Finding common ground

First female rector, former admin describe transition

By MEGAN DOYLE
Managing Editor

Editor's note: This is the next installment in a five-day series discussing the role of women at Notre Dame and Saint Mary’s, in honor of the 40th anniversary of coeducation at the University this year.

As a first-year law student in 1970, Kathleen Cekanski-Farrand was one of 12 women out of 250 in her class, part of only the third coeducational graduate class in the Law School.

Two years later, Cekanski-Farrand was mailing letters to welcome 119 women of the first female undergraduate class into her care in Badin Hall. In 1972, she was a third-year law student and the dorm’s first rector in beginning days of coeducation.

“I thought some of the challenges that we had probably would be similar at the undergraduate level that we had at the Law School level,” Cekanski-Farrand said. “So I thought I could share some of those experiences and turn them into positives.”

Cekanski-Farrand earned the job when she interviewed with then-vice president of student affairs Fr. Tom Blantz.

“We were trying to do it all over again for the undergraduate students,” Blantz said. “They would be similar at the undergraduate level, but women had different challenges that we had probably never faced.”

In 1972, Kathleen took over the role of rector in Badin Hall, the dorm of the student body’s first year. In 2011, Mieszczak said she realized she needed to acquaint herself with the modern job search.

“People were finding work in an entirely new way,” she said. “These days, companies use technology as a recruiting tool.”

Mieszczak explained the importance of using potential employers’ websites to determine if they reflect personal values like social responsibility. She reminded students networking to look perfect.

ND recognizes eating disorders

By KATIE McCARTY
News Writer

In observance of National Eating Disorders Awareness Week, the University Counseling Center is promoting awareness of the dangers of eating disorders.

“Students can feel like a lot of aspects of their life are out of control, and food is one aspect that they can control,” Maureen Laferrey, assistant director of the University Counseling Center, said.

“An eating disorder can develop from this mentality. The theme of this year’s national campaign to see DISORDERS PAGE 5...
QUESTION OF THE DAY:
What movie always makes you cry?

Maureen Gavin
Freshman
Lyons Hall
“P.S. I Love You.”

Chris Schleckser
Freshman
Morrissey Manor
“Remember the Titans.”

Thomas Mack
Sophomore
Dillon Hall
“The Fox and the Hound.”

Eric Wilde
Senior
Siegfried Hall
“Armageddon.”

Abby Bartels
Freshman
Badin Hall
“A Walk to Remember.”

Maria Rigby
Senior
Lewis Hall
“Titanic.”

THE NEXT FIVE DAYS:

Tuesday
Bengal Bouts
Semifinals
Joyce Center
6 p.m.-10 p.m.
The men’s boxing tournament continues.

Wednesday
Women’s Lacrosse
Arlotta Stadium
6 p.m.-8 p.m.
The Irish face off against the Ohio State Buckeyes.

Thursday
Women’s Tennis
Eck Center Pavilion
5 p.m.-7 p.m.
Notre Dame takes on the Western Michigan Broncos.

Friday
“The Problem with Stereotypes”
Fannar Hall
3:30 p.m.-4:30 p.m.
Irish Studies lecture by Dr. Christiane Sinner.

Saturday
“Rabbit Hole”
Little Theatre Moreau Center for the Arts
7:30 p.m.
Irish language production.

Want your event included here?
Email obsnews.nd@gmail.com
Students promote awareness for Relay for Life

By MEAGHAN DALY
News Writer

Purple hair extensions, purple clothing and purple desserts in the dining halls will flood campus this week to promote fundraising and awareness for the Notre Dame Relay for Life, which will take place Apr. 12 and 13.

Freshman Teresa Kennedy, honorary student chairperson for Notre Dame’s Relay for Life this year, the Relay committee is hosting Purple Week 2013 through Friday to engage students in its larger mission on campus. The funds raised through Notre Dame’s Relay for Life in April will go toward cancer research at the American Cancer Society, Kennedy said.

“It’s kind of a small group that can have an impact on the whole greater sphere, on a larger scale,” Kennedy said.

To mark the beginning of Love Your Body Week (LYBW) at Saint Mary’s, Whitney Werner, creator of the BeYOUtiful self-esteem program, talked about body image Monday in Vander Vennet Theatre in the Student Center.

“If a person has one other person in their life to trust and be there for them, that can save them,” Werner said. “It is in small groups and small moments that big things can happen. The moments that you have with individual people can impact a person’s life.”

Werner, a 2010 alumna of the College, developed BeYOUtiful three years ago to promote confidence in middle-school girls in South Bend. The program allows the girls to interact in a discussion format in which leaders guide the conversations.

Sophomore Samantha Moorhead, co-chair of LYBW, said she thought Werner had a great story to tell Saint Mary’s.

“Purple Week] really has a dual purpose because first, all the funds raised go to the Relay and the money we collect there,” Kennedy said. “It’s also a way to get people interested in the Relay and make it interactive, since all of these events are so public and hard to ignore.”

Notre Dame Relay for Life chairperson Jessica Brookshire said the committee’s 2013 fundraising goal is $175,000.

One of the most visible Purple Week activities is the sale of paper cutout feet, which can be purchased at locations all over campus for $1 each. Last year, paper feet sales raised $6,082 for the Relay, Brookshire said.

“It was a great fundraiser as far as dollars raised, but also for [for] the awareness it brought about for the event,” Brookshire said.

Marc Burdell, an Alumni Association director and this year’s honorary faculty chairperson for the Relay for Life, said the paper feet have both symbolic and monetary value for the project.

“Many of the buildings on campus sell these purple feet for $1 and then put up all over campus to build a kind of path that leads to the Relay for Life in April,” Burdell said.

“For the first time this year, students can purchase feet with Domer Dollars at the Student Center.

“The event spotlights and gives symbolic and monetary value to the people that can do to support each other. I find myself today leading a normal life, and as chairperson, I hope to help others understand what I’ve gone through and let them know that they can be empowered to get through it too,” Burdell said.

Kennedy said she was inspired with the national Relay for Life in high school and that she’s pleased to have the opportunity to participate in the Notre Dame version of the event.

“I’m glad I get to share my experience with what I went through with other people here, and I hope people will be able to come to me for support if they or someone they know has cancer,” Kennedy said. “I’m an example that you can lead a totally normal life after a cancer diagnosis.”

Purple hair extensions will be sold in the Coleman Morse center on Friday, and purple feet will be sold all week across campus. Notre Dame’s Relay for Life will take place from Apr. 12 to 13 at the Compton Family Ice Arena. Information about the event can be found at relay.org/NDin.

Contact Ann Marie Jakubowski at ajakubo1@nd.edu

Alumna kicks off Love Your Body Week at SMC

By MEAGHAN DALY
News Writer

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Sophomore Samantha Moorhead, co-chair of LYBW, said she thought Werner had a great story to tell Saint Mary’s.

“Seeing the impact the program can have on those girls is so important for such a vulnerable age group,” Moorhead said. “Learning about how I can help and sharing with Saint Mary’s girls how they can help is important. [Werner] has such a powerful story that translates over to why she is so passionate about it.”

Werner recounted her own experiences with bullying and self-harm. “Many of our physical issues we hate about our bodies make us look to fix our internal problems by trying to ‘fix’ external features,” Werner said.

“Healing starts with us. ... We can only take people as far as we have been willing to go with ourselves. By being willing to take care of ourselves, we become more empowered to help others.”

Werner said one of the first steps to appreciating one’s body is to love who he or she is on the inside. “When people know they matter, it’s amazing how you can impact their life,” she said.

Werner said low self-esteem affects how people treat others.

“You have to have pride in things that you do,” she said. Werner suggested writing compliments on the bathroom mirror. “Write the truths you need to hear about yourself and tell yourself that every day,” she said.

Give yourself compliments. It does not have to be seen as an arrogant thing.” Women tend to compare their features to those thought to be ideal, Werner said. This makes women feel like they have failed. “A big part of it is realizing comparing isn’t healthy,” Werner said. “I’m me and that’s okay.”

Junior Katherine Kautz said students at all-women’s college like Saint Mary’s have a greater chance of comparing themselves to other women.

“It stresses the fact that you need to start with respecting and loving yourself first,” Kautz said.

Werner said women should respect and love themselves and treat others with kindness.

“Give compliments and appreciate who you are right now.”

Werner said women should know their bodies are amazing and realize how powerful they are.

“It will be interesting to see how many people realize that day that who are willing to step up to this cause and really get behind it,” Kennedy said.

“It’s two months ahead of the Relay still, but it will be great to see the purple as a visible sign of support,” Burdell said.

“I find myself today leading a normal life, and as chairperson, I hope to help others understand what I’ve gone through and let them know that they can be empowered to get through it too,” Burdell said.

“Now, I can talk about patient advocacy and what people can do to support each other. I find myself today leading a normal life, and as chairperson, I hope to help others understand what I’ve gone through and let them know that they can be empowered to get through it too,” Burdell said.

“Empower your patients, whether you know has cancer,” Kennedy said. “I’m glad I get to share my experience with what I went through with other people here, and I hope people will be able to come to me for support if they or someone they know has cancer,” Kennedy said.

“I’m an example that you can lead a totally normal life after a cancer diagnosis.”

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Contact Meaghan Daly at mdaly01@Saintmarys.edu
Beginning this fall, students enrolled in the international economics major will be able to choose five additional languages in their course of study, a change that will better position those students for foreign operations, a press release stated Friday.

Beginning this fall, University of Notre Dame undergraduate students interested in pursuing international economics as a major can choose from among five new language options: Arabic, Chinese, Japanese, German and Russian,” the release stated.

These languages will be offered in addition to French, Italian and Spanish, which are already available to students.

Beginning this fall, 2012 international economics is the newest major in the College of Arts and Letters. The program “combines substantial coursework in the Department of Economics with advanced training in language and culture,” according to the release.

Professor Richard Jensen, Gilbert F. Schaefer Professor and Chair of Economics, said the department always intended to add more languages once the University approved the proposal for the international economics major.

“Nearly 30 students now have declared the major with only the romance languages as an option, so it appears the demand for this new major with all languages will be substantially,” Jensen said.

Jensen said that the major was designed to prepare students for jobs in foreign operations for major firms, NGOs or government agencies.

“It is more likely to hire a student with both expertise in economics and in language and culture of the country than a student with only expertise in economics or a student with only expertise in language and culture,” Jensen said.

Dayle Seidenspinner-Núñez, chair of the Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures, said this collaboration will address a key area of interest for students in his department. The change will be specifically valuable for students majoring in Chinese or Japanese in addition to business or economics, he said.

“We are excited to offer this opportunity for our students to pursue both fields of study in a more integrated way,” Seidenspinner-Núñez said.

German is expected to be a popular option for International Economics majors as well. Denise DellaRossa, professor and director of undergraduate studies in the German program, said:

“One just has to look at the current global economic crisis to see the leadership role that Germany is playing—and will continue to play,” DellaRossa said. “Combining the study of German language and culture with the study of economics is a natural move for the two disciplines.”

David Gasperetti, chair of the Department of German said:

“I remember teaching a University seminar, a freshman seminar with 16 in the class and that could be a little bit uncomfortable.”

Some students were qui et in their courses at first upon entering these male-dominated classrooms, Blantz said.

“ ‘I remember teaching a University seminar, a freshman seminar with 16 in the class, two women in the class and 14 fellows,’ he said. ‘And the women rarely said anything but when they handed in their written papers, I could tell the two women were extremely bright. So it was just a question of trying to get them to open up and talk more. I think now you don’t have that same problem at all.’”

As her residents became more comfortable with Notre Dame life, Cekanski-Farrand said she worked to develop a dorm identity and support her resident by promoting a Badin Hall T-shirt and student government classes to help herself and her students were being treated.

“We had to find some common ground,” she said.

Even as that common ground became sturdier through the first months of co-education, many graduates protested the initial decision to admit women to their alma mater. But Blantz said he saw this as a positive.

“ ‘I remember giving a talk once (to alumni), and there was opposition to coeducation,’ Blantz said. ‘One guy apologized, and I said, ‘No, no, I’m happy to hear this. If you guys aren’t happy, you’re free to leave.’”

“They were saying ‘we were prepared to have it back to the all-male school, as we simply have to demonstrate that this is the right thing to do with men and women here.

“ ‘But if you people were all happy that we were finally admitting women, then we would have to think, boy, we should have done it 20 years ago and they weren’t happy,’” Blantz said.

Blantz returned to teaching in the fall of 1973 after two years in student affairs, and Cekanski-Farrand served as a rector in Breen-Phillips Hall before leaving Notre Dame and eventually becoming the first female dean of students. But she said Blantz and University President Emeritus Fr. Theodore Hesburgh reconnected by letter through those years as a rector and remain close friends today.

Hesburgh himself only visited the dorm on a handful of occasions, Cekanski-Farrand said, but he did gift the women the first Badin Hall mascot—a small Snoopy statue that would represent the dorm for years.

He judged a door-decorating competition at Christmastime, Cekanski-Farrand said, and Hesburgh would often call her to make sure everything in the women’s hall was running smoothly.

He shared her commitment, she said, to integrating women into the student body and asked for another place for place it is today.

“ ‘(Hesburgh) took the time to do that,’ she said. ‘I couldn’t have helped someone so gracious who was wanting to make this place as positive for the University. I felt it took to make it work, extra hours, we would do it.”

Contact Megan Doyle at mdoyle11@nd.edu
The Observer

Coed (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

"I didn’t feel animosity," she said. "All my friends were dying to have the school merge. They wanted more girls to choose from.”

Bliley, who went on to a career in investments banking in New York and Europe, said the willingness of the University to confer her degree before officially going coed was essential to her success.

"I’m really fortunate to be the first one, that I got a Notre Dame degree," she said. "Coming from Columbus, Mont., I never thought I’d be working in London."

Like Bliley, Ann Cisle Murray started her college career at Saint Mary’s and today holds a Notre Dame degree. While Murray was also pursuing a business degree under the planned merger, she was only a sophomore when it fell through. She was given a choice.

"I could apply to Notre Dame and keep my major, I could stay at Saint Mary’s or I could transfer out," Murray said.

With many Belles facing this decision at the time, Murray said this was the most difficult part of the transfer process.

"The hardest part was leaving most of my friends back at Saint Mary’s,” she said. "It split our social circles."

Once she transferred, Murray quickly engaged the Notre Dame tradition, joining the cheerleading squad in time for the Orange Bowl and the men’s basketball team’s 88-game winning streak.

"We thought freshman year was transformative," she said. "When we came as freshmen, we had never experienced college life before, so it might have been awkward sometimes, that seemed normal," Brosnan said. "Certainly by the time I got to senior year, I would expect there might have been 1,000 things going on in your head. Looking back, we kind of laugh. We thought freshman year was normal ... but things were different back then. So often we were the only female in class."

While the women of the first classes at Notre Dame had different experiences along their paths to graduation, their stories bore one common thread—gratitude to former President Emeritus Fr. Theodore Hesburgh, the impetus of coeducation.

"It was his vision that brought coeducation to Notre Dame," Brosnan said. "The Air Force Academy went coed a few years after us. ... This was an era when women were still in the kitchen cooking, but we owe him a great debt." Bliley, who was the first graduate to receive a kiss from the man of her dreams, said the entire Notre Dame community owes the former president for his transformative decision.

"I’m really fortunate to be the first women," she said. "Travelling to away games gave me the opportunity to meet a number of alumni, many of whom were opposed to the idea of coeducation at Notre Dame."

"There were a few people who weren’t really happy about it and they let me know it," she said. "I felt it was sort of my job to be a good representative of the University.”

Alumna Betsy Brosnan, a member of the Class of 1976, said the experience of being a woman at Notre Dame changed substan-
tially over her four years.

"We went from being pinch hit batters, to having to switch dorms or move off campus to open up campus housing for the newly admitted women, which left some existing male students feeling dejected, she said. "I think for a lot of the men, this is not what they bought into," she said. "The dorm system at Notre Dame is really important as far as your social network."

Much as it is today, Bourke said eventually groups within certain residence halls developed into social circles.

"As it evolved, groups of women became friends with men in different dorms," she said. "I got connected with Holy Cross Hall because my good friend’s brother was there, so I became friends with the Holy Cross I."

But female students generally tended to keep to themselves in those early years, Bourke said, as a little more than 100 women integrated with approximately 5,000 male students.

"There weren’t a lot of women, so I think that kept a lot of the women close," Bourke said. "For example, no one wanted to go to the men’s residence halls," she said. "I got roommates and they became friends with men in different dorms," she said. "As I recall they were only a sophomore when it fell through. She was given a choice."

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The Oscar goes to...

Isaac Lorton
Sports Writer

Let’s talk about the Oscars. Best director and best original screenplay goes to Oscar Wilde.

For writing and directing “The Importance of Being Earnest,” Oscar Wilde receives the best director and best original screenplay. One of the great Irish playwrights and satirists, Wilde has forever changed the game when it comes to all types of comedies. Whether it is a romcom, a slapstick or an action comedy, it can be traced back to Wilde’s genius in “The Importance of Being Earnest.”

The story includes the classic mixup, social criticism, and a plethora of emotions. Wilde was so advanced in his thinking, he came up with the original “catfishing,” which he coined as “bunburying.”

Best actor in a lead role goes to Oscar Robertson.

Who better to lead your team than one of the greatest guards of all time? Oscar “Big O” Robertson was the only player in NBA history to average a triple-double over an entire season in 1961-62. It was Robertson’s second year in the league and he accumulated 30.8 points, 12.5 rebounds and 11.4 assists per game. Robertson was a 12-time NBA All-Star, a league MVP and 11-time NBA All-Pro. Robertson defines what it means to average a triple-double over an entire season in the NBA.

Robertson receives the award for best actor in a lead role.

Best supporting actor goes to Oscar the Grouch.

Mr. Grouch has selflessly portrayed the bad guy for 43 years and some change, without fail and without recognition. He is the perfect antagonist. How would Kermit, Miss Piggy, Elmo, Big Bird and the rest seem so happy and good at what they do, unless they had a character to offset their traits? Yet the depth that he displays portrays his role is often oversimplified to a can full of trash. When Mr. Grouch holds up the sign telling people to SCRAM, he just wants somebody to give him a hug. Mr. Grouch provides a character to pity, to empathize with and to hope for a hug. Mr. Grouch provides a character to pity, to empathize with and to hope for a hug.

Untrained introductions to these kinds of questions are largely opposed to what has driven me to philosophy. I will always carry with me one high school teacher’s definition of history: “A record of man’s interactions revealing God’s plan for the universe.” I am largely ignorant of the academic study of history, but this definition has enabled me to see history as part of the order of things. History has a place in the meaning of the universe. Such placement and order is the highest pursuit of the philosopher. As Pope John Paul II suggests in “Fides et Ratio,” philosophy seeks to ask radical questions about the meaning and ultimate foundation of human, personal and social existence.

The search for meaning and order in the world further enables meaning and order in our personal and communal lives. It leads to wonder, and it dispels confusion. Though limited, it seeks to overcome obscurity. It may cause uneasiness, but it rejects despair. It ignites the desire to know what is.

Yet, my friends often complete their introduction to Philosophy courses with more confusion and less wonder. Their assignments are completed with frustration. Students assume that what they have studied in their philosophy courses have nothing to do with anything. This is largely at odds with at least one stated goal of the philosophy requirement at Notre Dame, which is “to learn to think in depth about the problems posed by a life of faith.”

In Newolland Hall, a science professor completes his lecture and accepts questions from the class. A freshman raises her hand and asks, “What are the implications of this theory on how we view free will?” The professor chuckles and responds simply, “That is a question for your philosophy class.”

This situation illustrates a great paradox in the Notre Dame education: The expectation that Notre Dame students graduate more educated than their professors. Students have a variety of general requirements because Notre Dame believes that it is important that educated human beings have a basic knowledge of the various kinds of thought and how they are related. Such knowledge partly constitutes what it is to be an educated and free human being.

If this is so, my friend’s professor can hardly be said to be educated and free. He has failed to make connections that a basic introduction to philosophy course should be intended to make. We now have a generation of scholars with fewer answers, except, “That is a question for your philosophy class.” While they have progressed immensely in their specialized fields, they possess no more of a basic understanding of the world than their students. As John Paul II writes, “With a false modesty, people rest content with partial and provisional truths.”

Thus, the formation of students in the philosophical discipline becomes increasingly important in the modern world. Our scientists, accountants and academics must be reminded of the highest pursuits of humanity. Pope Benedict XVI once said, “Men and women are free to interpret, to give a meaning to reality, and it is in this freedom itself that the great dignity of the human being exists.” It is important that our philosophy professors and courses seek to promote this great dignity.

An additional task comes, then, with the introduction of graduate students who teach many of the introductory courses, including those of philosophy and theology. Should the task of intellectually forming the student body be placed on these graduate students, the University has a grave responsibility to ensure that these graduate students know and promote its unique mission. I will not further expound upon this line of thought here. This is a question for your philosophy class.

Christopher Damian is a senior studying philosophy. He can be contacted at cdamian@nd.edu.

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

Submit a Letter to the Editor | Email obsviewpoint@gmail.com

QUOTE OF THE DAY

“Always forgive your enemies; nothing annoys them so much.”

Oscar Wilde
Irish dramatist, novelist & poet
**Study abroad deadline hits too early**

Alex Canton

Modest Proposals

One day I sat down in an info session for a minor I was interested in at the time. The Professor used the session not just to talk about the minor, but also to give some general advice for any ND student. The most memorable item was: “Get the hell away from Notre Dame. You’ve got to study abroad.” Following that advice, I scrambled this past November to finish a 500-word essay on why I would be a good fit for Notre Dame’s Washington Program and why the Washington Program would be a good fit for me. On reflection, I didn’t entirely know the answer to that question at the time and still do not. I knew the Washington Program would be a valuable experience, but then again, so would Sao Paulo. Or Santiago. Or Athens. Or Toledo. It all seemed so far off, because it was and still is. The way our University handles the study abroad application process has several negative consequences stemming from one ridiculous deadline.

The first of these, and one which is implicitly written off, is that students effectively cannot study abroad their sophomore year. There are no formal restrictions, sure, but what freshman is even going to think of applying to live in a foreign country for five months when they have barely settled into their dorm? Plenty of freshmen have yet to even venture off campus by Nov. 15. The expectation that any of them would have the foresight to apply for study abroad by then is absurd.

We might be inclined to think this is okay because of the model we have become accustomed to, but there would be numerous benefits associated with a greater number of sophomores doing international study. For students whose fifth or sixth semesters would be better spent in South Bend prepping for the MCAT, LSAT or GRE, or taking more upper-level classes in their major, going abroad fall or spring of sophomore year may be the most ideal time.

Another reason we should reverse the paradigm that only juniors go abroad appeals to the sort of global awareness and action that an international experience is supposed to instill. If a visit to an exotic country inspires an idea for a new service initiative or research project here at ND, that idea has a far better chance of getting implemented if the student still has four or five semesters left here when they return. These are very real benefits, and they will continue to go untapped if the deadline to apply for nearly all study abroad programs continues to fall in mid-November. Those who aren’t convinced that increasing the number of freshmen who apply to study abroad their sophomore year is a good thing could at least agree that applying in mid-November for a course of study you may not begin for another nine to 15 months is a ridiculous expectation. Put another way, why is it that if I wanted to study in London this June, the application was due last week, but if I want to study there next January, my application was due back in November? It does not have to be this way. At Georgetown, for example, the deadline for fall 2013 international study programs was Feb. 12. Students there who want to study next spring don’t have to apply until next fall.

Now I hate comparing us to Georgetown as much as anybody, but they have international study down to a science. Seventy-six percent of their students go abroad at some point during their college careers, and I imagine we can trace this to how convenient they seem to make it.

Ideally, a study abroad venture not only exposes one to different countries and cultures, but furthers one’s academic interests. These can take a while to form. I, for instance, didn’t declare a major until five weeks ago. Yet the application for the study abroad experience that is supposed to complement those interests was due three months back. What if I had messed up? What if the classes I took this semester led me to think I am really best suited for a semester in China or Uganda? I could go floundering to 105 Main Building and beg to be put on a wait list, but this could be at best a pain and at worst completely futile. Closing the gap between applying for a program and actually beginning it would eliminate this sort of regrettable second guessing.

The Office of International Studies does do a lot of great work. They coordinate 40 programs in 20 countries and manage to get 60 percent of us to study in other countries before we graduate. That is amazing by any standard. And while I’m sure there are some legitimate reasons for the status quo, there are also real ways to improve. A more fluid and responsive study abroad application process that pushes students abroad earlier in their college careers and shrinks the gap between applying and actually starting one’s program will increase the amount of Notre Dame students going abroad and make those who do more productive and satisfied in their programs. This is a multifaceted process, but a logical first step is removing the one-size-fits-all Nov. 15 deadline. It’s one of the parts of the study abroad process that nobody will look back on fondly.

Alex Canton is a sophomore studying political science. He can be contacted at acanton@nd.edu

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

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**UWIRE**

**Four people you hate to see at a midterm**

Corinne Platten

The Daily Clog

Massive amounts of cramming, stress and lack of sleep make midterms a guaranteed source of headaches. Once the exam actually rolls around we’re usually pretty happy just to sit down and get it over with, until we realize there’s another midterm menace: our fellow classmates. With midterms around the corner, the Clog compiled a list of annoying types of people that make us tick during the session not just to talk about the minor, but also to give some general advice for any ND student. The most memorable item was: “Get the hell away from Notre Dame. You’ve got to study abroad.” Following that advice, I scrambled this past November to finish a 500-word essay on why I would be a good fit for Notre Dame’s Washington Program and why the Washington Program would be a good fit for me. On reflection, I didn’t entirely know the answer to that question at the time and still do not. I knew the Washington Program would be a valuable experience, but then again, so would Sao Paulo. Or Santiago. Or Athens. Or Toledo. It all seemed so far off, because it was and still is. The way our University handles the study abroad application process has several negative consequences stemming from one ridiculous deadline.

The first of these, and one which is implicitly written off, is that students effectively cannot study abroad their sophomore year. There are no formal restrictions, sure, but what freshman is even going to think of applying to live in a foreign country for five months when they have barely settled into their dorm? Plenty of freshmen have yet to even venture off campus by Nov. 15. The expectation that any of them would have the foresight to apply for study abroad by then is absurd.

We might be inclined to think this is okay because of the model we have become accustomed to, but there would be numerous benefits associated with a greater number of sophomores doing international study. For students whose fifth or sixth semesters would be better spent in South Bend prepping for the MCAT, LSAT or GRE, or taking more upper-level classes in their major, going abroad fall or spring of sophomore year may be the most ideal time.

Another reason we should reverse the paradigm that only juniors go abroad appeals to the sort of global awareness and action that an international experience is supposed to instill. If a visit to an exotic country inspires an idea for a new service initiative or research project here at ND, that idea has a far better chance of getting implemented if the student still has four or five semesters left here when they return. These are very real benefits, and they will continue to go untapped if the deadline to apply for nearly all study abroad programs continues to fall in mid-November. Those who aren’t convinced that increasing the number of freshmen who apply to study abroad their sophomore year is a good thing could at least agree that applying in mid-November for a course of study you may not begin for another nine to 15 months is a ridiculous expectation. Put another way, why is it that if I wanted to study in London this June, the application was due last week, but if I want to study there next January, my application was due back in November? It does not have to be this way. At Georgetown, for example, the deadline for fall 2013 international study programs was Feb. 12. Students there who want to study next spring don’t have to apply until next fall.

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Ideally, a study abroad venture not only exposes one to different countries and cultures, but furthers one’s academic interests. These can take a while to form. I, for instance, didn’t declare a major until five weeks ago. Yet the application for the study abroad experience that is supposed to complement those interests was due three months back. What if I had messed up? What if the classes I took this semester led me to think I am really best suited for a semester in China or Uganda? I could go floundering to 105 Main Building and beg to be put on a wait list, but this could be at best a pain and at worst completely futile. Closing the gap between applying for a program and actually beginning it would eliminate this sort of regrettable second guessing.

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By KRISTEN DURBIN
Scene Writer

Passion Pit has peppered the soundtrack of my college career ever since I first heard their hit “Sleepyhead” at the end of my freshman year. Now the friends I made as a freshman while listening to the band’s 2009 full-length debut “Manners” have become fellow members of a post-graduation bridal party, and Passion Pit’s infectious falsetto hooks and beats will forever evoke happy memories of dorm parties in 133 Duncan Hall.

In the nearly three years since, I’ve seen Passion Pit live at two different campuses of the University of Illinois, the most recent experience last Friday at UIC Pavilion. Compared to Champaign’s cavernous Assembly Hall, the midsize arena was an ideal venue for the band’s dance-inspiring set and colorful backdrop, although the all-ages show attracted fans from just about every demographic possible, from 14-year-old girls donning braces to middle-aged patrons of Chicago’s alternative rock radio stations.

Friday’s performance was a far more enjoyable and entertaining concert experience than my first Passion Pit show due in part to a more varied setlist, better seats and a group of friends who love dancing.

In typical Passion Pit fashion, singer Michael Angelakos led the sold-out crowd in rousing renditions of the band’s lyrically depressing yet sonically stimulating material, beginning with the darkly reflective but highly upbeat “I’ll Be Alright.” Throughout the show, I was reminded over and over of the band’s impeccable knack for getting people to dance along blissfully to some of the most self-analytical, gloomy music in rotation right now, but that didn’t mean I didn’t stop dancing during the entire 16-song set.

To my satisfaction, the band split their setlist between tracks from both “Manners” and their second album, 2012’s “Gossamer,” including the crowd-pleasing (though no less emotionally dark) Taco Bell jingle “Take a Walk” and the quasi-hip-hop inflections of “The Reeling.”

Some of my favorite performances of the night were new tracks, namely a rollicking rendition of “Carried Away” that turned the crowd into a giant choir and a slightly toned-down, clap-along version of “Constant Conversations.”

Since I don’t dislike any song on either of Passion Pit’s albums, I thought I’d be hard-pressed to choose a favorite track of the night until the band began the swelling guitar and synth intro to “Moth’s Wings.” The moment attained epic proportions nearly on the level of Coldplay’s live intro to “Yellow,” albeit before a much smaller audience than at the British group’s massive Lollapalooza set in 2011.

Passion Pit closed their set with arguably their two biggest hits, ending the main set on a high note with “Sleepyhead” and returning for an encore with the anthemic “Little Secrets.” Years of listening to those songs on repeat made the concert’s conclusion one to remember.

But Passion Pit wasn’t the only reason for the show’s success in my book. As an avid concert-goer, I’ve seen my fair share of mediocre-at-best opening acts, but Friday’s show had easily the most stacked single-concert lineup I’ve had the opportunity to see. Swedish DJ duo Icona Pop’s brisk, beat-heavy set, concluding with the current Finny’s favorite “I Love It,” prepped the audience for the immensely fun second opener — and equally deserving headliner — Matt and Kim. The Brooklyn indie duo (and couple) delivered the most spirited set I could have imagined, complete with raunchy jokes, Kim’s yellow zebra-striped pants and a good deal of standing on drum sets and keyboards while somehow still managing to tear through bouncy hits like “Daylight” and “Let’s Go.” With a high-energy lineup like this, I’d have a hard time finding a better way to spend a Friday night.

Contact Kristen Durbin at kdurbin@nd.edu
To hate-watch is to willingly watch a broadcast that you know you won’t enjoy, solely so you know exactly what to complain about.

“Hate-watching” is a phenomenon that is only appropriate for a select number of shows and broadcasts. These shows motivate the viewers to watch, but their real appeals lies in the fact that they are so awful. That is, viewers feel compelled to watch these things so they can know definitively what exactly they hate about the shows. Viewers don’t go in expecting to enjoy these broadcasts. In fact, the opposite is true. They know they’re going to complain about the program but want to be able to base their complaints in concrete things that happened in said program.

One of the most popular shows to hate-watch is “Glee.” It started out as a funny, charming TV show, but grew into something much, much worse. It abandoned its original brilliance and turned into a preachy show with some of the most asinine plot twists ever seen on television. Those “Glee” viewers who have persevered through the years are not enjoying themselves, but merely enjoy being a meaningful part of the hate-fest that ensues after each ridiculous episode.

I hate-watched the Oscars on Sunday.

There is just something inherently annoying about the Oscars. It’s a giant theater full of wealthy people who gather to compliment each other. They compliment each other on their clothes, their talents and their awe-inspiring performances. For four hours. Because, you know, movie stars don’t get quite enough attention and adoration as is. Watching the Oscars made me roll my eyes a lot.

All of these endless compliments were interspersed with awkward and misogynistic joke attempts by Seth MacFarlane. He did an entire song-and-dance number devoted to movies in which actresses appear nude. There was really no reprieve granted from the eye rolling.

The Oscar nominees and guests didn’t make things better either. Kristen Stewart’s unpleasant mug got more face time than I would like to think about, and Quentin Tarantino’s bizarre mannerisms and egomania were not enjoyable to watch. And yet, I know about all of these things because I hate-watched.

I think Anne Hathaway best encapsulates the phenomenon of hate-watching. Everyone knew she was going to win for Supporting Actress, and nobody likes her. In “Les Miserables,” Hathaway sang, cried and sang while crying, all into a camera situated six inches from her face. She did so brilliantly and inspired the praise of many critics. She had the Oscar in the bag. It was inevitable that she was going to win the award and make a gasping, over-eager and annoying acceptance speech. She didn’t disappoint. I think I heard a collective “ugh” from all the hate-watchers when Hathaway walked up to get her trophy.

That being said, there was one thing I sincerely enjoyed about the Oscars, and that thing is Jennifer Lawrence. Her witty, self-deprecating and sarcastic interviews have earned her a strong Internet fan base, and she seems grounded and relatable, which is obviously a novelty in Hollywood. Lawrence won Best Actress for her role in “Silver Linings Playbook,” despite being a slight underdog to Jessica Chastain of “Zero Dark Thirty.”

On the way up to the podium, Lawrence fell down. She tripped on her absurdly long dress, and was lying on the stairs for an agonizingly long time. When she gained her footing and made her acceptance speech, she sheepishly acknowledged her fall before continuing with her spiel. Lawrence seemed genuine, likeable and most of all, real. I tried to hate-watch this moment but I absolutely could not.

Jennifer Lawrence spoiled my perfect night of hate-watching and I didn’t hate that.

Contact Troy Mathew at tmathew2@nd.edu

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

**Sam Gans**  
Sports Writer

*Editor's note: This is the second in a 12-part series discussing the defining sportsman (or woman) of this century. In this installment, Sam Gans argues for Lance Armstrong. Join the discussion on Twitter by using #DefiningSportsman.*

Sports fans love to cheer for the underdog who defies odds to become a champion. They’ve also been captivated when the big, bad juggernaut crashes down to earth from the mountaintop. Rare is the athlete who does both.

Lance Armstrong is the defining sportsman of the 21st century partially because of his now-vacated success, but mostly because of his impact, both positive and negative, within and outside of athletics. He was a hero to so many and is now a villain. And he is the poster child for what is perhaps the most defining sports story of the century up to this point.

From an athletic standpoint, no one was more dominant than Armstrong from 2001-12. Armstrong earned the title of Most Valuable Player of the Year four times, winning the award each year from 2002 through 2005 and tying Tiger Woods for the most since the award’s inception in 1931. And only Woods’ four was in this century.

Armstrong won a record seven Tour de France titles from 1999-2005, making the 21st century the most physically and mentally grueling decade for any professional athlete. It is debunked, because his individual accomplishments technically no longer exist after he admitted to cheating through blood doping.

This column is discussing the defining story of the 21st century, but what is the defining overall sports story of this century so far? I’d argue it’s the blatant cheating that has occurred throughout athletics, as players have altered their bodies illegally to improve results. This trend has been gotten by not using PED with PED in baseball and football. But no individual has signified it more than Armstrong.

While his success in athletics and popular culture made him the likely choice for top sportsman of the past 12 years, his shortcomings have in a twisted sense cemented it, because cheating itself has defined sports this century. And no one’s defined cheating and how it can benefit an athlete — and tarnish that athlete’s reputation — more than Armstrong.

Lance Armstrong has been the most accomplished athlete in sports since 2001, one of the biggest sports names through- out the country outside athletics and the prime example of what might be the top story in sports in the past 12 years due to his cheating, which ruined nearly all positive opinions of him.

How could anyone else be a more defining sportsman of the 21st century?

**Contact Sam Gans at sgans@nd.edu**

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**NCAA Marquette upsets Syracuse**

**Associated Press**

On Saturday, Davante Gardner was in Buff’s Williams’ doghouse with the Marquette coach benching his junior center after only 11 minutes against Villanova for poor play. What a difference two days make?

Gardner scored a career-high 26 points and No. 22 Marquette beat No. 12 Syracuse 74-71 on Monday night in a game that further tightened things at the top of the Big East.

"Against their zone he un- derstands where their gap is," Williams said of Gardner. "He just understands space and obviously he did a really good job."

After Marquette’s 60-56 loss at Villanova on Saturday, Williams said he benched Gardner center because “he played really bad.”

Gardner played the exact opposite against Syracuse, making five of his nine shots and converting 12 of 13 free throws in 33 minutes. He even tried to help teammate Jamil Wilson wipe up some sweat on the court in the final minutes during a timeout.

“I know I didn’t play well against Villanova,” Gardner said. “I didn’t have a good game, so I decided I’d play my best against Syracuse and try to get my team a win.”

Marquette missed nine consecutive shots in the first half and was having to settle for jumpers. It was a game not- table with PED use in baseball and football. But no individual has signified it more than Armstrong.

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**Only the Good Die Young**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>By Billy Joel</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>You might have heard I run with a dangerous crowd.</strong></td>
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<td><strong>We’re not too pretty, we’re not too proud.</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>We might be laughing a bit too loud, ya, but that never hurt no one.</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Only the good die young.</strong></td>
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**Marquette’s Todd Mayo celebrates during the Golden Eagles’ 74-71 upset win over Syracuse on Monday night in Milwaukee.**

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**Sports Writer Sam Gans**

**Contact Sam Gans at sgans@nd.edu**

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Talks stir about increasing drug penalties

Baseball union head Michael Weiner speaks during a news conference in New York on Nov. 28. Weiner announced Monday there is active discussion about increasing penalties for drug violations.

Associated Press

DUNEDIN, Fla. — Baseball union head Michael Weiner said Monday there have been talks about increasing the penalties for violating baseball’s drug testing program.

“There are certainly some players who have expressed that,” Weiner said. “We’ve had discussions with the commissioner’s office. It is a turning point that we have a different penalty structure because that’s what players are interested in, that’s what the owners are interested in, it will be for 2014.”

Weiner spoke to the media after he met with the Toronto Blue Jays as part of his annual tour of spring training camps.

“On one hand, we do have the toughest penalties of any team sport,” Weiner said. “Fifty games is more than you’d see for the first time in football and hockey and basketball. More and more players are vocal about the desire to have a clean game. More and More players are vocal about being willing to accept sacrifices in terms of testing in order to make sure we have a clean game.”

Changes to the drug program must be approved by both Major League Baseball and the players’ union.

“One of the strengths of our Joint Drug Testing Program is that the bargaining parties have an ongoing dialogue about the program and potential changes that can make it even more effective,” Rob Manfred, baseball’s executive vice president for economics and league affairs, said in a statement. “We look forward to discussions with the MLBPA about changes that may be needed to respond to recent developments.”

One area where increased attention helped encourage change was in testing for human growth hormone.

“The players approved this change, and it was an important change to have year around blood testing to improve the possibility of detection for the use of HGH,” Weiner said. “It was something the players felt very strongly about. The players at this point have very little patience for players that are trying to cheat the system, and understand that year around HGH testing is an important component.”

HGH testing began last year but was limited to spring training. Also, Weiner says he will be speaking with the players who were named in a report by The Miami New Times as having allegedly purchased performance-enhancing drugs from a defunct Florida anti-aging clinic.

“How there’s anything to these stories or not, they’re the players’ sick of this issue, in a statement. “So, it’s natural for a lot of guys to say, maybe we need different penalties. We’ll have that discussion over the course of 2013.”

Weiner succeeded Donald Fehr as union head in 2009, and this tour is his first of spring training since announcing in August he is being treated for a brain tumor.

Indiana maintains No. 1 spot in AP poll

No. 7 by a forward named Karl Malone. Gonzaga stormed back that time had a point guard named John Stockton. They went on to become one of the greatest combinations in NBA history with the Utah Jazz, were members of the Dream Team and both were inducted in the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame.

Stockton’s son, David, is a reserve guard for this year’s Gonzaga team. David Stockton said this edition of the Zags has its eye on March Madness.

“It’s a special thing to be recognized at this time of year,” guard Mike Hart said. “We’ve got 30 games under our belt. That says a lot. It’s not just a few games.”

That sentiment was echoed by coach Mark Few.

“The polls mean a lot more this time of year than they do in November, December, even January,” Few said. “All of us are being judged on the true body of work. It’s definitely rewarding.

“Establishes us as a national program, which I believe we have been for the last 10 years. This group has done a great job of competing at that level, winning games at the highest level.”

While the West Coast Bulldogs made some news at the top of the poll Monday, Louisiana Tech, the Bulldogs from Down South, moved into the rankings for the first time since a 13-week run in 1984-85, their only appearance in the poll.

Louisiana Tech, which is 25th this week, was led back then to a ranking as high as No. 7 by a forward named Karl Malone. Gonzaga stormed back that time had a point guard named John Stockton. They went on to become one of the greatest combinations in NBA history with the Utah Jazz, were members of the Dream Team and both were inducted in the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame.

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Brady extends contract with New England

Associated Press

Tom Brady will be a Patriot until he is 40 years old.

Brady agreed to a three-year contract extension with New England on Monday, a person familiar with the contract told The Associated Press. The extension is worth about $27 million and will free up nearly $15 million in salary cap room for the team, which has several younger players it needs to re-sign or negotiate new deals with.

The person spoke on condition of anonymity because the extension has not been announced. Sports Illustrated first reported the extension. The 35-year-old two-time league MVP was signed through 2014, and has said he wants to play at least five more years.

A three-time Super Bowl champion, Brady will make far less in those three seasons than the going rate for star quarterbacks. Brady currently has a four-year, $72 million deal with $48 million guaranteed.

Drew Brees and Peyton Manning are the NFL’s highest-paid quarterbacks, at an average of $20 million and $18 million a year, respectively.

Brady has made it clear he wants to finish his career with the Patriots, whom he led to Super Bowl wins for the 2001, 2003 and 2004 seasons, and losses in the big game after the 2007 and 2011 seasons. By taking less money in the extension and redoing his current contract, he’s hopeful New England can surround him with the parts to win more titles.

Among the Patriots’ free agents are top receiver Wes Welker and his backup, Julian Edelman; right tackle Sebastian Vollmer; cornerback Asghb Talib; and running back Danny Woodhead.

Brady holds the NFL record for touchdown passes in a season with 50 in 2007, when the Patriots went 18-0 before losing the Super Bowl to the Giants. He has thrown for at least 28 touchdowns seven times and led the league three times.

Last season, Brady had 34 TD passes and eight interceptions as the Patriots went 12-4, leading the league with 557 points, 76 more than runner-up Denver.

NFL

New England quarterback Tom Brady looks for a receiver during an NFL game against the Miami Dolphins on Dec. 2. Brady agreed to a three-year contract extension Monday.

Associated Press

Brady extended contract with New England

Alabama and Auburn set for rematch game

Associated Press

TUSCALOOSA, Ala. — Alabama is trying to climb to the top of the Southeastern Conference while Auburn is scrambling to avoid a descent to the very bottom.

It might have seemed the other way around in the second half of their last meeting. The Crimson Tide’s shooters went frigid in a 49-37 defeat on Feb. 6 that set a standard for offensive futility in the in-state rivalry.

Alabama (18-9, 10-4 Southeastern Conference) has rebounded well enough from that humbling defeat to salvage at least some hope for a league title and NCAA tournament berth going into Tuesday night’s rematch. For the Tigers (9-18, 3-11), that still stands as their only win in a 12-game, six-week stretch.

“Regardless of what happened in the first game, you get hyped up to play those guys,” Tide guard Andrew Steele said on Monday. “I don’t think we’re looking for any extra motivation.”

But just in case, that was the fewest points Alabama had scored in the first 146 meetings with Auburn. The Tide shot just 24 percent (6 of 25) and scored 14 points in the second half to blow a 10-point halftime lead.

That stands out as a tough loss even for an Alabama team coming off a triple-overtime defeat to LSU.

The Tide and Kentucky are tied for second in the SEC, two games behind No. 8 Florida. The Gators host Alabama on Saturday.

The Tigers’ dreadful stretch has them tied with South Carolina and only a game up on 14th-place Mississippi State in the standings.

Auburn coach Tony Barbee is still waiting for his team to repeat that defensive performance from the Alabama game.

He’s also not sure if that win will be a confidence booster for Auburn, which is coming off an 88-55 loss to Mississippi.

“I think you can gain some confidence from that, but they’re probably a little different than when we played them a couple of weeks ago and obviously we’re a little bit different and not in a good way,” Barbee said. “Hopefully that feeling of having beaten them once will bring the confidence, but that’s not necessarily what brings confidence, playing a team that you’ve beaten. It’s how you’re playing and how you feel about each other as a team and as teammates.”

Alabama has been better offensively since that game, but is still winning mostly with a defense that ranks second in the league allowing 58.7 points per game.

Trevor Releford scored a career-high 36 points in a 97-94, triple-overtime loss to LSU on Saturday that snapped Alabama’s four-game winning streak. The Tide blew a 10-point lead in the final three minutes of regulation in a game that might challenge the first meeting with Auburn as the toughest loss to swallow.

“They’ve always been one of the better defensive teams in the league and offensively they’re playing with a lot more confidence, putting up a lot more points,” Barbee said. “Even though it was triple overtime, that’s still a lot of points. They’ve become a team that can win more, more complete offensively.”

He has shuffled his lineup lately in search of another win.

Center Rob Chubb came off the bench against Mississippi while freshman Asaunh Dixon-Tatum started. Freshman Shaquille Johnson’s playing time has steadily increased and he’s started the past three games, scoring 18 against the Rebels when No. 2 scorer Chris Denson played only three minutes.

Even leading scorer Frankie Sullivan was lifted from the starting lineup for two games before making it back in for the past two games.

Alabama hasn’t dealt with nearly so many shakeups. Steele sat out the LSU game while nursing an ankle injury and said his status is “day to day.”

The Tide is hoping to rebound as well as it did after the Auburn game when it rattled off four straight wins.

“You try to learn from every situation,” Steele said. “I think we’ve learned from the Auburn game and (Tuesday) we’ll have a chance to prove what we learned against LSU.”

Auburn’s Frankie Sullivan shoots against Scottie Wilbekin of Florida during a game in Auburn on Feb. 16.
number of rings will shrink from two to one, and all eyes are on the only fight taking place. Vi, who won the 148-lb. division his freshman year and the heavyweight division last year, said the increased atmosphere creates a unique experience for competitors abroad.

“It’s definitely different because when you have two rings going, you have two different bell sounds going and a bunch of different things going on,” he said. “With the one-ring system, everyone that’s watching, everyone that’s there definitely watching your fight because your fight’s the only one that’s going on.”

By LAURA COLETTI
Sports Writer

When freshman Sarah Followill was a sophomore in high school, she was not considering the prestigious Notre Dame fencing program.

That is, until she met Irish associate head coach Gia Kvaratskhelia, who was competing abroad.

“I was at a World Cup in France and was staying at a friend’s house, and a coach needed a place to stay,” she said.

“That coach happened to be [Kvaratskhelia],” she added. “He lived with us for about a week and got me interested in going to Notre Dame. Ever since then, my goal has been to come here.”

The Belfair, Texas, native has reached that goal and beyond. She has fenced her way to a 25-4 record for the Irish, including a 13-1 showing at the Notre Dame Duals last weekend, which she competed in despite having a fever.

Followill first became interested in fencing at a young age when her current hometown coach gave a demonstration at her elementary school. It was also at this time that Followill learned to use her current weapon, the foil.

“My coach at home is a foil coach, and since I was his student, I began fencing foil,” she said.

The transition to collegiate fencing came easily for Followill and was helpful to her adjustment to life at Notre Dame.

“Coming onto the fencing team at the beginning of the year was probably the most comfortable experience freshman and coach Kevin Smith has worked with me to be a better defensive fighter,” Followill said. “He helped me work on my technique and that kind of stuff, so he has been helping me this whole year.”

Entering his first year of Bengal Bouts, Sassetti was not technically experienced in the world of boxing as he ran cross country in high school. But while boxing and cross country are two very different sports, they are similar in the intensive training they entail. “It’s kind of the same training as far as endurance-wise, Sassetti said.”But cross country is boring cause all you’re doing is running. And boxing for me is way more exciting.”

Instrigued by the sight of the boxing ring setup in the JACC on a visit during his senior year of high school, Sassetti said he decided to join Bengal Bouts his freshman year at Notre Dame. He also found a boxing companion in his freshman year roommate Niels Sein.

“My roommate Niels Sein boxed in high school, and he was going to do it,” Sassetti said. “I thought, as long as I had someone to go with, I might as well give it a shot.”

Seim and Sassetti continued to go to practices together, watching each other spar and motivating each other to continue with Bengal Bouts. They also made it to the finals together as freshmen. Seim and Sassetti remain close to day and are in each other’s corners during the bouts.

“Being in someone’s corner is a pretty personal thing,” Sassetti said. “They talk to you in between rounds and before the fight when you’re really nervous. They just try to get your mind right and make sure you are focused.”

Sassetti said he also finds encouragement from his family, who are very supportive of his boxing. Sassetti’s parents — Bob and Arien — live in Elmhurst, a western suburb of Chicago.

“Freshman year, my parents came to all my fights of course except the quarterfinals,” Sassetti said. “And for the finals freshman year, I had my sister come out and her husband and some of their friends. (So I had) pretty good family support.”

Followill follows dream to Notre Dame

Although always in the arena for support, Sassetti said his mother sometimes has a hard time watching her son fight.

“My mom and dad drive all the way here, and my mom sometimes doesn’t watch the fight,” Sassetti said. “She goes and talks to the managers. She doesn’t like seeing me get hit.”

Sassetti’s uncle, Jim Farina, also had a positive influence in Sassetti’s boxing career. After losing a hard-fought spar during practice freshman year to Thomas Enzweiler, who went on to win the 154-pound weight class in 2011, Sassetti’s interest in boxing began to wane.

He returned home for Christmas break wanting to quit.

But he also was aware that he had a lot to consider before making his final decision.

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“The fight, I talked to my uncle and he talked me back into it. He said I should give it a shot,” Sassetti said. “He said that deep down I wanted to do it, even though I was having some second thoughts.”

Sassetti is now fully invested in Bengal Bouts and has taken on leadership duties as a junior captain. But since he was abroad this fall in Fremantle, Australia, he does not have a specific role among the captains.

It is Bengal Bouts tradition for coaches and captains to vote on the captains for the upcoming year. Even though Sassetti said he hopes to be a senior captain next year, those aspirations have been set aside for now as he mentally and physically prepares for the task at hand — tonight’s semifinal fight against law student Joey Strombler.

Regardless of the end result, Sassetti’s favorite thing about Bengal Bouts is the fighting.

“You get into a zone that is really unlike any other sport, a focus you don’t really get anywhere else,” Sassetti said. “When you’re in the ring everything else just gets blocked out. Its pretty unique.”

Contact Meredith Kelly at mkelly29@nd.edu
Junior guard Odyssey Sims was on senior Brittney Griner alone. But the Bears' chances don't rest player who's athletic to boot. when you've got a 6-foot-8 the sort of advantage you get overall seed locked up. That's weeks, they've got the No.1 take a tailspin in the next few round than necessary. No. 4 Stanford in a much earlier round. But their best chance at Diggins also made signifi-cant contributions to Notre Dame's victory Sunday, as they finished with 19 and 16 points, respectively. Loyd earned Big East Freshman of the Week on Monday, the fourth time this season she received the honor. The Irish will face a Syracuse team that saw its six-game winning streak snapped in the final seconds of a 68-66 loss to South Florida on Saturday. McGraw said she believes the loss will provide the Orange with even more motivation for their trip to South Bend. "That was a big game for (South Florida), big win for them," she said. "Coming off a loss, you're anxious to get back out there and prove you are still a top-25 team, so I think [Syracuse] will come in with a lot to prove."

The Orange will look to at-tack the Irish defense with their potent offense, which is averaging 74.0 points per game and ranking third in the conference. Orange se-nior center Kayla Alexander has been the catalyst for Syracuse's offense, as she leads the team in scoring with 16.9 points per game and rebounding with 8.3 boards per game. McGraw said Alexander presents a unique challenge, but the Irish will not just fo-cus on her. "[Junior forward] Natalie Achenwa will have the as-signment of guarding Alexander," McGraw said. "But they're very much a team in that different players step up in different games. I don't think we can focus on one player because I re-ally think they have probably seven or eight people who are really capable of scoring. No matter who is in the game, I don't think we're going to be able to afford to double team anyone."

Alexander may be Syracuse's senior leader, but the Orange have also ben-eftited from the play of senior guards Carmen Tyson-Thomas and Elashier Hall, who both average 10.2 points per game. Most of the rest of the Orange rotation, however, is very young, as freshmans guards Brittany Sykes, Brianna Butler and Cornelia Fondren have all seen significant playing time. Although tonight will not be the last time Irish fans see senior guard Kaila Turner and South Bend na-tive Diggins take the court at Purcell Pavilion, it will mark the team's annual senior night. Diggins, who trails only Irish associate coach Beth Cunningham on Notre Dame's all-time scoring list, and Turner will be honored in a pregame ceremony. "[Tonight's game] is a big game," McGraw said. "[Syracuse] is ranked in the top 25, it has been in the top 25 all year and it's going to be a big game."

Notre Dame will face Syracuse tonight at 7 p.m. at Purcell Pavilion.

Contact Brian Hartnett at bhartnett@nd.edu
Published Monday through Friday, The Observer is a vital source of information on people and events in the Notre Dame and Saint Mary’s Community. Join the more than 13,000 readers who have found The Observer an indispensable link to the two campuses. Please complete the accompanying form and mail it today to receive The Observer in your home.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:
- Rashida Jones, 37
- Chelsea Handler, 38
- Sean Astin, 42
- Tea Leoni, 47

Happy Birthday: You’ve got everything going for you except a propensity to overdo it. Before making unrealistic promises or overspending, look at the possibilities and proceed with precision and a strict budget in place. This can help you to be a Librarian if you are an option in the way you go about reaching your goals. Your numbers are 2, 6, 18, 27, 29, 31, 45.

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CROSSWORD | WILL SHORTZ

ACROSS
1. Not so likely to be looked again [Merry!]
2. Avid
3. Make a running start at marriage?
4. Mixed bag
5. “Is he or is she? — my baby?”
6. Byproduct of a sad dairy cow?
7. Ming museum piece, maybe
8. Is a bookworm
9. Place in society
10. Tartan cap
11. Byproduct of a racy dairy cow?
12. Oman man
13. Capote, to pals
14. Roger
15. Old Carl Sagan series
16. “I would say — ” in texts

SUDOKU | THE MEPHAM GROUP

HPYRN
WLM
VR

CROSSWORD | WILL SHORTZ

DOWN
1. Part of WWW
2. Down with a bag, say
3. Whiskey distilled supply
4. Sword you score points with
5. Part of a show that begins “Previously on…”
6. Attacks
7. Ginger
8. Start of a cheer
9. Verse
10. Collectively
11. Cannibal, e.g.
12. Temporary gap
13. Mollusk
14. 10s beach blasts, briefly
15. Good choleretic, for short
16. Cammy maker, of course
17. (Breath) meter
18. In (lined up)
19. Metal between cesium and platinum on the periodic table
20. Sensible
21. Alternative to Ascot
22. Kia model
23. Place to get a face

SUDOKU | THE MEPHAM GROUP

Level: 1

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SUDOKU | THE MEPHAM GROUP

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

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Jumbler: LUNCH ADAPT NARROW POLICE
Answer: He tried to teach his son how to fish, but his son couldn’t — CATCH ON

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

WORK AREA

THE OBSERVER
Training intensifies as semifinals arrive

Nerves increase, fighters become more private with looming competition in advanced rounds

By MARY GREEN
Sports Writer

The semifinals for Bengal Bouts have arrived, and the boxers can feel anticipation in the air of the training pit. There is no more sparring, little group training and, for some, no small talk with the competition, junior captain and heavyweight Dan Yi said.

“I actually know a couple people, especially in the preliminaries, who don’t know who they’re fighting and during the fight, it’s a pretty awkward way to introduce yourself, ‘Hey I’m gonna be stepping into the ring with you and I’m gonna be punching you,’” Yi said.

For most boxers, training became more serious and methodical as they continued winning and avoided any injury that would eliminate them from the tournament. Yi said the remaining competitors have narrowed their focus to maintaining their technique from fight to fight.

More nerves also play a larger role in the semifinals, and many thrive on the thrill of the competition. For some, a material award provides extra motivation, as the finalists in each division receive a jacket that indicates their finishing place in Bengal Bouts. Those goals increase the pressure on each boxer as they advance deeper into the tournament, Yi said.

“A lot of guys are a lot more nervous than they usually are because there’s a lot more at stake when you get to this level,” Yi said.

The logistical pressure of the new round adds to the intensity. Since there are only four fighters left in each weight class, the

Irish push for undefeated Big East season

No. 2 Notre Dame prepares for No. 22 Syracuse

By BRIAN HARTNETT
Sports Writer

No. 2 Notre Dame has overcome injuries, inexperience and tough competition en route to an undefeated Big East record.

But the Irish have one more major obstacle in their pursuit of regular-season conference perfection — a daunting stretch of four games in nine days, the second of which takes place tonight when they welcome No. 22 Syracuse to Purcell Pavilion. Notre Dame (25-1, 13-0 Big East) had little difficulty in its first game of the stretch, an 84-56 win at DePaul on Sunday. Despite the quick turnaround between games, Irish coach Muffet McGraw said she isn’t worried about her team’s ability to prepare for Syracuse (22-4, 10-3).

“We’ve played better in stretches like this,” McGraw said. “We had the exact same week in January where we had a quick turnaround. We are anxious to get back in the gym. I think, when you’re playing well, it’s a lot easier to focus and refocus.”

The Irish have been playing well lately thanks partly to the efforts of senior guard Skylar Diggins. Diggins recorded her second career triple-double Sunday, finishing with 17 points, 10 rebounds and 10 assists.

“Sometimes it seems like this season has been nothing but a milestone march, a road leading from one broken record to the next. There was senior guard Skylar Diggins’s 2,000th point and coach Muffet McGraw’s 700th career win. Notre Dame’s current 20-game winning streak is the third-longest in school history, and their nine home sellouts (yes, another record) are yet another indicator the Irish are thriving.”

Diggins and fellow senior guard Kaila Turner have won more games than any other Notre Dame senior class. But they don’t have a championship to show for it. Not yet, anyway.

Maybe the football team’s appearance at the BCS National Championship has made me greedy when it comes to Notre Dame athletics. Maybe it’s because an avid Connecticut basketball fan raised me — by Husky standards, any season that doesn’t end in a championship is not worth writing home about. I guess that’s the sort...