich., he earned his Master's of Divinity at Notre Dame, spent some time as an assistant rector in Dillon Hall and is currently rector of Keough Hall and Associate Director of Vocations. But to those who love to hit the late-night dancing scene, he's DJ McSwish.

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Contact Claire Stephens at cstephe4@nd.edu

Great humor and music in

‘THE BOOK OF MORMON’

By COURTNEY COX
Scene Editor

Last Friday, I visited Chicago’s Bank of America Theatre for a performance of “The Book of Mormon,” but I admit-
tedly knew very little going into it. I knew it would be about Mormons and that “South Park” creators Trey Parker and Matt Stone wrote the musical — but that’s about it.

When the performance began, it became immediately evident that the show would maintain the borderline offen-

sive style of social criticism characteristic of “South Park.”

The opening number is a play on the traditional door-to-
door method of conversion with several young Mormon men wearing the now-recognizable uniform of a short-sleeved button down and tie. The men are completing their training at the Church of Latter Day Saints (LDS) training center in Utah before they begin their two-year missions abroad.

Elder Price, the show’s handsome second coming of Mormon prophet Joseph Smith, has been praying to God for years that he may be sent to the happiest place on earth to fulfill his mission — Orlando.

Instead, Elder Price is sent to the beautiful paradise of Uganda. And to make matters worse, his mission partner is the most maladjusted of all other elders within the group, Elder Cunningham.

Price, despite this disappointment, believes he is meant for great things and certainly will make great strides with the LDS mission in Africa. He comes to realize, however, that the Ugandan people are much less receptive to the traditional teachings of the Church. This causes Elder Price to become increasingly jealous and what ensues is nothing short of inspired.

They find conversion much more difficult than they ini-
tially expected because of the more impending problems that the Ugandans face like AIDS, a violent warlord threat-
ening the village and abject poverty.

The ensemble who worked together as Ugandan villagers were beyond incredible at delivering the most humorous moments of the play through song. The performance is definitely worth a trip to the Windy City — hop on the South Shore to enjoy the show soon, which will be in Chicago until September. “The Book of Mormon” is sure to intrigue and entertain a Notre Dame audience.

Contact Courtney Cox at cccox3@nd.edu

“THE BOOK OF MORMON”

Theatre: Bank of America Theatre, Chicago
Dates: Through Sept. 8, 2013
Tickets: $45-$115

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The major strength of the play is its ability to combine an apt criticism of organized religion with the lyrically rich songs created by Parker, Stone and their partner Robert Lopez, co-writer of “Avenue Q.” Despite some inappropriate themes and language, the show never offends unnecessarily. Typically, off-shoot productions have a cast marginally less talented than the original Broadway show, and

admittedly I didn’t see the show on Broadway, but I can’t imagine the cast being much better than what I saw in Chicago.

Ben Platt, who plays the lovable Elder Cunningham, may be recognizable to audiences from his role as the equally awkward but charming Benji in this fall’s “Pitch Perfect.”

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Contact Courtney Cox at cccox3@nd.edu

“THE BOOK OF MORMON”

Theatre: Bank of America Theatre, Chicago
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There’s nothing like baseball

Isaac Lorton
Sports Writer

Baseball is synonymous with the seasons. It is not summer — it is the regular season. It is not fall — it is baseball season and Mr. November. It is not winter — it is the offseason. It is not spring because Punxsutawney Phil says it is — it is spring because pitchers and catchers reported.

Yes, the best time in sports is here again, and everyone should be excited that baseball is back because baseball is more American than George Washington eating apple pie on the back of an eagle.

The NFL can have the title of America’s favorite sport because football is, and always will be, America’s pastime. But what does it mean to be a pastime?

Especially in a Google “pastime,” you get the following definition: “An activity that someone does regularly for enjoyment rather than work.”

Many things fit into this classification, including gardening, stamp collecting, model building or even watching football or basketball, but describing baseball as a pastime implies more than that.

Baseball encompasses a culture unlike that of any other sport.

No other sport can match the quirks and traditions of baseball. Every fan is a statistician. Stats are thrown around like a ping pong ball on the weekends. There are, of course, the traditional stats and the eye test to judge players, but WHIPs, DIPS, LIPS and even VORPs are also used to judge players’ performances (War’s Hit/Innings Pitched, Defense-Independent Pitching Stats, Late-Inning Pressure Situations, Value Over Replacement Plus). In no other sport are fans so invested in the game. In baseball, a pastime implies more than that.

Everyone should be excited that baseball is back because baseball is more American than George Washington eating apple pie on the back of an eagle.

5:17 p.m. every night, took exactly 150 ground balls during warm-ups and wrote the Hebrew word “chai,” which means life, in the batter’s box before every at-bat. It’s hard to argue with two Gold Gloves and a .328 career batting average. There are strict routines to be followed, there are celebrations that must be observed and there are, of course, slump busters. Mark Grace and Jason Giambi can attest to that. The compulsive tendencies in everyone feel at home when watching baseball.

Baseball is an extraordinary, average person’s sport.

Where else do you get to see an athlete with incredible physique, like Pablo “Kung Fu Panda” Sandoval, compete at the highest level of his or her respective sport? Athletes come in all shapes and sizes, from fun, farm boy along with his bean stalk Randy Johnson. The diversity of the athletes appeals to people everywhere. Not all baseball players are elite physical specimens; they are Prince Fielder and Ichiro Suzuki and even Mariano Rivera. All future Hall of Famers, but not all the same blueprint. There is a baseball player (or at least a class) for everyone. There are oddballs like Brian Wilson. There are intense guys like Jose Valverde. There are class acts like Mariano Rivero.

And there are guys everyone loves to hate like Byung Hyun Kim (maybe that’s just me). Baseball is a sport we can all relate to.

But then again, maybe the tradition holds your attention. Baseball is a storyteller. From baseball’s first official rules in 1846 made by the Knickerbockers to the post-steroid era, there are countless stories on and off the field of why baseball is steadfastly in the fiber of the American flag. Baseball is incredible because it offers a little bit of everything for everybody.

So dust off your hat, grab yourself a dog and a drink, sit back and relax — baseball is back because baseball is more American than George Washington eating apple pie on the back of an eagle.

Kentucky struggles to find way without Noel

Associated Press

Humiliated Kentucky seeks redemption in its second post-Noel outing.

Kentucky is entering a stretch of nearly must-win games and can’t afford another embarrassing performance like the Wildcats had against Tennessee. In the Wildcats’ first contest after losing their freshman star for the season with a knee injury, the Volunteers thumped Kentucky 88-58.

The Wildcats (17-8, 8-4 Southeastern Conference) will host Vanderbilt (10-14, 4-8) Wednesday looking to show they can win without Noel — sidelined after tearing his anterior cruciate ligament a week ago.

Coach John Calipari said Tuesday without the nation’s leading shot-blocker, the Wildcats will have to change their defensive strategy to prevent other teams from getting to the basket. He is also hoping the loss leads to the commitment and cohesion Kentucky needs to make a tournament run.

“You were a little shocked,” Kentucky guard Jarnell Stokes said of their initial game without Noel. “I mean, we didn’t realize how much he affected things on the defensive end.”

“But we’re trying to get over it, see what kind of defense we can do now without him. I think we’re trying to have a good scheme.”

While Calipari didn’t expect 7-foot freshman Willie Cauley-Stein to seal off the rim as well as the 6-10 Noel, the coach didn’t think the change would result in Tennessee out-scoring Kentucky 40-22 in the paint and outboarding the Wildcats 39-21.

Calipari wants Cauley-Stein to become more forceful inside, but he’s also urging players to sacrifice themselves more and take more charges in an attempt to slow opponents’ hopes of exploiting the Wildcats inside.

“It’s a big change,” Calipari said. “You have to change a little bit of how you’re defending, which we are.”

While Vanderbilt expects less resistance inside without Noel, the Commodores are still wary of Cauley-Stein. His four blocks and eight rebounds in the Wildcats’ 60-58 win in Nashville on Jan. 10 were each one better than the highly touted Noel, who had 13 points in including the decisive basket.

The two big men started and played extensive minutes together in that first game against Vanderbilt. This time, if Alex Poythress or even Archie Goodwin improve their defensive play and provide some support for Cauley-Stein, he could be more of a presence than he was last time.

“Cauley-Stein’s still a great player and he’s obviously long, he’s athletic and definitely makes up for some of that loss,” Vanderbilt junior forward Rod Odum said. “I think they’re going to look a little different than last time. I’m not sure what way, but I think it’ll be a little bit different.”

One of the major changes Kentucky needs to be successful has come to the point guard position, which has been an issue all season. Sophomore Ryan Harrow seemed to be getting a grip on the position when league play started but had just two assists in the two games before Tennessee.

That led to Polson making his first collegiate start in Harrow’s place against the Volunteers and the junior finished with a career-high 11 points. But the distribution void continued, with Harrow and Polson combining for no assists and two turnovers.

Calipari stressed that that’s where more aggressiveness is needed. He didn’t have to tell Polson, who knows he must improve.

“We didn’t play well at all,” said Polson, projected to make his second straight start. “We’re just trying to get better and trying to push the ball more.”

Calipari’s main hope is that Saturday’s loss finally drives home his points about consistent energy, execution and communicating. None of that happened against the Vols and the coach suggested afterward that part of the problem was a couple of “uncoachable” players hindering the process — though he didn’t mention names.

He backtracked Tuesday, saying “uncoachable” was used in the context of what’s said on the bench during games. Maybe, but it succeeded in getting the Wildcats’ attention as they enter an important stretch run.

Contact Isaac Lorton at ilorton@nd.edu

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

William Howard Taft was not only the heaviest U.S. president, but also the last to sport facial hair.

In 2009, researchers at Newcastle University’s Centre for Life said eating a bacon sandwich can help cure a hangover.

Southern sea otters have flaps of skin under their forelimbs that act as pockets. When diving, they use these pouches to store rocks and prey.

Naperville Central High School near Chicago, is the only high school in America with an Egyptian mummy.

Beanie Babies were such a craze in the 1990s that even struggling MLB teams used them to sell out home games.
Oladipo powers No. 1 Indiana against Spartans

Associated Press

EAST LANSING, Mich. — Victor Oladipo shook off a sprained left ankle with a spectacular performance to lift top-ranked Indiana to a 72-68 win over No. 4 Michigan State on Tuesday night.

Oladipo’s go-ahead put-back, dunk and free throws in the final minute gave him 19 points to go along with nine rebounds, five steals and a block. Not bad for a guy who didn’t play after halftime of his previous game, just three days earlier, because of the injury.

Hoosiers coach Tom Crean insisted that the junior shooting guard “wasn’t even close” to 100-percent healthy.

“There’s no doubt his foot hurt,” Crean said. “That mind was right, and that was the biggest thing.”

Indiana (24-3, 12-2 Big Ten) broke a first-place tie in the conference — with four games left in the regular season — and moved a step closer to giving the storied program its second game in the regular season against a No. 1 team.

“I’d say I was more upset with a little more than a minute left. ‘I’d say I was more upset than surprised,’” he said.

Cody Zeller had 17 points — nearly doubling what he had in the previous matchup against Michigan State — while Jordan Hulls and Christian Watford scored 12 each for the Hoosiers.

Oladipo and Zeller went over the 1,000-point mark of their careers in the game, joining Hulls and Watford in the club, with 21 points, seven rebounds, eight and some of his contributions offensively late in the game looked like they were going to help the school win its second game in the regular season against a No. 1 team.

Harris made a go-ahead shot — after grabbing rebounds off two of his misses — to put Michigan State ahead 64-63 lead with 3:08 left and scored again in the post on its next possession.

Keith Appling had missed two of his misses — to put Michigan State ahead 64-63 lead with 3:08 left and scored again in the post on its next possession.

Harris made one of two free throws with 1:38 remaining to give the Spartans a game-high, four-point lead.

Harris said somberly. “And, we could’ve won.”

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NEW YORK — Union leader Domonique Foxworth says NFL players don’t trust Commissioner Roger Goodell because of the Saints bounty case, in particular.

The NFLPA president added he wouldn’t be able to persuade players to have faith in the league even if he wanted to.

Speaking on a conference call Tuesday, days before union representatives meet with NFL officials at the scouting combine in Indianapolis, Foxworth returned to a theme he stressed at the NFLPA’s pre-Super Bowl news conference.

“It’s pretty obvious that there’s a gap in what would be a reasonable amount of trust...” Foxworth said. “There’ve been a number of events to lead players to believe they cannot trust the league. “

“There was a bridge beginning to be built and then there were some recent events that kind of broke that bridge again.”

Foxworth said the players are seeking checks and balances such as a neutral arbitrator to improve relations between the union and league. He cited the bounties and how former Commissioner Paul Tagliabue was not “unbiased.”

Yet Tagliabue made the final decision that tossed out the suspensions of four players.

“When things like that happen, the former defensive back said of Tagliabue’s appointment by Goodell, “it’s hard for our players to believe that the league has their best interests in mind. And that makes it harder for me to do my job, and for the PA to do our jobs and for the league to do their jobs. Because we really need to agree upon things, moving forward.”

NFL spokesman Greg Aiello insisted that the union has not looked ahead since a new collective bargaining agreement with the league was reached a year and a half ago.

“Since 2011 the union has spent most of its time backing away from its commitments,” Aiello said in an email to The Associated Press. “Whether on old litigation, HGH, or commissioner discipline, the NFLPA has consistently looked backwards.

“Trust is a two-way street. If the union wants to work together to build a better, safer and even more popular game, we extend our hand in partnership and respect. If the union wants to stir up old grievances and create mistrust, we will simply have to do the best we can to serve the interests on the fans, players and the game.”

Key issues Foxworth and other union officials will discuss with the NFL’s competition committee in Indianapolis involve player safety, including the league’s plan to make hip and thigh pads mandatory next season.

Many players have spoken out against such a requirement, saying using the pads should be optional. The NFL believes the pads will substantially reduce injuries or wear and tear on players.
DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. — With his Canon 60D in hand, Darrell Wallace Jr. is a fixture at the track, eagerly snapping photos with an insider’s view of auto racing. His Instagram account is littered with day-in-the-life snapshots of cars and crews, all carrying the tag, “My crazy life captured in pictures.”

Wallace, though, isn’t a typical 19-year-old NASCAR prospect trying to climb the ladder, and he’s less interested in a budding photography career. He is a pioneer of sorts as only the fourth black driver with a full-time ride in a NASCAR series.

When Wallace takes the wheel for the Truck Series race Friday at Daytona International Speedway, he’ll become a slice of NASCAR history in a race that ignites his goal of serving as a role model for a generation of potential future black drivers.

“It’s kind of up to me,” Wallace said. “It’s kind of a huge weight.”

Busting down racial barriers in a sport long reserved for whites is pretty heavy stuff for a teenager and all eyes are on him. Yet Wallace, the son of a white father and black mother, openly talks of becoming the Tiger Woods of NASCAR — the great black star who can transcend the sport when he was 9, put together sponsorship cash is the lifeblood of the sport.

“If he can’t find the right sponsorship, he’s just this time on his biggest stage so far. ‘I’ll show up the next week and wear ’em out again,’” he said, smiling. “I really didn’t understand it. My dad got more fired up than anything.”

His father sparked a love of driving in a low-level NASCAR developmental series and said racism in all forms was nonexistent.

At lower levels of racing, though, Wallace would bear racial insults or encounter ignorant views.

“We used to take it from fans,” his father, Darrell, said. “We’ve had it from other drivers. We’ve had it from officials. We’ve had it from promoters. We’ve had it from track owners. We’ve pretty much had it from everybody.”

Wallace said the heckles and hurtful words from his former teammates in the sport have been left on the side of the road and he can continue to focus on racing — just this time on his biggest stage so far.

“T’d show up the next week and wear ’em out again,” he said, smiling. “I really didn’t understand it. My dad got more fired up than anything.”

His father sparked a love of the sport when he was 9, putting him in go-karts, and always scouting out the next series.

Darrell Wallace even bought a Legends car from Mark Martin.

He attends every race and will watch on TV (“She likes hearing what they say about me.”)

Mom did offer a piece of advice that has stuck with Wallace.

Avoid confrontations with other drivers who used slurs. Just go win.

Wallace’s love and talent for the sport will mean nothing if he can’t find the right sponsor to fund his career.

Sponsorship cash is the lifeblood of the sport.

His father has owned an industrial cleaning business since 1999 and pumped at least $1 million into his son’s fledgling career.

After struggling for some nationwide races.

The program is 10 years old and paid a dividend of sorts as only the fourth full-time NASCAR driver to be black.

It’s a path he expects to land him in the Sprint Cup series.

“I’m not ready for it next year. I’m not ready for it in two years,” he said. “It’s all about the timing. It’s all about how well do I this year.”

NASCAR has initiated several pushes toward boosting the number of minorities in the sport. There’s a Drive for Diversity program that may pay some dividends with Wallace and Kyle Larson after struggling to find racers for the top series.

The program is 10 years old and was designed to attract minority women to the sport in all fields, from the track to the front office.

Wallace participated in a short-lived reality show in 2010 called “Changing Lanes,” that featured 10 young female and minority racers competing for a spot on a developmental team.

Not even showbiz helped Wallace land the big-bucks sponsor needed to race in the second-tier series. Wallace ideally would have run in the Nationwide Series this season, but was unable to land enough sponsorship. He had three top-10 finishes and a pole in four Nationwide races in 2012.

Gibbs said Wallace is still slated for some Nationwide races.

“We’ve had a lot of other African-American drivers get in the sport, but they got in late,” Gibbs said. “It’s hard to get in late. You’ve got to start when you’re young and race your way up. I think Darrell’s got it.”

Wallace was busy balancing Daytona duties with media requests this week and was set to hold a press conference with Gibbs on Wednesday at the track.

“Darrell’s equipped to handle the attention,” said Marcus Jadot, NASCAR’s vice president for public affairs and multicultural development. “Most importantly, he’s equipped to handle the competition on the race track.”

Wallace makes history on NASCAR speedway

Associated Press

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. — With his Canon 60D in hand, Darrell Wallace Jr. is a fixture at the track, eagerly snapping photos with an insider’s view of auto racing. His Instagram account is littered with day-in-the-life snapshots of cars and crews, all carrying the tag, “My crazy life captured in pictures.”

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Driver Darrell Wallace Jr. stands beside his car during a race in May. Wallace Jr. has made history as only the fourth full-time NASCAR driver to be black.
Associated Press

PHOENIX — Bartolo Colon knew he had failed a drug test for about six weeks before he got hit with a 50-game suspension last season. He made several starts for the Oakland Athletics while knowing he probably wouldn’t participate in the pennant race.

“I continued to pitch, but my mind wasn’t good,” he said.

Now that Colon is back in the clubhouse at spring training with the teammates he let down, the 39-year-old right-hander knows he can only earn peace of mind and forgiveness by getting back in top form on the mound.

Colon finally spoke Tuesday about his season-ending suspension for a positive testosterone test. Through a translator, the former Cy Young Award winner with 171 career victories expressed regret for his past mistakes and hope for his future.

“The only thing I can say about last year is I apologize to everybody, even the fans, the team, the front office about what happened,” he said.

The A’s organization already has forgiven the veteran starter whose first season with Oakland ended prematurely. Not only did the unlikely AL West champions re-sign Colon, they gave him a raise with a $3 million, one-year contract.

“I feel loved, because Oakland gave me the opportunity to come back and be part of it again,” he said.

The Dominican veteran doesn’t intend to call a team meeting to apologize to everybody. He said he’ll speak to the A’s individually about his past mistake and their future.

“I talked to him beforehand, and I thought that was the proper way to go about it,” Oakland manager Bob Melvin said. “He’s not a guy that wants to call a team meeting. That’s not his personality, but it’s his personality to deal with guys individually, and he’s done that to this point. I think he’s handled everything so far to this point very well.”

Colon still must serve the last five games this season, costing him a turn in the rotation. Colon is expected to be a calming veteran presence in one of the majors’ youngest starting rotations, but Oakland has plenty of starting depth with Brett Anderson, Jarrod Parker, Tommy Milone, A.J. Griffin and Dan Straily.

Colon went 10-9 with a 3.43 ERA in 24 starts last season, his 15th in the majors. He pitched fairly well after learning of his positive test, going 4-2 after July 1 while presumably not using banned substance.

“We also know a little bit, based on what we’ve seen through last year, of the quality of the person,” Melvin said. “He was really a great resource here, never a problem, always doing what you need him to do, and there for younger guys when they ask questions. Not the most vocal guy in the world, but leads by example and really was very good for us last year.”

The A’s re-signed Colon after watching him throw in the offseason, with general manager Billy Beane believing Colon hadn’t lost anything without his artificial enhancements. Colon said he didn’t speak to any other teams, staying with Oakland after getting the contract offer in November.

Oakland’s Colon set to return from suspension
Associated Press

**Sveum prepares to lead Cubs in second season**

Well-liked during his minsing, Sveum noticed Chicago’s opening speech at spring training. He is preparing for a second season as Cubs manager. He believes the large bull’s-eye on the back of his jersey will come off as soon as the Cubs improve their play. Many of the Cubs fans have had their doubts about the team’s ability to win games. However, Sveum’s strategy has paid off, and the fans are now optimistic about the team’s prospects.

**Baseball: Continued from page 24**

Chicago manager Dale Sveum looks on during a Cubs’ spring training session on Feb. 12 in Mesa, Ariz.

Hey, least the guy didn’t lose his sense of humor, too, after a 101-loss season. But beyond being a well-liked, well-executed prank, the Cubs’ trick on Sveum was a sign of respect for the 49-year-old, who guided a young Chicago team through a rough year on the field, but one that was much smoother for the club off it than in previous seasons.

Most 101-loss teams or even most last-place teams have a lot of controversies and a lot of brush fires and we had none last year,” Cubs general manager Jed Hoyer said. “I think some of that credit belongs to our players, but a lot of it should go to Dale and his staff. They kept a positive atmosphere.

“We weren’t talented enough, that’s why we lost all those games. But we were prepared, our guys had a good attitude and that will help us a lot down the road.”

With his straight-talking, confident approach and an ease in his manner, Sveum has endeared himself to Chicago’s front office and players. The Cubs enjoy playing for Sveum, who was a journeyman shortstop for seven teams in 12 major league seasons.

It’s nice that maybe they’re saying they don’t want to lose him in a hunting accident,” said Sveum, laughing about a recent hunting accident involving the Cubs’ first baseman. “It’s not that I don’t enjoy the joke.

In the ninth, they trailed 5-3. Still, they remained within striking distance. It is important that Notre Dame responded quickly, even if it was only one run, because getting far down early could have easily shut down the Irish mental game. Especially early in the season, it is good to see the Irish battle back from a deficit. It is even better to see the Notre Dame’s marquee players come through when most needed.

In the bottom of the ninth, senior outfielder and co-captain Charlie Markson hit a one-out single to center field that brought junior third baseman and All-American candidate Eric Jagielo to the plate as the tying run. Jagielo lived up to his reputation by hitting a monster 400-foot two-run homer to deep center scoring a key run and five RBIs to go along with a one-out single to center in the bottom of the 10th, after freshman James Nevant led off with a key walk, freshman Lane Richards laid down a perfect sacrifice bunt that advanced freshman pinch runner Kyle Richardson into scoring position. Senior second baseman and co-captain Frank DeSico was next to step into the batter’s box. DeSico was 0-for-4 on the day, but when his team was in a position to win he seized the opportunity with his first walk-off career single to right field to complete Notre Dame’s comeback win 6-5. It may be early on, but the determination Irish displayed is a good sign. Notre Dame played small ball as a team, scratching and clawing to get back in the game, and then was able to rely upon its leader to seal the deal.

The Irish carried this momentum to Friday’s second game, where they routed Ohio State 13-3. Senior pitcher Adam Norton tossed seven innings, gave up three earned runs, collected four strikeouts and gave up zero walks. The offense did not disappoint in the game with the Buckeyes, either. DeSico went 4-for-5 with two RBIs and four runs, leading the Irish to a total of 16 hits during the game. Jagielo followed suit and went 3-for-5 with two runs scored and five RBIs to go with a three-run home run. Sophomore designated hitter Ryan Bull contributed three hits as well. DeSico, Jagielo and Bull went 16-for-28 at the dish where they racked up 10 RBIs, eight runs and three home runs during Friday’s doubleheader. It was the first time Notre Dame has swept an opening day doubleheader since 1992. If Notre Dame can have solid outings like this weekend’s series all year, it will have the offense to compete in every game. The Irish seem capable of great things this season.

But then the championship game against Mercer happened Saturday. Maybe it was the hangover from the extra-inning win and the huge win over Ohio, or maybe it was fatigue, but the Irish underwhelmed against Mercer.

The Irish are going to have to remain consistent in order to win this year. Before the season Irish coach Mik Aoki stressed that the team needed to win the games they are supposed to win in order to succeed — and this game was one of them. The Irish got to an early one-run lead in the first, but the Irish offense was held in check until the fourth, which featured a 0-2 deficit going into the seventh, but was unable to make another comeback and lost the championship 5-4.

Maybe I am looking too much into the final loss, because the Irish still won the weekend’s series. Winning every three-game series will put the Irish right where they need to be — the Big East playoffs.

Contact Isaac Lorton at ilorton@nd.edu.

The views expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.
Mets face uncertainties as workouts begin

Associated Press

PORT ST. LUCIE, Fla. — Asked about his outfield at the general managers’ meetings last November, New York Mets general manager Sandy Alderson quipped: “What outfield?”

With Scott Hairston, Jason Bay and Andres Torres departing, and Collin Cowgill, Marlon Byrd, Andrew Brown and Jamie Hoffman coming in, the outfield remains as unsettled as it was three months ago.

“This is about opportunity and you never know how someone’s going to take advantage of opportunity,” Alderson said.

As the Mets held their second full-squad workout Tuesday, the seven outfielders on the 40-man roster totaled 343 games of major league experience in the outfield.

Lucas Duda has 175 of those plate appearances this year after hitting .292 with 10 homers and 50 RBIs in 347 plate appearances in 2011. Collins said he expects a better year for Duda offensive-ly and defensively — where he is switching from right field to left.

“I think if he’s comfortable he’ll show us the offense we know he is capable of having,” Collins said. “He will improve his defense, and at the same time his offense will improve to where he’s a positive player for us. I have a lot of hope for Lucas, and we’re relying on him.”

Collins mentioned Baxter as a possible leadoff hitter last week. He’s also praising Byrd, an All-Star in 2010 when he batted .293 for the Chicago Cubs.

Byrd hit .210 in 47 games for the Cubs and the Boston Red Sox last year, was released June 12 and then suspended June 25 for 50 games following a positive test for Tamoxifen, which can reduce side effects of steroid use and increase testosterone.

“This guy was one of the best players in the National League not too long ago,” Collins said. “If he’s the same player he was in Chicago a couple of years ago, we might have found ourselves a right fielder. I know he’s that kind of talent.”

Baxter’s season was interrupted when he crashed into the left-field wall to preserve Johan Santana’s no-hitter against St. Louis on June 1. Baxter displaced the joint between his right collarbone and sternum and tore rib cartilage on his right side, and he didn’t return until July 30. While he hit .323 in 65 at-bats before the injury, he batted .228 in 114 at-bats after his return. That left him at .263 overall.

“I think we’ve got a good group that’s definitely excited about the opportunities to prove what they can do, and we’re excited about that,” Baxter said. “Anytime a team is going to give you a chance to show what you can do and give you a chance to win a starting job on the team, that’s a great opportunity — one you should take advantage of and make the most of.”

The 76 games of big league outfield experience for the 28-year-old Baxter make him a relative veteran on the Mets. Cowgill, 26, hit .269 in 38 games with Oakland last year and has played 61 games in a big league outfield.

Nieuwenhuis, 25, made his major league debut last year and hit .252 in 91 games, 83 of them in the outfield.

“As a group we know what we can do,” Cowgill said. “We don’t have to prove anyone right or wrong. We just have to go out and play hard and win games. That’s our goal, and I feel like this team is going to do that, and the outfield is going to have a lot to do with that.”

“It’s definitely an opportunity for young guys and anyone else,” Duda said. “We’ve got a few veterans and young guys in the mix. We are pretty inexperienced as a whole, but that doesn’t necessarily mean we aren’t going to play hard or play well.”

Though Duda is the only player manager Terry Collins has labeled as an everyday outfielder, the 27-year-old still has to show he belongs there.

“as a group we know what they can do,” Alderson said. “Don’t have to prove anyone right or wrong. We just have to go out and play hard and win games. That’s our goal, and I feel like this team is going to do that, and the outfield is going to have a lot to do with that.”

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Bouts

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 24

minute of the tournament, not just showing up for your fight,” Ulrich said. “We’re an anomaly in the world of boxing because it’s a team tournament.”

Two matchups to watch in the quarterfinals will be junior Mike Falvey versus law student and former Leprechaun Dan Collins in the 138-pound division and freshman Eamon McSkirr versus senior Matt Enziweiler in the 194-pound division. Other boxers to watch throughout the tournament include MMA-trained law student Gage O’Connell, junior returning heavyweight champion and captain Dan Yi, undefeated law student Brian Salvi and senior three-time champion and captain Jack Lally. Lally is seeking his 4th title and varsity monogram status.

Ulrich hopes that they and all the other boxers will leave everything they have in the ring. To make the training worth it, they will have to fight their hardest. And some may need to lean on a teammate.

“When it comes down to actual boxing, you know the pain of doing 100 burpees, sprints across Stepan Field, 1,000 pushups,” Ulrich said. “But it’s nothing compared to an actual boxing match. All the matches, the guys hug after the match. Part of it is working with the guy for so long, and part of it is ‘Man, I can’t stand up. I left it all in the ring,’ and needing to hold on to the other guy.”

Quarterfinals begin at 6 p.m. Wednesday in the Joyce Center Fieldhouse.

Contact Samantha Zuba at szuba@nd.edu

Norton

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 24

in his freshman and sophomore seasons, respectively. It wasn’t until last year that Norton really came into his own, this time on the pitching mound.

Norton threw 98.0 innings for the Irish in 2012, going 5-5 with a 4.32 ERA. Most impressive was Norton’s control — the right-hander walked just seven batters the entire 2012 season. Norton credits Irish pitching coach Chuck Ristano for his command-centered mentality.

“One of the things he says is, ‘Work fast, throw strikes,’” Norton said. “Just looking at the stats, the hitters are going to get themselves out more times than they’re going to get a hit. [But] if you walk them, they’re going to be on base 100 percent of the time. Every pitching coach I had growing up always said it’s not about how hard you throw, it’s where you throw it. I’ve always been more of a command guy than throwing all over the place as hard as I can.”

The Irish will rely heavily on Norton this year as one of their weekend starters. In his first start of the season against Ohio State on Saturday, Norton was outstanding, going 7.0 innings and allowing three runs against the Buckeyes.

True to form, Norton did not allow a walk against Ohio State.

Although he grew up just over an hour away from South Bend in Highland, Ind., Norton said he only began to seriously think about playing for Notre Dame once the team started showing interest in him.

“Being from the north, everyone playing baseball kind of has the dream of going south and playing in the nice weather and being able to play year round,” Norton said. “[Notre Dame] showed a lot of interest in me to come here and play. Then once you come and visit the campus it’s a pretty tough place to turn down.”

Norton said he’s not fixated on any specific numbers as his goals this season. But he did echo the sentiment of several other Notre Dame coaches and players in saying he believes this team has a real opportunity to achieve memorable things in 2013.

“From where we’re at right now I’d say this is definitely the most talented team that I’ve been a part of in the last four years here,” Norton said. “I think that if we continue to improve throughout the year and play our game as opposed to trying to do too much, I think we can do some things here that haven’t been done in a while.”

There’s no doubt the Irish will lean on Norton in order for them to do just that.

Contact John Sandberg at jsandbe1@nd.edu
Buntin’s bat leads steady Irish squad

By LAURA COLETTI
Sports Writer

Senior captain Amy Buntin is now a force for the Irish both with her bat and with her glove, but it hasn’t always been this way.

“From my freshman year to my senior year, my confidence has grown tremendously, both in the batter’s box and behind the plate,” the Irish catcher said. “I attribute this to game experience over the years and becoming comfortable in any situation on the field.”

In true Notre Dame form, the Brentwood, Tenn., native chose the school for its excellence in both academics and athletics.

“The tradition surrounding this campus and the Notre Dame family is unlike any other university,” she said.

Buntin joined the Irish roster in 2009 as a utility player, but gradually developed into a full-time catcher. After two versatile seasons playing at a number of positions for Notre Dame, Buntin burst onto the scene during her junior season and led Notre Dame with a .360 batting average, 62 hits, 60 RBIs and 45 runs scored.

She started every game for the Irish and was just the 21st player in school history to be named an All-American for her efforts.

This season, Buntin is looking to continue her on-field prowess while leading the Irish to new heights.

“The goals I have for this team is to go further than Notre Dame softball has ever gone before,” she said. “This is a special team and I think we have what it takes to push the program to the next level.”

The Irish are 4-5 on the season, but have dropped some tough games to competitive opposition. Last weekend, they took No. 1 Oklahoma to extra innings before succumbing to the Sooners in a close 7-5 loss. Buntin blasted a two-run home run in the bottom of the ninth inning to bring Notre Dame to within two runs of the Sooners before the remainder of the side was retired.

Buntin and junior outfielder Lauren Stuhr lead the Irish in RBIs this season with four apiece.

True to her performance so far, Buntin said as co-captain she has tried to lead the team by her example.

“I’m not the player to deliver a huge pump-up speech before the game,” she said. “I try to lead with my composure on the field and being the player that everyone wants in the batter’s box in the pressure situations.”

Buntin will continue to try to stay calm and collected as she and the rest of the Irish travel to Greenville, N.C., to play in the Pirate Invitational this weekend. Notre Dame will face Liberty to begin the Invitational on Saturday at 1 p.m.

Contact Laura Coletti at lcoletti@nd.edu

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**Photography by GRANT TOBIN | The Observer**

Senior catcher and Irish captain Amy Buntin throws the ball during Notre Dame’s 3-2 extra innings loss to Syracuse on April 15, 2012. Buntin led the Irish in batting average, hits, RBIs and runs scored in 2012.

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**GRANT TOBIN | The Observer**

Senior catcher and Irish captain Amy Buntin throws the ball during Notre Dame's 3-2 extra-innings loss to Syracuse on April 15, 2012. Buntin led the Irish in batting average, hits, RBIs and runs scored in 2012.
CROSSWORD | WILL SHORTZ

ACROSS
1 [6] Clincher’s goal
2 [8] Ooga-follower
3 [9] Creator of Q2
4 [10] King of frogmen
5 [10] Dad’s sound
6 [10] Caramel-filled orbs
7 [11] Prom, e.g.
9 [19] See: 2B-Across
10 [6] 20-Across
12 [20] Portrait
14 [20] See: 2B-Across

DOWN
1 x Origo (up)
2 Flex fit
3 Like (all-night) community, crews, ticks
4 Harry Belafonte’s catchphrase
5 Eat like a bird
6 A substitute for CL or lime
7 Fragile (4)
8 Gen.
9 Juggler’s quartet
10 Soft and smooth
11 Dishwasher, industriously
12 Compound in disposable coffee cups
13 “South Pacific” villain
14 Small brook
15 [20] Overfit
16 [20] I’d rather
17 [20] Moby Dick
18 Red ink
19 Loaf
20 [20] Support providers
21 [20] Builder’s container

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SUDOKU | THE MEPHAM GROUP

2013 Oscar Nominees: Best Picture

Happy Birthday: Emotional issues will surface. Don’t let anything derail your plans. Focus on what you want and don’t take detours. Love is apparent, and adjustments at home must be made. The aim is to stabilize your position, direction and your lifestyle in order to reach your goals. Your numbers are 6, 13, 27, 32, 45, 47.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Don’t share personal secrets. Offer an alternative if someone doesn’t like the way your work turns out. Being adaptable and versatile will help you find a way to please everyone without going over budget. Romance is highlighted.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Put greater emphasis on what you can offer and how you can be successful. Talents and knowledge are the keys to making big deals. Someone is likely to withhold information or try to mislead you regarding a job. Don’t be pressured into making an instantaneous decision.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Put greater emphasis on what you can offer and how you can be successful. Talents and knowledge are the keys to making big deals. Someone is likely to withhold information or try to mislead you regarding a job. Don’t be pressured into making an instantaneous decision.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Speak up and share your thoughts and ideas, and you will get a warm response from friends, family and peers. A social or work-related event will bring you in contact with someone who is impressed with what you can do or have to say.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Take a short trip if it will lead to knowledge, experience or the chance to make new friends or meet potential collaborative partners. Love and romance are in the stars.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Stick close to home and take the time to make your surroundings more comfortable and adaptable to your lifestyle. You don’t have to overspend and shouldn’t let anyone pressure you into something you don’t need or want.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Don’t exaggerate. You have to stick to the truth and be prepared to define what your motives are. Try to keep your conversations simple and your plans moderate. You can make headway; however dedication and thriftiness will be required.

Birthday Baby: You are charming, progressive and sensitive. You are adaptable and insightful.

Today’s Jumbles: CLASH COURT BROKER DIGEST

When she got sick after they sailed, he needed to get — BACK TO THE ‘OCC’
**BENGAL BOUTS**

**Ring the bell**

*By SAMANTHA ZUBA*

*Sports Writer*

They practice for four grueling months to earn just a few minutes in the ring. The boxers who will fight Wednesday in the Bengal Bouts quarterfinals have one chance to win and stay in the tournament. Winning is thrilling, but losing after all that work can be a terrible disappointment. Bengal Bouts’ service mission and close teamwork during training helps lessen the blow.

The service element drives Bengal Bouts. Team activities revolve around understanding the meaning of fighting in Bengal Bouts and include a screening of a documentary detailing the impact of the money raised for Holy Cross missions in Bangladesh. Senior captain Jeff Ulrich emphasized that the boxers must remember this at every stage in the tournament.

“This is a huge part of what Notre Dame stands for in two specific ways,” Ulrich said. “One, because of how long-standing a tradition Bengal Bouts is. It has been close to 100 years of boxing at Notre Dame and 83 of Bengal Bouts. Thousands and thousands of Notre Dame students have participated and watched over the years. Second, because of the worldwide family and service aspect.”

The money the event raises goes a long way. Between $2 and $4 could buy a family in Bangladesh a chicken. Approximately $4 buys a nice shirt, while $9 gets a good pair of dress shoes. And $15 pays for one month at a hostel so a student can attend a mission school. The captains make sure that the boxers remember this while they train.

“It’s a huge focus throughout the season,” Ulrich said. “Once a week we have an event and someone comes in to talk about Bangladesh. …we have four boxers going there this summer.”

Bengal Bouts is also unique in that it is a team tournament. All the boxers train together, and many will exchange hugs as teammates after fighting a bout as opponents. Enjoying the tournament and appreciating the work of fellow boxers matters more than a win or loss, Ulrich said, and he expects to see these qualities in each quarterfinal fight.

“For me, it’s about enjoyment, really being there for every hour and every...”

**BASEBALL**

**Senior pitcher finds niche on the mound**

*By JOHN SANDBERG*

*Sports Writer*

Baseball fans that want to know what the game looks like from all angles should chat with Notre Dame senior Adam Norton.

Norton primarily played shortstop for Andrean High School in Merrillville, Ind., before starting 26 games at third base his freshman year at Notre Dame. When Irish coach Mik Aoki was introduced as the new coach the fall of Norton’s sophomore year, the new coaching staff decided to test Norton’s skills in the outfield in addition to having him pitch more.

When playing the outfield didn’t work out as Norton and the Irish coaching staff had planned, Norton spent time as Notre Dame’s designated hitter in addition to accumulating some innings as a weekday starter.

Norton batted .261 and .254...