Students chronicle minority experience

By NICOLE MICHELS
News Writer

Editor’s note: This is the final installment in a three-part series about the Call to Action movement and the experiences of minority students within the Notre Dame campus community.

For sophomore Demetrius Murphy, the 20-minute drive separating his home in Granger, Ind., from Notre Dame’s campus meant much more than a short time behind the wheel.

The transition to college was relatively smooth, Murphy said, but the range of questions friends in Keenan Hall and at Notre Dame asked about his African-American identity quickly made him realize most of his peers did not come from diverse backgrounds.

Murphy said he found the explaining the customs of African-American communities to his peers to be challenging.

“That can be a heavy burden to bear because whenever you say something you have to be very conscious about what you’re going to say,” Murphy said. “You are representing the whole race with that one comment you’re about to make.”

Senior Camille Suarez said she initially reacted negatively back down, like the way he lead the bishops’ opposition to the health care mandate.” Kippenbock said. “I’d expect his message to us as graduates of America’s greatest Catholic institution would be to not back down, and to use our gifts and our strengths to live out the gospel.”

Sophomore Amanda Peña reflects upon her years at Notre Dame and the unique challenges faced by minority students on campus, beginning with the freshman orientation experience.

Seniors react to commencement speaker

By ANN MARIE JAKUBOWSKI
News Writer

Cardinal Timothy Dolan will deliver the Commencement address to the class of 2013, and the selection has prompted seniors to reflect on Dolan’s relevance to the student body and his ability to successfully connect with them.

Dolan, the Archbishop of New York and the president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, will receive an honorary degree from the University at the May 19 ceremony in Notre Dame Stadium.

Senior Jason Kippenbock said he is thrilled by the selection because Dolan’s charismatic personality and intellectual background make him an ideal fit for the event.

“When [Dolan] speaks, he has always emphasized how important it is to live out your faith fearlessly and not be afraid to bear because when - ever you say something you have to be very conscious about what you’re going to say,” Murphy said. “You are representing the whole race with that one comment you’re about to make.”

Professor reflects on Chavez’s death

By JOHN CAMERON
News Editor

The death of Venezuela’s President Hugo Chavez on Tuesday leaves a number of questions for the South American nation, which now adds a presidential election to the list of complex challenges it already faces.

Professor Michael Coppedge, a political science professor specializing in Latin-American politics and global democratization, said the future of the regime – at least in the short term – will be determined by interim President and Chavez’s chosen successor.

Private College 529 Plan offers prepaid tuition option

By ANN MARIE JAKUBOWSKI
News Writer

Many students take years to pay off their loans after earning degrees, but Notre Dame offers families a way to preemptively finance their children’s higher education by pre-paying future tuition bills through the Private College 529 Plan.

Notre Dame is one of 271 institutions that participate in the plan, which sets up a risk-free method for families to anticipate college costs and finance tuition payments, according to executive director of student financial strategies Thomas Bear. Families can purchase tuition certificates at current prices that are redeemable at any of the participating institutions after three years.

“This plan is great for a family because you assume no risk. Once you lock into that price and pay tuition for future years, it’s guaranteed,” Bear said. “As a family who is going to invest, when you buy tuition [through the plan] you’re buying it at all 271 schools.”

Oppenheimer Funds, Inc., manages money put into the plan and the anticipation is that Oppenheimer’s investments will make up the dollar difference in tuition between the time of the original payment and the point where the family is ready to redeem their tuition certificates.

“If they don’t make up the difference [with the investments], here’s where it’s really good for families: The institution assumes the risk, so we,
QUESTION OF THE DAY:

What is the most creative dessert you’ve eaten at the dining hall?

Brian Carrion junior Duncan Hall “Mixture of orange, blue and red jello.”

Catherine Benson junior McGlinn Hall “A waffle with sprinkles on top.”

Lou Ganser senior Dillion Hall “Froyo with potato chips and chocolate syrup.”

Tara Crown junior McGlinn Hall “Pudding cup: whipped cream, pudding, and froyo, with the option of more whipped cream.”

Connor Tice junior Keough Hall “I made myself a mocha with chocolate froyo and coffee.”


Members of the Special Olympics Notre Dame hold up a banner in South Dining Hall on Wednesday. Students signed the banner as part of the Spread the Word to End the Word to pledge to end the use of the word “retard(ed).”

CORRECTIONS

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

By JILLIAN BARWICK
Saint Mary’s Editor

The Saint Mary’s Student Diversity Board (SDB) will host its biggest event of the year after spring break when it sponsors the eighth annual Diverse Students’ Leadership Conference (DSLc) on March 19 and 20.

Senior Maddie Meckes, chair of DSLc and vice president of SDB, said the event intends to motivate participants to spark social change.

“The goal of the conference is to allow participants to enrich their perspectives of the adversities and benefits within diverse academic, social and professional settings,” Meckes said. “Our theme this year is ‘From Awareness to Action: Change Your Mind, Ways & World.’ We want participants to be inspired to become catalysts for change in their communities.”

Meckes has worked with senior co-chair and SDB secretary Jean Osberger to publicize the event, and several hundred students have already signed up to attend.

“We worked with the Career Crossings Office to plan this, and we have five alumnae pan- elists from the South Bend area attending,” Meckes said. The keynote addresses will come from a wide range of speakers. Meckes said, each with a different perspective on diversity. The opening speaker, Daisy Hernandez, is co-editor of ‘Colonize This!: Young Women of Color on Today’s Feminism.’ She will speak at 12 p.m. March 19 in Carroll Auditorium.

“Hernandez speaks on equality, feminism, race and politics,” Meckes said. “Dereck Kayongo is our closing keynote speaker on March 20 at 6 p.m. in Carroll Auditorium. He is a refugee from Uganda and founded the Global Soap Project, which recycles used soap from hotels for new soap in third-world countries.”

Kayongo, who was a Top 10 CNN Hero in 2011, will speak about his experiences and how he became a catalyst for change. Meckes said the keynote speaker for the high school track is Elliott Lewis, a news reporter and law student at the University of Akron. He will discuss bira- cialism in America and his book ‘Fade.’

Meckes said the speakers were chosen for this year’s conference because of their backgrounds in social justice and their proven ability to influence change in their communities.

“The goal of DSLc is for participants to recognize the need for change in society and desire to create that change,” she said. “All three keynotes have recognized the need for change and worked, either through their writing or their careers, to make a positive change in the world.”

Osberger said she is especially excited about the speakers because of their ability to connect with the audience.

“I look forward to Daisy Hernandez’s keynote address because … she is charismatic and funny, but her message for feminism and equality is particularly pertinent to our student body,” Osberger said. “We are also honored to host Kayongo who speaks directly to our theme as a key international figure who has innovated positive change in developing countries.”

The live salsa band “La Republica” will provide enter- tainment for the conference. Osberger said, and there will also be salsa lessons in Dolloway’s Coffeehouse at 7 p.m. on March 20. There also will be an alumnae lunch March 20.

All workshops will be in the conference rooms of the Saint Mary’s Student Center. Registration for DSLc is available on Orgsync and is open to the public. For more information about registration, visit https://orgsync.com/56338/forms/6541.

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Author explores Arab-Israeli ties

By CHRISTIAN MYERS
News Writer

Israeli author Sayed Kashua spoke about the Arab-Israeli dynamic and his latest novel ‘Second Person Singular’ in a presentation at the Hesburgh Center for International Studies on Wednesday.

Theology professor Michael Tzvi Novick introduced Kashua and read two selections from the novel, while Kashua dis- cussed the book’s context.

Novick said Kashua’s novel pro- vides a valuable Arab perspec- tive on problems of modern Israel and includes “snippets of hope for his country.”

Kashua said the novel cen- ters on the first-person narra- tives of two characters. One is an unnamed Arab lawyer living in Jerusalem, and the other is a young Arab social worker/art student named Amir. Both characters are Arabs living in East Jerusalem and both stories include detailed references to locations in the city. Kashua said, “The book is a lot about Jerusalem; it has specific stores, cafes, streets in Jerusalem. It is a very Jerusalem book in that sense,” he said.

Kashua said he did not give the lawyer a name because he could not find one the fully captured his character. The lawyer is successful, has a wife and kids and is part of a group that works with Israeli authori- ties on behalf of East Jerusalem Arabs.

He said the lawyer’s journey begins when he finds a love note in a used copy of Tolstoy’s “The Kreutzer Sonata” which appears to be written by his wife for another man.

Amir’s journey begins when he takes a night job watching over a rich Ashkenazi Jewish man who is in a coma. Amir gradually begins to read the comatose man’s books, listen to his music and wear his clothes. Eventually, Amir applies to art school using the young Jewish man’s name and identification.

Kashua said both protagon- ists explore ideas of culture and identity as they meet at one point in the novel.

In addition to talking about his novel, Kashua shared his personal experiences about liv- ing as an Arab and a citizen in Israel.

Kashua said Arab-Israeli inter- ests are rare because it is often easier for Arabs to be accepted into Israeli culture as lawyers, doctors and laborers than in the arts or academia.

“Even though I am now a suc- cessful novelist, my parents still say writing is for Jews and Arabs should have a profes- sion,” he said. “My father will read my novel and say, ‘That is a very good piece of work. Someone needs to get well in Hebrew should be a lawyer.’”

Kashua said the first real novel he ever read, which was “Catch-22” by Vonnegut, he read in Hebrew at age 15 while at a boarding school in Jerusalem.

“When you read that book at 15, it can really affect you,” he said. “I learned that I can have doubts.”

Although he is ethnically Arab, Kashua writes his nov- els in Hebrew because that is the language in which he was first exposed to literature and he believes he can better utilize it to tell stories. Kashua said he has a complicated opinion of the lan- guage, which he calls his “step- mother” tongue.

More Arabs have access to his books because they are written in Hebrew, since there is no way to market books in Arabic in Israel and very few Arabic bookstores, according to Kashua.

Kashua said he writes in Arabic for television and film because he recognizes the struggle to preserve Arab iden- tity through the use of Arabic.

“Arabic has political and na- tional meaning. We’re in a huge struggle to protect the Arab language,” he said.

Kashua writes a popular prime-time Israeli television show called “Arab Labor” that is primarily in Arabic rather than Hebrew. Novick said. Kashua said he also has done some writing for film and writes a column for the Israeli newspa- per Ha’aretz.

“Second Person Singular” is Kashua’s third novel and he has already begun work on his fourth, he said. His first two novels are “Dancing Arabs and Let It Be Morning,” according to the Kroc Institute’s website.

The lecture was co-sponsored by the department of theology, Institute for Scholarship in the Liberal Arts and Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies.

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“Even though I am now a successful novelist, my parents still say writing is for Jews and Arabs should have a profession.”

Sayed Kashua
author

Contact Jillian Barwick at jbarw01@stmarys.edu
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**ND celebrates Irish heritage**

By KATIE MCCARTHY
News Writer

The Irish identity of Notre Dame inspires campus-wide St. Patrick’s Day festivities each year, and preparations are already underway to pay tribute to the school’s cultural connections March 17.

In commemoration of the holiday, the Department of Irish Language and Literature are sponsoring language and the Institute of Irish Studies are sponsoring a lecture about the history of St. Patrick’s Day in Ireland and North America today at 2 p.m. in Hayes-Hény Hall.

Irish Language and Literature professor Brian O’Conchubhair said American St. Patrick’s Day celebrations are different from traditional Irish ones. The festivities in Ireland were expanded after the Celtic Tiger, a period of great economic growth in Ireland in the late 1990s, he said.

“It used to be the case that the American celebrations were much larger events than the typical Mass, parade, dinner in Ireland, but that changed during the Celtic Tiger,” O’Conchubhair said. “After the Celtic Tiger, St. Patrick’s Day became a weeklong festival aimed at celebrating Irish culture and attracting visitors to Ireland.

“There are many Irish-American communities in the United States that celebrate St. Patrick’s Day, but in Ireland, people celebrate the whole March 17 period,” O’Conchubhair said. “In Ireland, the festivities start March 15 and continue until March 17. In America, the festivities start on March 17 and continue until March 18.”

O’Conchubhair said the festival in Ireland is much larger than the corresponding festivities in America.

“Now it is as much a multicultural, multiracial celebration of Americanism,” he said. “Historically, it was celebrated as a triumph of Irish American culture, and now that triumph narrative has been adopted by other different ethnic groups.”

Together with the Keough-Naughton Institute for Irish Studies, the Department of Irish Language and Literature helps tie the University to its Irish identity, O’Conchubhair said.

“Just look at the interest in the ND Navy game in Dublin last September and captured in [the] coffee-table book ‘Notre Dame’s Happy Returns: Dublin, the Experience, the Game,’” O’Conchubhair said. “‘Notre Dame’ is in many ways the pulse of Irish America.”

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**Pen-pal program flourishes**

By MEG HANDELMAN
News Writer

Students craving handwritten correspondence in the age of digital communication can join the Literacy Awareness Program of Notre Dame (LAND) and exchange personal letters with middle school children in South Bend.

Senior Emily Yates, president of LAND, said the program began in 2011 to reach out to children in the community.

“Our goal is to help improve the rate of literacy in South Bend and in the United States by spreading awareness about low literacy rates,” Yates said. “We focus on programs for children, since they impact future literacy rates.”

Yates said the pen-pal program currently pairs about 40 Notre Dame students with pen pals from the sixth grade class of Brown Intermediate Center.

“As this is one of our most popular programs, we hope to expand it to more children here in South Bend, and perhaps even neighboring communities,” Yates said.

Notre Dame students write pen-pal letters every other week, which gives the middle-school students a week to respond, Yates said.

“Many letters include pictures, drawings, stickers and even small gifts,” Yates said. “We have a location in Lafayette where LAND members drop off the letters, and our club delivers them to a contact with the school.”

Yates said the pen-pal program is just one of the four main volunteering activities LAND sponsors. Members also volunteer at the Robinson Community Learning Center, the Boys and Girls Club, the St. Joseph County Public Library and the Hesburgh Library.

“As president of LAND, I get in contact with local libraries and places that work with children and coordinate ways for people in LAND to volunteer,” Yates said. “Members of LAND sign up for whatever events they can attend as they become available.”

The largest volunteering opportunity is the Open Book Festival in the fall and one Book, One Michiana in the spring, Yates said. The Hesburgh Library and the St. Joseph County Library host these events together.

“I hope to get plenty of volunteers to sign up for our events with One Book, One Michiana that will be happening in April,” Yates said. “I also hope to begin to organize the election process for choosing a new cabinet for next year and to continue to expand the club to get even more people to sign up for events.”

Yates said the club hopes to offer more volunteering opportunities to better serve the community.

“We can try to make a difference in St. Joseph County by promoting literacy awareness and working with children to change the future of our local community,” she said.

Contact Meg Handelman at mhandelman@nd.edu
Cardinal Timothy Dolan, Archbishop of New York and President of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, will deliver the 2013 commencement address at Notre Dame. Seniors have varying opinions on the selection of Dolan.

Reaction

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

she initially reacted negatively to the announcement because she doesn’t believe Dolan is the most relevant selection for the class. “I feel like this choice isn’t perfect for this moment,” Suarez said. “I was hoping Notre Dame would use this opportunity to kind of move the University forward, and I think this might be setting us back a couple steps.”

Suarez said she hopes Dolan will present an image of the Church that is relevant and accessible to her and her classmates. “I hope he talks about Catholic Social Teaching because I think that’s one image of the Catholic Church that needs to be promoted,” Suarez said. “I hope he makes a call to the graduating student body and encourages us to use our [Notre Dame] degrees to promote Catholic Social Teaching and help the poor and suffering.”

Senior Katie Pryor said she is excited to hear Dolan’s speech because he is a prominent figure in both the Catholic Church and the world, as demonstrated by his mention in Time Magazine’s list of the 100 Most Influential People of the World in 2012.

“When I heard Cardinal Dolan would be the commencement speaker, I was very pleased with the decision,” Pryor said. “He is not just another Cardinal but a prominent leader, they are concerned the speech would be relevant only to students that identify as conservative Catholics, leaving others disappointed.

“I took a moment to look him up before I formed an opinion ... and everything I’ve read seems to indicate that he appears to have a political agenda rather than just being a religious figure and I don’t agree with any of the views that his agenda suggests,” Kohn said. “I just don’t know what he’s going to talk about that’s going to be relevant to my beliefs and opinions.”

Chiusasy said she hopes Dolan’s speech is not “homily style” and that it doesn’t alienate non-religious students. “I was disappointed, because I don’t really know much about him but I’m not Catholic or really religious at all,” she said. “I just hope [his speech] is very open and applies to every student in the graduating body and not just to religious people.”

Kohn said if the University wanted a “famous” speaker, they should have sought a more relatable figure. “For a school the caliber of Notre Dame, that has the name recognition of Notre Dame, I feel like we could have gotten someone really exciting,” Kohn said. “I don’t know that Cardinal Dolan is as relevant to everyone as a different famous person would be.”

Senior Colin Campbell said he understands there isn’t a speaker who can please everyone, but he is personally excited by the University’s decision to give Dolan a platform from which many will hear him. “I hope Cardinal Dolan helps us to understand the gifts that we have been given through our four years at Notre Dame and then provides motivation and support as we carry those blessings with us and walk out of that football tunnel for the last time,” Campbell said.

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Tuition

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

University of Notre Dame, would pay that difference,” Bear said.

To illustrate this point, Bear said if a family bought tuition at $10,000 and the school increased it to $15,000 over time while the investments only grew to $11,000, the University would assume the $4,000 difference.

“Hopefully, as Notre Dame, we want to see that investment grow to $15,000 as well so it’s a win-win-win for everybody,” Bear said. “There are years when we’ve had growth and we’ve come out even, but there are some years where we had to absorb that risk.”

Bear said Notre Dame participates in the plan despite many families being proactive in their efforts to pay for college.

“Saving for college gives you a resource as a family so when your son or daughter is accepted, you already have options available for that child,” Bear said. “It’s not just where your child is admitted but also where you can afford to send him or her.

“We’d rather see you save preemptively, upfront, instead of trying to manage loans on the back end,” he said.

Notre Dame was one of the original schools that signed on to the plan when it began in 2006, and it has more redemptions to date than any other institution, Bear said. This makes more families use their prepaid tuition certificates at Notre Dame than at any other institution included in the plan.

“Among the private colleges (in the plan), we’ve had about 99 students who have turned in their certificates,” Bear said. “Over these seven years since 2006, that’s about 14 or 15 families per year who have taken advantage of this benefit.”

Bear attributes this success partially to the financial aid office’s work to publicize the opportunity to alumni and other affiliated families, but also to the strong sense of community around Notre Dame.

“There’s that affinity to Notre Dame from generation to generation in many families, and within that context there’s the sense that this is a great plan, so let’s go ahead and invest in it so our sons and daughters can also have that opportunity,” Bear said.

The real value of the plan comes from the fact that the investment is completely guaranteed, Bear said.

“If our tuition goes up two, three, four, five percent every year, and you have a guaranteed investment like this, you can look at that and say ‘Well, my investment is going up two, three, four, five percent every year’,” he said. “There’s no other guarantee like that out there, so it’s a very safe investment.”

Bear said the guarantee makes this investment a wise move for any family in a position to prepay tuition in this way.

“Even if you’re just putting in $200 now, maybe you’re giving up that brand new color TV, but it’s better to do that than to pay the loans off in the future,” he said.

Contact Ann Marie Jakubowski at ajakubo1@nd.edu

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Murphy, a native of Gary, Ind., spent two years at the Indiana Academy, a boarding school on the campus of his State University’s campus in Muncie, Ind. His encoun-
ters there with students of many different cultures and religions enabled him to better an-
swer his friends’ questions, Murphy said.

“If I came to Notre Dame straight from Gary, [Ind.], this would have been a com-
pletely different experience,” Murphy said. “I don’t know that Notre Dame would’ve
been the place for me.”

Singed out
Some moments in Murphy’s college career have been stark reminders of racial prejudice, he said. When a friend discovered some of his food was missing and decid-
ed to find out who had taken it, Murphy remembered his shock at another student’s response.

“The first he asked who ate his stuff, I said I didn’t do it,” Murphy said. “Then he asked the kid who actually ate it. He said, ‘I didn’t do it, I’m not the black kid in
the room.’ I looked around do it, I’m not the black kid in
the room — the conversation in life for when I walk into
the room. ‘I looked around...’

A new culture, a new conversation
Junior Denver Lobo joked with his roommates upon
arriving to Notre Dame that his first impression of the campus and its freshness orien-
tation was distinctly simi-
lar to the world portrayed in
“American Pie,” he said. But as
the freshman, Lobo added, “I’m
just asking him if that was
realistic, and not be lying,”

Amanda Peña
senior

“I know I can paint this p–icture
of Notre Dame’s Catholic
character added challenge in a new
place. “I knew I was going to have a culture shock,” Lobo said.

“I know that if I talk to someone, I can touch them personally, but I don’t know if these people at the top levels can be effective at making changes unless they personally talk to students — changing it at the ground level first is the most important thing.”

Empowering minority stu-
dents from Day One to ad-
dress discrimination will allow them to alleviate the pressure on themselves to educate their peers about their culture, Peña said. “If we were told the first week of school that race is an issue here, that these are things students feel but we want you to know that you can talk to any person about these things even if it’s not their experience, even if it’s just because someone looked at you a certain way and you wonder, ‘Was it be-
cause I’m brown?’ even if it’s not to get someone in trouble — say something.”

When you keep a conversa-
tion going, it shows two levels of diversity,” Lobo said. “One is the racial, ethnic lev-
el and then there is the deep-
er level of diversity where you’re thinking at different capacities and the other is people view you a certain way and why other people are indifferent [to you] because I wouldn’t take any-
thing, I always ask first. “This wasn’t [because I went] in there and took stuff
all the time. This was ‘Oh, Demetrius is the only black kid in the room so he has to
be the thief.’”

Murphy said he responded by standing up ex-
actly why his accusation was groundless and why he found it offensive to be singled out. “I did told him that any other thing I don’t like is that
every time I’m around, the conversation has to be about black culture, Murphy said. “It’s almost like they prac-
tice their black jokes on me to see if they can say them in mixed company ... the conversation always becomes racialized when I walk in.”
Spirituality in the in-between

Bianca Almada
The In-Between Time

As most people involved with this Catholic university know, the Catholic Church is currently in the liturgical season of Lent. This fact is impossible to miss on this campus, as the combination of ashes displayed on student’s foreheads Feb. 13, the dining halls’ not serving meat on Fridays and the commonly-heard phrase, “I can’t eat that, I gave it up for Lent,” make it pretty obvious.

Like many Notre Dame students, I have been Catholic for my entire life. I was baptized at my local church as a baby, taken to Mass with my family every Sunday and enrolled in Catholic school since kindergarten. My parents taught me the Ten Commandments, read to me from a children’s Bible and made sure I went to catechism. Therefore, this season of fasting, almsgiving and repentance is nothing new or unfamiliar. Growing up, I never questioned any of it. For a very long time, I just assumed everyone was Catholic and it was the only logical lifestyle choice. Religion was just something I always did. I didn’t know of any other way.

Of course, this little bubble of ignorance did not stay intact forever. I was exposed to reality in high school — a reality in which people practice many different religions and in which some people practice no religion at all. People asked me about my religion for the first time and I had to figure out how to answer them. After all, how meaningful can life be if you cannot even explain your own actions? You cannot go through life simply going through the motions because you become empty and purposeless.

I did not come out of this experience as a hard-core Bible-thumper. In fact, I discovered multiple Church positions with which I disagreed. Why are homosexuals denied marriage rights? Why are devout, capable women prohibited from leadership roles as priests? Why are teachings regarding birth control so old-fashionably strict? However, I also discovered the things about the faith that I greatly appreciated. I came to truly value the existence of God, the importance of spirituality and the necessity of simple practices such as prayer and confession. I am still working to figure out the absolute best way to incorporate spirituality into my everyday life, and it is often difficult to do so.

Children often just accept at face value the beliefs of their parents and communities. College, however, is the time to look critically at those beliefs. Why is birth control so old-fashionably strict? Why are teachings regarding birth control so old-fashionably strict? However, I also discovered the things about the faith that I greatly appreciated. I came to truly value the existence of God, the importance of spirituality and the necessity of simple practices such as prayer and confession. I am still working to figure out the absolute best way to incorporate spirituality into my everyday life, and it is often difficult to do so.

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Mr. Crummett’s cookies

Socrates was killed on charges of corrupting the youth. Dustin Crummett’s recent letter to the editor (“Appreciating philosophy,” Mar. 3) reminds us of the dangers of being a philoso-
pher in the past. He suggests “things haven’t changed.” Perhaps not.

I’d like to charge him with corrupting my words. Mr. Crummett claims my idea of an intro-
ductive philosophy class is a kind of “souped-up Catechism” class. But I have little patience for those who would substitute the Catechism for philosophy or even theology. Philosophy is not the same thing as the teachings of the Catholic Church, though the two have a rather interesting relationship. As I actually state, philosophy is concerned with the “meaning and ultimate foundation of human, personal and social exist-
ence.” This is one reason why non-Catholics are so important to the University. In our search for meaning, they keep us Catholics from taking for

granted what we sometimes presume to be self-
evident truths.

I do criticize many philosophy courses for being boring. Mr. Crummett suggests perhaps this is just the selection of subject matter, that people have “different tastes” in philosophy. People may have different tastes, but most students have little taste for the bland. I once made sugar cook-
ies for some students and forgot the sugar. They decided they’d rather skip dessert.

Philosophy professors could try to teach stu-
dents to do otherwise, but their students would have to be paying attention in class. Socrates never had a problem with this. One might argue this was part of what made him a philosopher. It is said Plato’s Academy had a sign over the door. Perhaps we should get one of these for Malloy Hall. It read, “Let no one ignorant of sugar enter here.”

Further, Mr. Crummett fails to take note of one significant difference between his situation and that of Socrates. When Socrates died, his teachings were remembered. For many students, after they pass, what their professors had to say will be tossed out like sugarless sugar cookies.

Christopher Damian is a senior studying philosophy.
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The views expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.
As you head out to the beach for a sunny spring break, take this playlist with you from Swedish House Mafia’s set at the United Center on Feb. 20, 2013. It’ll be sure to get you pumped and ready for all your warm-weather partying.

**01** “Greyhound”  
Swedish House Mafia

**02** “Ran Tam Tam”  
Alex Guesta vs Stefano Pain

**03** “Teasing Mr. Charlie/Nothing But Love/Lights”  
Swedish House Mafia

**04** “Wakanda”  
Dimitri Vegas & Like Mike

**05** “In the Air (Axwell Remix)”  
TV Rock ft. Rudy

**06** “Clash”  
Alesso

**07** “Antidote”  
Knife Party

**08** “Here We Go”  
Swedish House Mafia

**09** “Calling (Losing My Mind)”  
Sebastian Ingrosso & Alesso

**10** “Epic”  
Sandro Silva & Quintino

**11** “In My Mind (Axwell Remix)”  
Ivan Gough & Feenixpawl

**12** “In the Air (Axwell Remix)”  
TV Rock ft. Rudy

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Get to the Snite as soon as you can. March 10 will signal the closing of the museum’s exhibit “Touching Ground: Finding the American South.”

Attending high school in an upper-middle-class suburb of New York City has taught me that the hipster kind loves polaroids. This exhibit is literally a whole two rooms of gigantic, mournful, heartbreakingly honest polaroids. They are the size of posters — 20 x 24 inches — each artful, iconic and one of a kind.

Photographer Jennifer Trausch used one of Polaroid’s five hand-built 1970s monster 240-pound cameras and spent five years trucking it around the rural south, snapping photos of Southern people doing Southern things. Some of the photos are still shots of a dilapidated home, hidden swamp, listless child, or sad old man; others are quite moving — swooshes of motion, ritual and habit. People are working at a diner, eating at a fair and watching wrestling matches. They’re all incredibly stark, bare-bones shots.

The collection showed Southern life like a arrow through the heart: a lonely hunter. “Maxine” almost seemed to not belong in the collection; it is definitely worth a visit, even if you are not into photography, Carson McCullers or the south.

Contact Emilie Terhaar at eterhaar@nd.edu
I don’t know about you, but I have been waiting years for a quality spring-break movie adventure. I’ve even been waiting for a select few Disney Channel stars to finally take on an acting gig that would turn them into Wan-cotty (Rachel Korine) and Brit (Ashley Benson), who are certainly familiar and overdone, delivers solid performances and play well off one another. Their respective screen time (whether it’s for a bachelor party or a 21st birthday) shows off their unique personalities. Overall, the film doesn’t come close to topping some others that have come before it, but it delivers something fun and entertaining. To sum it up, “21 and Over” is a film that’s worth checking out for those who enjoy this genre of comedy, but it may not be the best choice for everyone. It’s a fun film that’s perfect for a night out with friends, but it’s not quite the game-changer that some might have hoped for.
Peyton shines on and off the field

Brian Hartnett
Sports Writer

Editor’s note: This is the 10th in a 12-part series discussing the defining sportsman (or woman) of this century. In this installment, Brian Hartnett argues for Peyton Manning. Join the discussion on Twitter by using #DefiningSportsman.

He was born into football royalty, the son of a prominent quarterback. He grew up tossing the pigskin in the backyard with his younger brother, now a two-time Super Bowl-winning quarterback. But it’s what Peyton Manning has done on his own accord that truly sets him apart from the all-time great quarterbacks and best players to ever suit up in the NFL.

From the beginning, Manning seemed destined to be more than just an athlete. He grew up in New Orleans under the watchful eye of his father Archie, a former star for Ole Miss and the Saints. Manning specifically requested his younger brother, now a quarterback, to attend Tennessee, where he held a stellar college career and followed in his footsteps. He gave every indication he would be successful in the NFL draft by the Indianapolis Colts.

Few teams have ever made a better pick. In just a few years, Manning transformed the Colts, a team best known for sneaking away from Baltimore, into one of the NFL’s powerhouse teams. He did it through his explosive arm and precise command of the offensive game plan. Manning was a master of the middle of the field and against a pop by choosing to attend Tennessee, where he had a stellar college career and followed in his brother’s footsteps. Manning put up stats of more than 4,000 passing yards and at least 30 touchdowns every year.

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

Contact Brian Hartnett at bhartnett@nd.edu

ND SOFTBALL

Team rides streak into break

By LAURA COLETTI
Sports Writer

The Irish carry an eight-game win streak into spring break as they prepare to travel to Arizona and California. Notre Dame’s (12-5) will first head to Tempe, Ariz. for the Arizona Diamond Devil Invitational beginning Saturday. The squad will face UC Davis, New Mexico State and No. 3 Arizona State.

The Irish will then travel to Fullerton, Calif., for the Judi Lewis tournament, where they will face Cal State Fullerton and No. 16 Arizona on March 13 and 14, respectively. The team will conclude the break at the UC Riverside Tournament in Riverside, Calif., on March 15 and 16 when they will take on Northern Illinois and Iowa.

Junior catcher and captain Amy Buntin said Notre Dame hopes its streak will continue during the break.

“Going undefeated last weekend was huge for our momentum rolling into spring break,” she said. “We will be playing some good competition (over the break).”

Since the team has been solid lately, Buntin said the Irish have not been concentrating on anything too specific at practice but rather are aiming to maintain their consistently high level of play.

“We’re just focusing on the fundamentals and getting a little better each practice,” she said. Timely hitting has been important for the Irish and helped garner sophomore outfielder Emilee Koerner her second-straight Big East honor of the season. After being named to the Big East Honor Roll last week, Koerner earned Big East Player of the Week for her performance at last weekend’s Diamond 9 Citrus Classic in Kissimmee, Fla.

Koerner batted .500 over the weekend, going 6-for-12 during four Irish victories. She kicked off the weekend by going 3-for-3 with a double, triple and grand slam in Notre Dame’s 14-3 win over Boston College on March 2.

“Last weekend we hit especially well,” Buntin said. “One through nine in the lineup did their job at the plate.”

Although the Irish have enjoyed recent success, Buntin said the squad has stayed level-headed and concentrated on keeping their play consistent.

“Our mentality for this week hasn’t changed,” she said. “We are taking one game at a time this week and focusing on one opponent at a time. If we stay focused on playing Notre Dame softball, the rest will take care of itself.”

The Irish will open their West Coast trip against UC Davis on Saturday at 9 a.m. in Tempe, Ariz.

Contact Laura Coletti at lcoletti@nd.edu

Irish head to championships

By COLE SCHIETINGER
Sports Writer

To wrap up an outstanding year, Notre Dame will head to Fayetteville, Ark. this weekend for the NCAA Indoor Track and Field championships. After threepeats by the Florida men’s team and the Oregon women’s team, Notre Dame will try to break out as an underdog and get their first indoor track and field championship.

Over the past month, Notre Dame’s women’s team has been great, winning the Big East championships and even setting three school records in the process. Notre Dame’s 4x400-meter relay team set a school record this season of the men’s own in the men’s 400-meter.

In Fayetteville, Gieasting will be one of several Irish stars competing. Junior Patrick Feeny will be competing alongside Giesting. Like Gieasting, Feeny will face off in a field of 16 for the men’s 400-meter championship.

Only Florida and Pittsburgh have two runners in this event, with each of their slower runners turning in slower times than both Gieasting and Feeny, who have run the event in 46.35 and 46.12 seconds, or sixth and ninth in the field, respectively.

Not to be outdone, the Irish men have also had strong showings, as they finished second in the Big East Championships. Sophomore Chris Geistding had an especially strong meet at the Notre Dame-hosted Alex Wilson Invitational, as he set a school record of his own in the men’s 400-meter.

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For the women, senior Rebecca Tracy will look to build on her school record of 4:33.53 in the 1500-meter and fourth in the 4x400-meter relay. Senior Jade Barber also will take on northern Illinois and Iowa.

In addition to those runners, women’s teams for the 4x800-meter relay and the women’s distance medley will run. In the distance medley, look out for sisters, junior Alexa and freshman Danielle Aragon, who are part of a fifth-ranked team for the event.

The NCAA Indoor Track and Field championships will take place this Friday and Saturday, March 8 and 9, in Fayetteville, Ark.

Contact Cole Schietinger at cschietinger@nd.edu
Irish travel south for matches

By VICKY JACOBSEN
Sports Writer

The No. 15 Irish are heading south for spring break, to take on No. 9 Georgia, UB and Georgia Tech during their trip to warmer climates.

“We’re using it for the opportunity to get outdoors, to be able to do practice and start the transition from in to out,” Irish coach Jay Louderback said. “Hopefully the weather will be fine and we get eight days of playing and practicing outside.”

Notre Dame’s road trip begins Saturday morning, giving the Irish three days of practice on outdoor courts before facing Georgia (7-1) on Tuesday.

“They’re always a very tough team, and it’s good for us to go down there because the NCAA’s are at Georgia a lot,” Louderback said. “A year from this spring they’re back at Georgia, so it’s always good for us to go down there and play as often as we can.”

The Bulldogs’ only loss so far this season has come at the hands of No. 3 UCLA in the ITA National Indoor Championships last month. They will host both Ole Miss and Mississippi State before the Irish come to town.

Notre Dame will play UB (8-3) in Birmingham, Ala., two days later. Louderback said the Blazers are still something of a mystery to the Irish as this will be the teams’ first meeting. UB has already beaten the Yellow Jackets once this season, winning 4-3 at the ITA Kick-Off Weekend tournament in Lincoln, Neb., in January.

“I’m sure it’ll be another tight one there; they’ve had a good year since we played them, so we’re looking forward to seeing us play them again,” Louderback said. “When we go into the ACC, we’ll be playing them every year, so it’ll be a match that will end up a rivalry.”

Georgia Tech has gone 4-3 since losing to the Irish, and they haven’t dropped a match point in its last two matches against North Texas and Miami (Ohio), winning both 6-0.

The Irish, who have not played since losing to Duke 3-2 at home Sunday, will have a nine-day break from competition before they play the Bulldogs. Louderback said it couldn’t come at a better time.

“We’ve played a lot. As of Sunday we’d played three matches in four days. We really hadn’t had a break,” Louderback said. “We’ve got some kids who are banged up a little, and it gives them the chance to rest.”

The Irish begin spring break action against the Bulldogs on the outdoor courts at the Dan Magill Tennis Complex in Athens, Ga., at 1 p.m. on Tuesday. They’ll be in action again against the Blazers at the UB Tennis Courts at 2 p.m. on Thursday. Notre Dame finishes its road trip with a noon tilt against the Yellow Jackets at Byers Tennis Complex in Atlanta, Ga., on March 16.

Contact Vicky Jacobsen at vjacobse@nd.edu

ND prepares for outdoor play

By PETER STEINER
Sports Writer

Fresh off a 4-1 home victory over No. 13 Illinois, the Irish will head to Alabama for spring break to practice outdoors and play in the Blue Gray National Tennis Classic starting March 15.

Notre Dame (8-5) has won three of its last four matches, including wins over familiar rivals in then-No. 21 Michigan and Illinois. Although the team will face unfamiliar opponents in the Blue Gray National Tennis Classic, the Irish have extensive experience at the event taking place in Montgomery, Ala.

“It’s one of the really special events in college tennis and this is our 21st appearance into 22 years in that event,” Irish coach Bobby Bayliss said. “We are excited about being down there.

“We don’t know a lot of the other teams. We haven’t seen them and there isn’t anybody from the Midwest and so we just want to play well.”

The Irish will fly to Birmingham, Ala., on Friday and make their way to Tuscaloosa, Ala., to practice for five days on outdoor courts. The team will then compete in the eight-team bracket tournament Friday, March 15 through Sunday, March 17.

Notre Dame has played every one of its spring season matches indoors so playing outdoors will be a welcome change, Bayliss said.

“Any spring sport participant or coach is excited for the warm weather that a spring break trip brings and we’re no exception,” Bayliss said. “I know our guys will be looking forward to getting outside and playing in warm weather and seeing what the rest of the tennis world experiences everyday.”

But while the team is looking forward to the nice weather and opportunity to compete outdoors, it will also need to adapt to different playing conditions, Bayliss said.

“(Playing outdoors) is a tre mendous adjustment, much more than you would think,” Bayliss said. “One of the things that you have to adjust to is sound. … A player doesn’t realize how much he depends on his sense of sound to know how hard the ball is hit and where it’s going.

“The second factor would be wind. Even if it’s not very windy, indoors the ball is pretty much always going to land where you think it will. Outdoors, you’re dealing with different conditions, wind being the most stringent one.”

The Irish have won the event several times, with their most recent championship coming in 2007. However, Bayliss said the team is keeping its focus on improving everyday instead of on focusing on taking home the championship.

“The expectation would be to continue to win and build our résumé,” Bayliss said. “The goal from here forward is to continue to improve individually and collectively. Each of our players has some things they need to do to become better and our team needs to do a few things as well. I think continuing to improve our doubles is one of the goals and learning to serve out and finish matches would be another.”

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Contact Peter Steiner at psteiner@nd.edu
Men's Lacrosse

By MIKE MONACO
Sports Writer

Irish senior outfielder Charlie Markson connects with a pitch during Notre Dame's 3-1 loss to St. John's on April 29, 2012.

At first glance, it would seem to be another non-conference challenge, another ranked opponent for Notre Dame. But looks can be deceiving.

The No. 2 Irish (3-0) have played three top-10 teams heading into Saturday's clash with No. 15 Hofstra at Arlotta Stadium. Notre Dame defeated then-No. 4 Duke 13-5 to begin the season before downing then-No. 8 Penn State 10-9 in overtime and then-No. 9 North Carolina on Saturday in triple overtime. But the Irish have yet to face an opponent like the Pride (3-1).

"We've got a lot of respect for [Hofstra]," Irish coach Kevin Corrigan said. "They've got a really good team. But they're a lot different than what we've been playing against. Unlike the three teams we just played, they'll try to hold the ball on us a little bit and slow the game down and really control the tempo and make it a limited-possession game."

In three fast-paced games, the Irish and their opponents have averaged nearly 19 goals combined per contest. The Pride, meanwhile, have combined for just 16.5 goals per game against Sacred Heart, Princeton, Fairfield and Harvard thus far.

Corrigan said his team will have to strike a balance between cherishing each possession and not getting too defensive.

"That's a different kind of game," Corrigan said. "It puts different kinds of pressure on you. You value your possessions without getting caught up in playing too slow. But you've got to be careful not to end up playing too much defense over the course of the day, too. It's a little bit of a different challenge."

A stretch of three games — two of which were away and two which went into overtime — coupled with midterms week will present another challenge for Notre Dame heading into Saturday, Corrigan said.

"Certainly, coming out of the last few weeks, midterms [week] is always a hard time for our guys," Corrigan said. "You have to pay real attention to how much energy your guys have and what your schedule is and everything."

But another balancing act awaits Corrigan and the Irish on the other side of Saturday's matchup with Hofstra. Notre Dame will remain on campus for much of spring break before traveling to Colorado to face off with yet another top-ranked opponent, No. 7 Denver. Corrigan will again juggle resting and recovering with yet another top-ranked opponent, though. While the Irish won't be taking them as seriously as they might have to adjust to, that feeling. Once you kind of get past that feeling that you're not going to catch your breath and realize that you are, then it's not as big of a challenge as they're making it out to be."

Baseball

Notre Dame heads west for Dodgertown Classic

By JOHN SANDBERG
Sports Writer

Irish freshman attack Matt Kavanagh looks to pass during Notre Dame's 3-2 triple-overtime victory over North Carolina on Saturday. What will be challenging, Corrigan said, is taking on a high-powered squad like Denver that is averaging 14 goals per game.

"They can score goals in bunches," Corrigan said. "You really kind of have to be careful with them that you don't give up any big runs, that you kind of make them earn every goal. If you let your guard down for a second, they'll run numbers up on you. Offensively, they may be as challenging a team as we play."

The marquee matchups continue as the Irish face Hofstra on Saturday at noon in Arlotta Stadium. Notre Dame is back in action March 16 against the Pioneers at Sports Authority Field at Mile High in Denver at 6:30 p.m. ET.

Sports writer Matthew Robison contributed to this story.

Contact Mike Monaco at jmono@nd.edu

Tuesday followed by a three-game series at Cal Poly starting Thursday. The California trip will be the longest road trip for the Irish this regular season.

"Obviously, it will be tiring, but everybody else has to play basically the same amount of games we do (because) it's their spring break trip," Bull said. "It can be a grind at times, but if we keep our nose to the grindstone and keep on going we’ll be fine."

Markson said the eight-day California swing will be a time for the Irish to count on the veterans who have been through long road trips before.

For the older guys, we’ve done these seven- and eight-day trips last spring break in San Antonio and Louisiana," Markson said. "It’s definitely a mental challenge, but aside from the freshmen, everybody has been through it before. That’s the job of the upperclassmen is to help the freshmen and sophomores and make it a little easier for them because we’ve done it before."

The action kicks off Friday at 9 p.m. EST between the Irish and Bruins at Jackie Robinson Stadium in Los Angeles.

Contact John Sandberg at jssandbe1@nd.edu

Contact Mike Monaco at jmono@nd.edu

Irish senior outfielder Charlie Markson connects with a pitch during Notre Dame's 3-1 loss to St. John's on April 29, 2012.

Baseball

Notre Dame heads west for Dodgertown Classic

By JOHN SANDBERG
Sports Writer

No. 22 Notre Dame travels to the West Coast this weekend looking to improve on their 8-2 record and climb higher in the rankings as they compete in the Dodgertown Classic in Los Angeles.

The Irish will face their toughest tests to date over the weekend, starting with Friday's opening game against No. 12 UCLA. Notre Dame will take on USC on Saturday before closing out the tournament Sunday against No. 17 Oklahoma. The Dodgertown Classic, which has previously been held at Dodger Stadium, will alternate between UCLA's Jackie Robinson Stadium and USC's Dedeaux Field due to Dodger Stadium's ongoing off-season renovations.

Irish senior outfielder Charlie Markson said this weekend's competition brings Notre Dame a welcome challenge.

"We've experienced some success early and now we're going in and facing some good teams," Markson said. "This will be a real test to see where we stand."

Sophomore outfielder Ryan Bull agreed the Irish will look to build upon their early season success.

"I think we're playing very good baseball, we just need to stay clean defensively," Bull said. "Our pitching is outstanding right now. We just need to keep having some good at bats and I think we'll have a very good showing out in California."

Notre Dame has swung the bat well as a team and no one has been more consistent than Bull, Corrigan said.

"We've batting average through the first 10 games. Friday's game pits the Irish against UCLA's experienced pitching staff, which is one of the deepest and most talented in the nation. We've seen some Virginia Tech and Tennessee," Bull said. "We know that we're going to go up there and see some good competition ... but I think we have to just go up there and keep batting. I'm sure we'll find success as long as we play our game."

On Saturday, Notre Dame will see a young USC lineup that has struggled at times to put runs on the board during the early part of this season. Many of those games came against strong opponents, though. While the Trojans (6-5) may lack some of the star power of UCLA (9-2), the Irish won't be taking them lightly.

"Especially after last weekend, losing to a team we think we should have beat, we're going into [this weekend] with the mentality that we think we're capable of beating anybody, but also anybody is capable of beating us," Markson said. "We're not taking anything for granted, but we're also going in with the confidence that we think we can beat anybody."

In Sunday's finale, the Irish will see a well-rounded Oklahoma team that is third in the Big 12 with a team batting average of .299 and fifth in team ERA at 3.46. Over spring break, the Irish will continue their swing through California by traveling up the coast for a Tuesday afternoon matchup against UC Santa Barbara on

Tuesday followed by a three-game series at Cal Poly starting Thursday. The California trip will be the longest road trip for the Irish this regular season.

"Obviously, it will be tiring, but everybody else has to play basically the same amount of games we do (because) it's their spring break trip," Bull said. "It can be a grind at times, but if we keep our nose to the grindstone and keep on going we'll be fine."

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The action kicks off Friday at 9 p.m. EST between the Irish and Bruins at Jackie Robinson Stadium in Los Angeles.

Contact John Sandberg at jssandbe1@nd.edu
Irish travel for their first race

By BRENDAN BELL
Sports Writer

The women's rowing team will compete in its first race of the spring season over break, as the Irish will travel to Oak Ridge, Tenn., for the Oak Ridge/Cardinal Invitational on March 16 and 17.

Sophomore Stella Willoughby said the team's spring break trip to Tennessee will provide an opportunity for the team to improve early in the season. "Spring break is our big week to race against each other," Willoughby said. "There are formal races, but in a more informal setting and so it has a more relaxed feel."

Notre Dame will send between 35 and 40 women out of the team's approximately 80 rowers.

"The selection for the race was pretty rigorous and it is pretty exciting for all the girls racing," Willoughby said. "We will be training about three times per day and it is usually a good time to bond and grow closer and synchronize in the boat."

Willoughby said the team is highly motivated this season and geared to perform well this weekend.

"We were ranked as 19th in the country preseason, and we finished 15th last year, and so it is motivation for us," Willoughby said. "That is our ultimate goal to win Big Easts and get to the NCAA tournament."

Part of this determination has shown itself in the work outs the Irish rowers have completed over the past few months.

"Training has been awesome, it has been really tough and according to the upper classmen it has been one of the hardest seasons," Willoughby said. "That being said, it has remained as such a big team with around 80 girls and that means walk-ons are not quitting and are really enjoying it."

According to Willoughby, the training will not only benefit the Irish during their trip to Tennessee but also throughout the season. "We have had a big cardio buildup and that will be beneficial as the season goes on and we know that we have the training needed at the end of the season during the conference and national season," she said.

Willoughby said the invitation will provide the Irish an opportunity to measure themselves against other schools. "These races give us an opportunity to size up the other teams and see how the other teams are looking early on," Willoughby said.

On March 16, Notre Dame will have its first race against Duke and Kansas followed by a race against Virginia and Georgetown. Virginia was ranked No. 1 in the preseason and also won the national championship last year. On March 17, the Irish will race Louisville and Miami.

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FENCING

Notre Dame hosts regionals

By A.J. GODEAUX
Sports Writer

Coming off a dominating performance last week to capture the Midwest Fencing Conference title, the Irish now look to carry that confidence into the regional meet this weekend held at Notre Dame.

The two-day event has the Irish going up against many familiar foes for coveted spots in the NCAA championships, held in San Antonio on March 21-24. With only five spots up for grabs in foil and epee and four in sabre, it could make for a very competitive meet, especially with fellow top-10 teams Ohio State and Northwestern involved.

Despite the strong competition, the Irish have to be confident after their performance last weekend in the Midwest Fencing Conference championships, riding four gold medal wins and appearances in all six weapon finals to capture the team's third conference title in four years.

The women's foil squad was particularly impressive for the Irish, as the Lady Irish shutout their first two opponents. The two points given up in their victory over Wayne State were the sole blemishes on an impeccable meet, as they went on to shut out Ohio State to win gold.

Not to be outdone, the men's squad defeated the top seeded Buckeyes to win a gold of its own, with the men's sabre squad and women's epee capturing the other two golds for the Irish.

It's strong performances like these which have sophomore foilist Madison Zeiss optimistic for this weekend's meet.

"This meet is much more individual. ... You're going up against members of your own team just as much as fencers from other teams," Zeiss said. "But [the conference tournament] definitely gave everyone on the team a big confidence boost."

The Irish have a track record of sending twelve fencers to the NCAA championships – the maximum number possible – and Zeiss doesn't see any reason why this year's team won't do the same, pointing out that as the top-ranked team in the region, even if someone has a bad meet the squad is still guaranteed a spot at the NCAA championships.

"We're going to try and have the same kind of results as we had at regionals and this meet," said Zeiss. "For sure we want to win the regionals and make the Nationals."

The meet kicks off Saturday and continues Sunday at the Castellan Family Fencing Center in the Joyce Center.

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Event marks last chance to qualify

By MATT UNGER
Sports Writer

Following a second-place finish in the Big East championships, the Irish will focus its attention on qualifying for the NCAA championships. They return to action from March 14-16 when they compete in the NCAA Zone Diving Qualifier in West Lafayette, Ind.

Five Irish divers, including senior Jenny Chiang and sophomore Allison Casareto, will compete against other divers from the Midwest region for one of eight spots in the NCAA Diving championships. They will represent the Irish in the 1-meter, 3-meter and platform diving events.

"There's not as much turnaround time as usual between the Big East championships and this meet," Chiang said. "So we need to focus on keeping momentum from the Big East going and not looking at that event as the end of our season."

Chiang looks to qualify for the second year in a row for the NCAA championships. Last season, she finished 17th at the pinnacle event of the season and narrowly missed earning All-American honors by one place.

Chiang and Casareto both performed well at the Big East championships in Indianapolis last weekend as they claimed titles in the 3-meter and 1-meter dives, respectively.

Chiang became the first diver in Big East history to win championships in the same event four years in a row. But her fourth title in the 3-meter dive did not lack drama as she earned 329.85 points to beat the second-place competitor by just 0.85 points. Casareto finished third in the 3-meter dive.

The two divers swapped places in the 1-meter event as Casareto captured her first career Big East championship with a score of 311.30. Meanwhile, Chiang placed third with 297.60 points.

“(Casareto) is one of the best competitors I've ever seen,” Chiang said. "She performs at her peak at a meet and does something you've never seen her do, and she's got great things in her future as a sophomore.”

In the platform dive at the Big East championships, freshman Lindsey Streepy placed highest amongst Irish divers with a third-place finish, and she will join her teammates this weekend at the NCAA Qualifying meet.

The Irish divers will travel to West Lafayette, Ind., to compete in the NCAA Zone Diving Qualifier on March 14-16.

Contact Matt Unger at munger@nd.edu
Irish take focus into spring break

By CORY BERNARD
Sports Writer

No. 10/6 Notre Dame will look to continue its momentum over spring break after routing Detroit 22-1 on Tuesday. The Irish (4-0) host Boston on Saturday before traveling to Nashville, Tenn., to face Vanderbilt on March 13.

Against the Titans at the Loftus Center, 12 different Notre Dame players scored. Irish coach Christine Halfpenny said her team will utilize its deep roster to continue producing offensively against the Terriers (1-1) and Commodores (1-6).

I think when you use our depth the way we use it and we find the chemistry, sometimes it’s not the best seven out there, it’s the best seven together," she said. "I think that the beauty is actually really excited." Halfpenny said. "Those are the strongest four teams on the men’s side. Others like us, Michigan, Michigan State, Eastern Michigan and Miami (Ohio) are probably on a second step." The Irish will not send anyone to dive off the platform, one of three diving events. Because the Rolfs Aquatic Center does not have a platform, the team is unable to practice the event. The absence of participation in this event will make scoring points more difficult for the Irish. The Irish will instead focus their efforts on the two remaining events, the one-meter and three-meter springboards. Per NCAA rules, if a diver achieves a qualifying score in one of the three events, he may also enter the other two events. Divers need to score a 300 to qualify for the NCAA championships in the one-meter dive and a 320 to qualify for the three-meter dive.

Senior Ryan Koter and sophomores Michael Kret, Nick Nemetz, Ted Wagner and John Andrade all reached a qualifying spot in the NCAA championships will be no easy task for Irish divers.

"I think maybe two or three people will make the final," he said. "I think it will be hard for us…because our zone is a tough zone. But I hope they have a good meet next week."

Notre Dame will begin the NCAA Zone Diving Qualifier in West Lafayette, Ind., on March 14 with the one-meter springboard prelims.

Contact Mary Green at mgreen@nd.edu.

Divers travel to last qualifier

By MARY GREEN
Sports Writer

While their swimming teammates will have to play the waiting game to see whether they will advance to the NCAA championships, members of the Notre Dame diving team will have one final opportunity to earn a spot during next week’s NCAA Zone Diving Qualifier. The meet will take place March 14-16 at the Boilermaker Aquatic Center in West Lafayette, Ind.

The Irish will compete in Zone C, meaning they will dive against Big Ten powers Indiana, Purdue and Ohio State, along with a strong Kentucky squad. Irish diving coach Caiming Xie said that quartet will present the strongest competition from the regional schools at the meet.

"That’s the top four," Xie said. "They’re tough, they’re physical." Halfpenny said, "I think that they utilize their personnel, they have a very high IQ. They know what they’re doing, they know why, they stick to the game plan and make great adjustments." Last season, Notre Dame held off a second-half charge to beat the Terriers 14-11 in Boston. Halfpenny said her familiarity with Terriers coach Liz Roberts in addition to last season’s history will make for another tough contest.

"Last year we had a really strong start against them and they never gave up," Halfpenny said. "We’re ready for a 60-minute fight with them, this is going to be a slugfest. I know the head coach really well, as a matter of fact we started our coaching careers together as assistant coaches at Brown, so it’s always a fun game when you have a positive rivalry, a friendly rivalry there. But we want this game." Vanderbilt has struggled this year after finishing last season 8-8. Despite the discrepancy in team records, Halfpenny said the Irish are excited to focus solely on lacrosse in preparing for the Commodores.

"Our team has really good structure, we have great leadership so I think our girls know exactly what we need to do to come out and be ready for [Vanderbilt]," she said. "We’re all set to prepare hard … Thursday, have a great pre-game practice on Friday, and kick off an awesome spring break where we get to almost act like professional lacrosse players for a week, so we’re actually really excited." Notre Dame hosts Boston at 3 p.m. on Saturday before facing Vanderbilt in Nashville, Tenn., at 4 p.m. on March 13.

Contact Cory Bernard at cbernard@nd.edu.

Irish junior attack Kaitlin Broscan looks to pass during Notre Dame’s 13-8 victory over Ohio State on Feb. 27.

Irish junior attack Kaitlin Broscan looks to pass during Notre Dame’s 13-8 victory over Ohio State on Feb. 27.

Contact Cory Bernard at cbernard@nd.edu.
ND WOMEN’S GOLF

ND hosts tourney in Arizona

By KIT LOUGHRAN
Sports Writer

Now three weeks since their last tournament, the Irish gear up for their second appearance this spring in Mesa, Ariz. at the Clover Cup.
After finishing seventh at the Seminole Mash-Up Invitational in Tallahassee, Fla. on March 17, the No. 25 Irish had the past few weeks to focus on preparing for their next tournament of their season.
“Basically, we just came back from the first tournament and began working on how the girls played individually,” Irish head coach Susan Holt said.

Overall, Holt said that the team did not play its best at the Mash-Up, but she said she is proud of the progress the team has made.
“We were ready for that tournament, but we didn’t execute,” Holt said. “With that being said, we are ready to get back at it.”
Holt said that practice has been key over the past few weeks.
“We all have had things to work on,” Holt said. “We’ve practiced well every day and worked hard.”
At this point in the season, the team’s mindset and progress has come to develop, Holt said.

“The girls know individually that they are all good players, but they also know that collectively when they are playing well we can compete against the better teams in the country,” Holt said.
The Irish will go up against some of the top teams in the country this weekend, including No. 11 Texas Tech and No. 27 Northwestern. Holt believes this is a great opportunity for her team to prove itself competitively.
“It’s a matter of really showing up and playing this time,” Holt said. “When it’s time to play, we have to perform.”
With Notre Dame as the host of the Clover Cup, the Irish have even more of a reason to step up and perform. Holt said the course selection will be advantageous to the team’s performance.
“A lot of the girls are familiar with the course,” Holt said. “Going to a course that is familiar is very helpful.”
From the Mesa area herself, freshman Lindsay Weaver will look to pave a path toward victory for the Irish this time around after a successful eighth place individual finish in Tallahassee.
Lindsay and the rest of the team are ready and eager to get back on the course, Holt said.
“They are excited and ready to redeem themselves,” Holt said.
The Irish continue their spring season Friday through Sunday at the Clover Cup hosted by Notre Dame at the Longbow Golf Club in Mesa, Ariz.

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Men’s Golf

Irish return to Schenkel Invite

By D.H. KIM
Sports Writer

Earlier in the fall, the Irish had come off a superb finish at the Georgetown Invitational where they finished second overall, boosting their rankings which climbed just outside the top 100 mark.
The Irish would need to make the top 81 to make the NCAA Finals. The team had great depth and experience going into Georgetown with leadership from senior Paul McNamara, junior Andrew Lane and junior Niall Platt. At the Georgetown Invitational, McNamara had a phenomenal run to tie for sixth place (214) and get the Irish going.
Andrew Lane played his season best 71 strokes (even) to take a share of 11th place, the best finish of his Notre Dame career.

Eighth-place individual finish in Tallahassee.
From the Mesa area herself, freshman Lindsay Weaver will look to pave a path toward victory for the Irish this time around after a successful eighth place individual finish in Tallahassee.
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Contact D.H. Kim dkim16@nd.edu

Irish junior Niall Platt approaches his tee shot during the Fighting Irish Gridiron Golf Classic on Oct. 9 at the Warren Golf Course.

Ashley Dacy | The Observer

The Irish certainly look to continue the strong run and dominate at the three-day Schenkel E-Z-Golf Invitational from March 15 to March 17 in Statesboro, Ga. (217). The Irish will resume their spring season carrying the positive feel and momentum from Georgetown to the Schenkel E-Z-Golf Invitational in Statesboro, Ga. at the Forest Heights Country Club International. They are scheduled to face three of the toughest opponents in the country including defending national champions Texas, defending Schenkel Invitational champion Alabama and a top-five Florida team.
McNamara, Lane and Platt all have experience playing in the Irish return to Schenkel Invitational. This will be the fifth year that the Irish will be playing in the event, and head coach Jim Kubinski is confident that they will improve from their last year’s 12th-place finish.
“This is one of the oldest events in collegiate golf and Notre Dame has been playing there since ’05 which makes it very special and important for us to do well,” coach Kubinski said.
The Irish look to improve their history at Schenkel which has a reputation for being tricky on the green. The bent grass is typically known to be slick, which makes putting and placement shots difficult.
“I would call it the mini-Masters. It’s not as big as Augusta National Golf Club but the grass is really smooth and fast making it similar and challenging,” coach Kubinski said.
The Schenkel Invitational will be a test for the Irish they look to improve their rankings and make it to the top 81 to qualify for the final. “There will be a good number of highly ranked teams giving us a good feel of what the playoffs will be like,” Kubinski said. “Right now we want to carry positive momentum from our 2nd place at Georgetown and keep getting better.”

The Irish certainly look to continue the strong run and dominate at the three-day Schenkel E-Z-Golf Invitational from March 15 to March 17 in Statesboro, Ga.
Irish senior guard Skylar Diggins dribbles the ball during Notre Dame's triple-overtime 96-87 win over Cincinnati on Sunday.

Dame has never won a Big East tournament title.

McGraw said one major key to Notre Dame's success at the tournament will be its bench play. The Irish bench contributed just nine of the team's 96 points Monday night.

“We really need the bench,” McGraw said. “I think our bench has been really good all year, and different people have stepped up at different times. I think it’s going to be important that we really use them in this tournament.”

Notre Dame’s path to a conference championship will most likely involve another date with Connecticut (27-3, 14-2), as the Huskies have won seven of the last eight Big East tournaments and 18 overall since the tournament began in 1983. Although Connecticut has a 29-10 edge in the series between the two teams, the Irish have won six of the last seven matchups, including both of this season’s matchups.

McGraw said the recent success against the Huskies has greatly helped Notre Dame’s national perception.

“I think we have had a lot more confidence the last three years, having beaten them in the Final Four,” McGraw said. “I think, when you can compete at that level, it really gives your team the status of an elite program, and we’re excited that we have a chance to play such a great team in our conference.”

McGraw said the Irish know the main keys to matching up with the Huskies because Connecticut is such a familiar foe.

“Generally, it’s one of those games where it’s just a rebounding battle and a question of who’s going to make the most shots, a lot of little things,” she said. “We’ve played them so many times I think we know them personnel-wise, so I think it’s just a matter of stepping up and competing.”

The top-seeded Irish will face South Florida or Rutgers on Sunday at 2 p.m. at the XL Center.

Contact Brian Hartnett at bhartnett@nd.edu

Irish junior right wing Bryan Rust takes a shot during Notre Dame's 4-1 victory over Bowling Green on Saturday.

would play the winner of the Falcons and Lakers. Notre Dame has had success against both this year. The Irish swept both Bowling Green and Lake Superior State in the Compton Family Ice Arena, including victories over the Falcons just last weekend and the Lakers before winter break.

Notre Dame also split a pair of games at Bowling Green earlier in the year for a 3-1 season record against the Falcons.

However, the opponent that could potentially help Notre Dame's NCAA tournament chances the most is the team the Irish are least likely to play: Northern Michigan. Not only would the Wildcats have to win at Michigan to face Notre Dame but the Spartans would also have to upset Alaska.

Despite being the lowest seed of the four possible Irish opponents, Northern Michigan has the best overall record and, more importantly, an RPI above .500. This makes them a “Team Under Consideration” (TUC) in the Pairwise Rankings, in which the Irish are currently tied for 14th.

The Pairwise determines the 11 at-large teams who make the NCAA tournament, along with the five conference champions. It is a complex system with too many parts to explain fully in the space provided for this article, but one of the factors in determining how well a team fares in the Pairwise is its record against TUC schools. By facing the Wildcats in the second round, Notre Dame could add two more wins to its total to bump its TUC record to 9-9-3.

To fully understand how bizarre the Pairwise can be, consider this: in 2008, Notre Dame was one of the factors in determining how well a team fares in the Pairwise is its record against TUC schools. By facing the Wildcats in the second round, Notre Dame could add two more wins to its total to bump its TUC record to 9-9-3.

The views expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.
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CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:

- Shaquille O'Neal, 41; Connie Britton, 46; D.L. Hughley, 50; Rob Reiner, 66.

Happy Birthday: Make improvements that will help you feel good as well as enhance what you have to offer. Embrace change and make it work for you instead of wasting time trying to hang on to something or someone that isn't meant to be. Forward motion will keep you in sync and lead to success. Love is on the rise. Your numbers are 4, 13, 32, 25, 37, 40.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Plan to excel. Interact with people who have something to contribute. The more information you obtain, the easier it will be to position to find a way to advance. A serious partnership will develop.

TARAS (April 20-May 20): Plan an event. Interact with people that have something to contribute. The more information you obtain, the easier it will be to secure your position or find a way to advance. A serious partnership will develop.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You have more control than you realize. Call the shots and set the standard. Ask for what you want and offer what you feel is fair. A celebration or party and celebrating should be planned. Opportunities are apparent.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): A change of heart is apparent, but don't let that affect the way you do your job. You'll realize you are further ahead than you think, and there is no need to jump into something prematurely. You need to jump into something prematurely. You need to jump into something prematurely.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Consider your original plan and what your goals were when you were growing up. Focus on what you have to do to achieve your life and turn your dreams into a reality. Change is ahead of your way.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Enjoy friends and take part in activities that build your enthusiasm and make you think. Romance is heading your way, and decisions that influence your future are about to unfold. A promise made will help seal a deal.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Consider your original plan and what your goals were when you were growing up. Focus on what you have to do to achieve your life and turn your dreams into a reality. Change is ahead of your way.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Get involved in something creative and challenging, and you will face a fascinating test of your ability. You will not only be pleased with your accomplishments, but you will impress everyone and secure a future for future projects.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Take a back seat and gauge what everyone else does or says. You will get the best results by sticking close to home and making the most of your living space. Keep your thoughts about others to yourself. Avoid overindulgence.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Reflect on past relationships and you will know exactly what to say to someone you love. A simple and affordable approach will bring the best results. Romance is in the stars and can be achieved on a budget.

Birthday Baby: You are sensitive, impulsive and dedicated. You are clever and enterprising.

HIGHLY PUNLICKED | CHRISTOPHER BRUCKER

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MEN’S BASKETBALL

Louisville slugfest

Notre Dame travels to Louisville to play last Big East regular season game

By CHRIS ALLEN
Sports Editor

After the Notre Dame senior class ended its home career with a win Tuesday night, the No. 24 Irish will try to end their regular season with a win over No. 8 Louisville on the road.

Irish coach Mike Brey’s squad will take the court in Louisville with a chance to earn a double bye in next week’s Big East tournament. But the Irish (23-7, 11-6 Big East) must take down the top-10 Cardinals (25-5, 13-4) without freshman forward Cam Biedscheid. Brey confirmed Wednesday that Biedscheid will serve a one-game suspension for his role in a fight during Tuesday’s game.

“With or without Biedscheid, Brey’s focus is squarely on his role in a fight during Tuesday’s game,” Brey said. “To [director of athletics Jack Swarbrick] I said, ‘I think it’s a ‘red-out,’ so we’re going to have to wear our gold down there. Do you think [Louisville coach Rick] Pitino will have a red suit? Because he wears a white suit when they have a ‘white-out!’ Maybe I should wear a gold suit to match our uniforms.’

The Irish were able to get a win over St. John’s. There’s certainly a great storyline off the last one,” Brey said. “I think it’s a ‘red-out,’ so we’re going to have to wear our gold down there. Do you think [Louisville coach Rick] Pitino will have a red suit? Because he wears a white suit when they have a ‘white-out!’ Maybe I should wear a gold suit to match our uniforms.”

The Irish were able to get a win at the hostile KFC Yum! Center in Louisville last season — but not before playing two hard-fought overtime games. There’s certainly a great storyline off the last one.”

With or without Biedscheid, Brey’s focus is squarely on his role in a fight during Tuesday’s game. Brey confirmed Wednesday that Biedscheid will serve a one-game suspension for his role in a fight during Tuesday’s game.

Irish senior right wing Kevin Njugent controls the puck during Notre Dame’s 104-100 five-overtime victory on Feb. 9.

Irish junior guard Eric Atkins looks to pass the ball during Notre Dame’s 104-100 five-overtime victory on Feb. 9. The Irish will face the Cardinals on Saturday at the KFC Yum! Center to end their regular season.

ND WOMEN’S BASKETBALL

Team tries for first Big East tourney title

By BRIAN HARTNEIT
Sports Writer

After defeating No. 3 Connecticut in a triple-over-time thriller Monday night, No. 2 Notre Dame will travel to the Huskies’ home court to play in the Big East tournament. The tournament begins Friday at the XL Center in Hartford, Conn.

Monday’s victory gave the Irish (28-1, 16-0 Big East) the outright Big East regular-season title, marking the second straight year the team has claimed the regular-season crown.

“(The regular-season title) is a great accomplishment for our team,” Irish coach Muffet McGraw said. “I thought we overachieved all season and I was especially pleased with the win [Monday], with all that was on the line for us.”

As the No. 1 seed in the Big East tournament, the Irish have a double bye and do not play until Sunday’s quarterfinal round. McGraw said the long layoff between games will allow the Irish to rest before beginning postseason play.

“I think the first thing we need is a little rest, but I think [the break] is a good chance for us to work on some general things,” she said. “On defense, there are some things we need to do and offensively, we need to tighten some things up, put some new wrinkles in. But it will be good for us to be fresh because you might have to play three games in three days.”

The Irish will face either No. 8 seed South Florida or No. 9 seed Rutgers in its tournament quarterfinal matchup. Notre Dame narrowly beat South Florida (20-9, 9-7) in Tampa, Fla., on Jan. 8, winning 75-71 in overtime. But the Irish rolled to a 71-46 victory over the Scarlet Knights (16-13, 7-9) on Jan. 13 at Purcell Pavilion.

“The Irish will have to win three games in three days in order to win the tournament, which concludes Tuesday night,” McGraw said.

HOCKEY

Irish await CCHA opponent

By MICHAEL KRAMM
Sports Editor

Irish senior right wing Kevin Njugent controls the puck during Notre Dame’s 4-1 victory over Bowling Green on Saturday.

No. 9 Notre Dame will be comfortable at home while the best-of-three, first-round series of the CCHA tournament take place Friday through Sunday. No. 6 seed Alaska hosts No. 11 seed Michigan State, No. 10 seed Northern Michigan travels to No. 7 seed Michigan and No. 9 seed Bowling Green travels to No. 8 seed Lake Superior State.

But just because the Irish (21-12-3, 17-8-3-2 CCHA) aren’t competing doesn’t mean they won’t be interested in the results of this weekend’s matchups.

The Irish, by virtue of finishing second in the conference in the regular season, will host the second-lowest seed that advances past the best-of-three, second-round series March 15-17. This means the Irish could face the Wolverines (13-18-3, 9-15-3), Lakers (16-19-1, 11-16-1), Falcons (13-18-5, 10-15-3) or Wildcats (15-17-4, 9-15-4).

Notre Dame is most likely to play Michigan based on the seeding — should no upsets occur in the first round the Irish would play the Wolverines — which is probably the matchup Irish fans would most like to see.

The rival Wolverines always make for an entertaining and intense series and the Irish have had remarkable success against the maize and blue this season, sweeping all four regular-season games. Plus, an Irish series victory would halt the Wolverines’ run of 22 straight NCAA tournament appearances and be some nice payback after Michigan ended Notre Dame’s season in the second round of the CCHA tournament just a season ago.

If either the Wildcats upset the Wolverines or the Spartans upset the Nanooks, the Irish

Irish senior right wing Kevin Njugent controls the puck during Notre Dame’s 4-1 victory over Bowling Green on Saturday.

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