**Health restored, greeter plans for May return**

*John Ritschard, five-year South Dining Hall greeter, checks into hospital after bout of pneumonia*

*By ANDREW GASTELUM*  
Editor in Chief

Like many in the Notre Dame community, South Dining Hall greeter Lila Ritschard started her Easter morning with a prayer. It was the only way she felt could make a difference. The previous night, her husband John Ritschard stopped breathing on his own and was wheeled into the Intensive Care Unit at St. Joseph's Regional Medical Center. "It's the only thing I can do," she said. "It comforts us to start every morning with a prayer." John Ritschard, 82, regretted missing any time at his week-day job swiping cards during dinnertime at South Dining Hall over the past five years. So much that he spent the last two months at his post shaking hands, handing out candy bars and telling jokes to students while a severe case of pneumonia and a bacterial infection built up in his lungs. Doctors told Lila most people at his age have a 25 percent survival rate, but all John wanted to do was return to South Dining Hall. "He told me, ‘You just tell [the students] I’ll be back in a couple of weeks.‘ And I [told] him that he won’t," Lila said. "But he said, ‘I’ve got to get back to see my kids‘ ... They’re his life. He really loves being out here and he misses it.” Lila said her husband’s health began to wane in January, when he came down with the flu. He started experiencing back pain, which they wrote off as a pulled muscle. Still, his lingering flu gradually turned into pneumonia.

"It’s the only thing I can do," she said. "It comforts us to start every morning with a prayer." John Ritschard, 82, regretted missing any time at his week-day job swiping cards during dinnertime at South Dining Hall over the past five years. So much that he spent the last two months at his post shaking hands, handing out candy bars and telling jokes to students while a severe case of pneumonia and a bacterial infection built up in his lungs. Doctors told Lila most people at his age have a 25 percent survival rate, but all John wanted to do was return to South Dining Hall. "He told me, ‘You just tell [the students] I’ll be back in a couple of weeks.‘ And I [told] him that he won’t," Lila said. "But he said, ‘I’ve got to get back to see my kids‘ ... They’re his life. He really loves being out here and he misses it.” Lila said her husband’s health began to wane in January, when he came down with the flu. He started experiencing back pain, which they wrote off as a pulled muscle. Still, his lingering flu gradually turned into pneumonia.

South Dining Hall greeter, John Ritschard, has delighted students with his riddles for the past five years.

**Francis asks for focus on love, peace**

*By MEGHAN THOMASSEN*  
Managing Editor

ROME — Pope Francis, the first South American pope in Catholic Church history, celebrated his first Holy Week last week by challenging the faithful to serve one another and calling for global peace. On Holy Thursday, Cardinal Jorge Mario Bergoglio, former archbishop of Buenos Aires, washed the feet of 12 young detainees in the Casal del Marmo, one of Rome’s juvenile prisons. "Help one another. This is what Jesus teaches us," the pope said Thursday, according to the Vatican, according to BBc's "Faithful to serve one another..." article. "It originally started out as a high..." program. "he told me, ‘you just tell..." story. "The hope was to establish..." By ANDREW GASTELUM

**Program directs students to felicity**

*By MEL FLANAGAN*  
News Writer

Students learned how to manufacture personal happiness at Happiness Intervention, an event hosted by the Office of Alcohol and Drug Education (OADE) on Wednesday. The program, led by University Counseling Center staff psychologist Megan Brown, was the latest installment to the Wellness Wednesday series, an initiative started last semester. OADE health educator Bridget Hoffman said Wellness Wednesdays was started in an effort to create holistic wellness programs for students. "The hope was to establish more programs that are holistically based on wellness," Hoffman said. "They cover various topics from stress reduction to fun exercise activities to cooking on a college budget." OADE developed the concept for this week's program after screening The Happy Movie on the United Nations.

**Shades of Ebony honors coeducation**

*By NICOLE McALEE*  
News Writer

The women of Shades of Ebony are preparing to celebrate coeducation at Notre Dame with their event '40 Years and Counting,' which will take place Monday through Wednesday celebrating the contributions of women on campus. "It originally started out as a program we were in called 'High Heels, Higher Standards,'" Inter said. "We just wanted it to be a celebration of women and all that we do here on campus and then we realized that it was..." Shades of Ebony honors the achievements of Notre Dame women throughout the University's history during 'Women's Week.'

**Program directs students to felicity**

*By MEL FLANAGAN*  
News Writer

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QUESTION OF THE DAY:
What do you like most about this weather?

Julia Hermann
Sophomore
Lewis Hall
“Quad games and studying on the quad is my favorite part of college.”

Kerry Walsh
Freshmen
Howard Hall
“It’s very mild.”

Kirsten Fernandez
Sophomore
Basin Hall
“All of the people out on the quad.”

Steven Tomasko
Sophomore
Morrissy Hall
“Nice to leave Morrissey without five layers of clothes on.”

Mia Womack
Junior
Morrissy Hall
“The sun.”

Today’s Staff

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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.

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

THE NEXT FIVE DAYS:

Friday
Relay for Life Blood Drive
Grace Hall
9 a.m.-4 p.m.
All donors receive a free ND T-shirt.

Men’s Tennis
Eck Tennis Pavilion
4 p.m.-6 p.m.
Match vs. SMU.

Saturday
Hawaii Club Presents: Lu’au 2013
Stelan Center
5 p.m.-8 p.m.
Food, music, dance and entertainment.

Softball
Melissa Cook Stadium
12 p.m.-4 p.m.
Doubleheader vs. Villanova.

Sunday
Sunday Mass
Baslica of the Sacred Heart
10 a.m.-11 a.m.
Music by the Notre Dame Liturgical Choir.

Opening Reception: BFA and MFA Student Thesis Exhibition
Snite Museum of Art
2 p.m.-4 p.m.
Awards at 3 p.m.

Monday
Film: “Sun Come Up”
LaFortune Student Center, Montgomery Auditorium
8 p.m.-9 p.m.
Discussion to follow.

Tuesday
Men’s Baseball
Eck Baseball Stadium
5:35 p.m.-7:35 p.m.
Game vs. Michigan

Film: “Switch Energy Project”
Jordan Hall of Science
7 p.m.-9 p.m.
Explores world’s leading energy sites.

Want your event included here?
Email obsnews.nd@gmail.com
Belles study leadership, cultural inclusion

By TABITHA RICKETTS
News Writer

The Saint Mary's College Intercultural Leadership (IL) offers students with an interest in social responsibility the opportunity to develop their leadership abilities and learn more about cultural diversity. The IL Program is a two to three year co-curricular program that combines leadership development with study of diversity and intercultural inclusion.

Intercultural Studies Program Director Mana Derakhshani said the program aims to teach students about leadership and acting for the common good.

“The main goal of the IL program is to provide opportunities for students, whether they are involved in formal, traditional leadership roles or not, to recognize their leadership style and develop the skills and knowledge necessary to be an agent of change,” Derakhshani said.

The program requires students to attend monthly meetings as well as a number of retreats, according to the program’s commitment form.

Senior Ambreen Ahmad said the retreats are important to the leadership development aspect of the program.

“The retreats are an opportunity to see who you are as a leader, to recognize your values and to know what you stand up for,” Ahmad said.

Senior Maeya Alexander said, for her, the retreats are the most enjoyable component of the IL program.

“My favorite part is going on the retreats,” said Alexander. “Getting to hang out with people who are your peers ... really challenges the way we collectively live as leaders. It’s really tough, but that’s what makes it fun. You really get to bond with a lot of the girls.”

Participants must also complete 50 hours of community-based learning and nine credit hours in inter-cultural leadership topics, in addition to leading an inclusive leadership project, in order to complete the IL Program.

Alexander said IL participants are instructed to design their projects so other students can continue their projects after they graduate.

“One of the things we’re supposed to accomplish by the end is to create a leadership project that can be replicated and continued at Saint Mary’s,” she said.

Alexander said past leadership projects have ranged from data comparisons of the status of women in South Bend to the nationwide status of women in comprehensives, informative booklets and programs designed to prepare students for study abroad.

Derakhshani said the components of the program help students develop six proficiencies: Recognize the leader within, articulate your ethical and spiritual center, engage and value diversity, dialogue on power and privilege, create inclusive and equitable communities and make your difference in the world.

“People develop a lot of confidence to do things that they wouldn’t have thought I could do,” Derakhshani said.

Derakhshani said the program is open to rising sophomores and junior students from any discipline. Derakhshani said the application process opens each spring, and this year applications will be accepted through Monday. She said around 10 new students are accepted into the program each year.

Contact Tabitha Ricketts at trickett@ saintmarys.edu
Social entrepreneur Kyle Zimmer will be the commencement speaker for the Saint Mary’s College Class of 2013.

According to a Saint Mary’s College press release, Zimmer is a 1986 graduate of the George Washington School of Law, is the president and CEO of First Book, a non-profit organization that provides books to children in need. She founded and became president of First Book in 1995, and the organization, under her leadership, has distributed over 100 million books to children nationwide, according to the press release.

Senior Silvia Cuevas, senior class president, said she is looking forward to Zimmer’s address. Cuevas said she expects the commencement address to be memorable due to Zimmer’s accomplishments.

“The excitement beam from my face when I think of commencement, and what’s to come after Saint Mary’s,” Cuevas said. “Kyle Zimmer speaking during our commencement will be extraordinary, I am excited to listen about her path to leave a positive mark on the world and become a pioneer for change.”

Cuevas said Zimmer’s success in business and inspirational career will inspire the Class of 2013 to bring about change.

“My peers and I are hoping to be in her shoes someday, as women who know their potential to create something for the greater good of all,” she said. “The college made an excellent choice, the class of 2013 will be itching to go out and be the change ourselves after we hear Zimmer speak.”

Senior Dani Haydell said she expects Zimmer’s speech to be inspiring because of her career as a woman working for change.

“I am excited for Zimmer to speak at commencement because she is a good example of what women can accomplish when they put their time, effort, and heart into something,” Haydell said. “Also, the fact that the company she is president of is working to make the lives of others better is a good example that women definitely are responsible for a huge part in changing the world and making it better.”

In 2007, Kyle Zimmer was named the United States Outstanding Social Entrepreneur of the Year by the Geneva-based Schwab Foundation for Social Entrepreneurship.

According to the press release, Zimmer will receive an honorary doctor of humanities degree from the College.

Holy Week

Continued From page 1

An estimated 250,000 people showed up to catch a glimpse of Pope Francis as he presided over services during his first Easter as pope.

Pope Francis invited everyone to “accept the grace of Christ’s Resurrection” and “become agents of this mercy.” He prayed specifically that the conflicts in the Middle East, Iraq, Syria, the Congo, Central Africa and Korea would be resolved.

“The love of God can transform our lives and let those desert places in our hearts bloom.”

Pope Francis
Bishop of Rome

The pontiff said Jesus’ triumph over death should transform Christians’ lives.

“What does it mean that Jesus is risen? It means that the love of God is stronger than evil and death itself,” he said. “It means that the love of God can transform our lives and let those desert places in our hearts bloom.”

Pope Francis quoted a passage from Psalm 117:1-2. “Dear brothers and sisters, to all of you who are listening to me, from Rome and from all over... the world. I address the invitation of the Psalm: ‘Give thanks to the Lord for he is good; for his steadfast love endures for ever.’” he said. “Let Israel say: ‘His steadfast love endures for ever.’”

Contact Meghan Thomassen at mthomassn@nd.edu
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Saturday, April 13, 2013
12:30 P.M. - 1:30 P.M.
(Lunch will be served at 12 noon)
Mendoza College of Business, Room 122

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RSVP by Tuesday, April 9, 2013

MANAGING YOUR MONEY
Saturday, April 27, 2013
12:30 P.M. - 1:30 P.M.
(Lunch will be served at 12 noon)
Mendoza College of Business, Room 122

Ken Milani, Professor of Accountancy at the University of Notre Dame and contributing writer for the South Bend Tribune, will offer an interactive presentation about financial responsibility and money management, including the effective use of credit, early investment strategies, and the development of a personal money management plan.

RSVP by Friday, April 19, 2013

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Wellness CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

International Day of Happiness a few weeks ago, Hoffman said. Designing follow up sessions focused on how students could effectively increase their positive emotion level would hopefully improve student happiness, she said.

Brown led the group of attendees through multiple exercises, which ranged from measuring positive emotion and life satisfaction on the subjective happiness scale to writing down three things they were grateful for having in their lives.

“We talked about how that [gratitude] felt — that was the first time they had really been encouraged to think about that,” Brown said. “Gratitude has been studied in the field of positive psychology as one intervention that helps a lot of people feel more positive.”

Brown also shared several studies that demonstrate the benefits of feeling gratitude, including one that asked participants to list five things they were grateful for on a weekly or daily basis.

“(The studies) found rather consistently that people felt better about their lives as a whole, they were more optimistic about the future, they reported fewer health complaints,” Brown said. “The gratitude group also spent more time exercising, 1.5 more hours per week.”

It is important, however, to distinguish positive emotions like gratitude from happiness, Brown said.

“Gratitude is a positive feeling but you might not be happy,” she said. “Things might be going badly in your life, but having gratitude, that positive emotion, still lights up the same area of the brain that happiness does.

Joy, compassion and other positive emotions serve the same purpose, Brown said.

Brown concluded the session by having attendees form a happiness plan for them to move forward. She said students focused on what they could do to improve not only their positive emotions, but also the positive emotions of others.

“The benefits of happiness, of positive emotion in general, are that people are healthier, they live longer and they’re more resilient in the face of things that go wrong,” Brown said. “Not only are they okay after a tragedy, but they are flourishing. They are better off than if the tragedy never happened.”

The Happiness Intervention aimed to increase the overall happiness of students on campus, Hoffman said.

“Students here are set to such high academic standards, which is awesome, but they tend to become anxious and stressed out,” Hoffman said. “We were able to just bring the whole idea of being grateful for something different every day rather than just focusing on, ‘What are the tasks that I need to accomplish today?’”

Contact Mel Flanagan at mflanag@nd.edu

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Ebon’y CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

years of women specifically this year, so we wanted to incorporate that and capitalize on that and make it even grander. It’s … a celebration of women in the past, here in the present and also women in the future at Notre Dame, and all of our accomplishments and what we’ve contributed to the University.”

Freshman Chizochi Ekechukwu, historian and Diversity Council representative for Shades of Ebony, said the group’s events will begin Monday afternoon with a service event.

“We have our service event on Monday at Saint Margaret’s House for us to give back to the community and we have an ice cream social with them,” Ekechukwu said.

Ekechukwu said there will be an opportunity for group members and faculty from various departments to gather for dinner and engage in discussion at the Joyce Center’s Club Naimoli on Tuesday night. She said they will discuss important topics for women in American society during the dinner.

“The dinner is with 75 women,” Ekechukwu said. “We have nine different tables and nine different topics and we’ll talk about different issues, from the representation of women in sports and things like that.”

On Wednesday, a prayer service in Ryan Hall and a “Girls’ Night In” in the Coleman-Morse Center lounge will close out the ‘40 Years and Counting’ celebration, Jeter said.

Jeter said the prayer service is open to anyone, but the ‘Girls’ Night In’ is restricted to women.

“(The prayer service) is open to everyone on campus. It will just be reflecting on the role of spirituality and being a woman here on campus,” Jeter said. “‘Girls’ Night In’ is specifically for women, just to have a place to go in fellowship after the prayer service.”

According to the group’s website, Shades of Ebon’y was officially recognized by the University in 2002 as a group for African American women on campus to discuss their experiences, foster sisterhood and perform service.

Freshman Rayvon Jones, Shades of Ebony president-elect for the 2013-14 academic year, said the group’s goal is to help women on campus develop a positive self-image.

“We’re basically trying to help promote positive self-image between African American and other women on campus,” said Jones.

Jeter said the organization has transformed from just a group for discussion into one that fosters service alongside dialogue.

“It started in the basement of Walsh Hall as a place for discussion … and then it became more of a service-based and discussion-oriented initiative,” she said.

The group meets every other Wednesday at 7 p.m. in the South Lounge of Walsh Hall. Ekechukwu said all women are welcome to join the group’s dialogue and service.

“We are open to everyone. I think a common misconception with Shades is that it’s only for black women, and it’s not. It would be nice to see women of all races and sexualities,” Ekechukwu said.

Contact Nicole McAlee at nmcalee@nd.edu
With joy and thanksgiving...


Saturday, April 6, 2013
2:00 p.m. EDT
Basilica of the Sacred Heart
Notre Dame, Indiana.
Is Virginia for loathers?

Gary Caruso
Capitol Comments

For nearly 45 years, the Commonwealth of Virginia lured tourists through an iconic slogan, “Virginia is for Lovers.” The brainchild of Richmond advertising company Martin and沃尔茨，the slogan launched in 1969 for the Virginia State Travel office and has been copied in various iterations by other tourist organizations. Part of the slogan’s allure is the tolerant and accommodating feeling one derives when associating Virginia with tourism. Unfortunately, the GOP state legislature and governor have tarnished that imagery of brilliant openness in Virginia with another new legislative intrusion — this time permitting campus organizations to discriminate.

Two weeks ago, Notre Dame alumnus and Republican Virginia Governor Bob McDonnell (’76) signed the so-called Student Group Protection Act into law. The measure maintains funding for student organizations that limit membership based on religion, sexual orientation or personal beliefs. In an attempt to apparently protect a campus group’s ability to discriminate, Virginia’s reactionary initiative is a direct response against and attempt to reverse a 2010 U.S. Supreme Court decision, Christian Legal Society (CLS) v. Martinez. The high court affirmed that requiring college student groups to adopt an “all-comers” policy is not a violation of that group’s First Amendment rights. The CLS at the University of California had sought to limit its membership based on a requirement that its members subscribe to a statement of beliefs as well as refrain from practicing behavior outside the statement. Members were further prohibited from advocating beliefs considered contrary to the statement, and in this case, restricted those who merely supported a gay rights campus group.

While it is disheartening that a Notre Dame alumnus elected to a high statewide office can support such a narrow-minded policy of exclusion, in this instance it is not surprising. When McDonnell worked on his joint law and public policy degree from the Christian Broadcasting Network University (currently Regent University), his 1989 thesis reveals the roots of his restrictive thinking. Entitled, “The Republican Party’s Vision for the Family: The Compelling Issue of The decade,” McDonnell wrote that “government policy should favor married couples over cohabitators, homosexuals or fornicators.”

McDonnell also responded to a 1965 Supreme Court decision that legalized the use of contraceptives. He said that “man’s basic nature is inclined towards evil, and when the exercise of liberty takes the shape of pornography, drug abuse or homosexuality, the government must restrain, punish and deter.” Like any slick politician, McDonnell has brushed off his past academic thoughts by saying Virginians will judge his record on his nearly 20-year record of public service rather than on his academic exercise. However, his record is not one of inclusion for Virginians.

Last year McDonnell virtually eliminated himself from GOP vice presidential consideration with his awkward initial support of a legislative proposal mandating every woman in Virginia considering an abortion must submit to a vaginal ultrasound examination. In another obvious attempt to circumvent the current law of the land decided by the U.S. Supreme Court decision in Roe v. Wade four decades ago, McDonnell asserts a severely hard pro-life stance since he does not support the standard abortion exceptions for cases of rape or incest. Paradoxically, while he publicly supports his own babies, he virulently executes convicts — most notably the September 2010 execution of Teresa Lewis, judged to have an IQ of 72 (U.S. law prohibits the execution of persons with a 70 IQ or less) who was the first woman in nearly a century executed in Virginia. Appeals had come to McDonnell’s desk where only he, as governor, could have commuted her execution. He refused to pro-life with Lewis who prayed and held hands with her chaplain and lawyer during her final moments before her execution. At the time, McDonnell’s decision had many question whether he was among those who truly stand for life in all situations including capital punishment and unnecessary war deaths.

During the past few years, the GOP agenda in Virginia is but one of many examples how out-of-touch and selectively exclusive statewide Republicans have attempted to overturn current law. Time and again, political conservatives pick and choose how the government should “protect” certain narrow group thought over the expansive freedoms granted in our Constitution. Their candidates avoid revealing their true socially restrictive thinking during a campaign in order to win office, and then, while in office, rear an ugly prohibitive stance against those who may think differently. It is no wonder the GOP was handily rejected in the last presidential election.

Anybody can get elected at least once, especially if the opposing party nominates a country bumpkin with lesser communications skills and considerably less political savvy. McDonnell never signaled his restrictive nature during his run for governor in 2009 but stressed jobs and economic issues. This year, his hopeful gop successor will have no such stealth advantage. For now, anyway, we can sadly say, “Yes, Virginia, there is a separation clause.”

Gary J. Caruso, Notre Dame ’73, serves in the Department of Homeland Security and was a legislative and public affairs director at the U.S. House of Representatives and in President Clinton’s administration. His column appears every other Friday. Contact him at: GaryCaruso@alumni.nd.edu

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

Contact Ankur Chawla at achawla@nd.edu

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A love letter to baseball

Jack Rooney
The Liberal Medium

Though you might not be able to tell by the weather, the return of Major League Baseball this past Sunday night unequivocally heralds the arrival of summer. Indeed, the “boys of summer” aside from the knowledge of summer. Indeed, the “boys of summer” fans in Houston, Miami and even the north Side of Chicago can find some solace in the unparalleled hope offered by Opening Day and a fresh start (full disclosure: my allegiance lies on the South Side of Chicago with my beloved White Sox). But more than hope and the imminent arrival of warm weather and sunshine, baseball remains one of the few things in my life that never fails to amaze and inspire me.

The simplicity and beauty of the game, whether played in a heat-up backyard on a warm summer night or under the bright lights of a big league stadium, is still enough to take my breath away. It has been six years since I have played organized baseball, but my love for the game remains as strong and passionate as it was the day I first picked up a baseball. Some say lower impact games like tennis and golf are “lifelong sports,” but I contend that, if you let it, the game of baseball can provide a lifetime of cherished memories and invaluable lessons.

Getting serious about unplanned pregnancies

On Tuesday, the Observer ran its traditional satirical edition of the Absurder. Listed in the Classifieds, on Campus, is a UNPLANNED PREGNANCY: ‘You’re going to have to go it alone. This is Notre Dame, Stu-
dame.’ This poor attempt at humor is very disappointing, considering both the facts of the matter and the Observer’s own history in condemning this kind of behavior. Last September, the Observer staff wrote an editorial condemning the jokes about unplanned pregnancies, they should seek to promote the resources available for those students.

Kate Winkle
The Rocky Mountain Collegian

I don’t drink, I don’t smoke and I don’t stay out late. More than once in my life people have noticed my rather ascetic life and asked (or told me): ‘You’re Catholic, right?’ No, I am not Catholic. I choose to be boring according to today’s standards. My definition of ‘fun’ whilst traveling abroad is visiting art museums and touring cathedrals, not partying like a rock star. Besides, Catholicism is not synonymous with ‘dreyfun-hater.’

Many of my friends and family wondered if I’d convert to Catholicism after four months in Spain. After all, Spain is a Catholic coun-
try, they said.

That’s not exactly true. Spain certainly was a Catholic country until 37 years ago. From 1936 to 1975, Francisco Franco’s dictatorial regime mandated the morals of the country, emphasizing military involvement, family and faith. Effectively, everyone was Catholic because they had no choice otherwise.

Historically, too, Spain has a strong Catholic tradition. The Reyes Católicos, “Catholic Monarchs” Ferdinand and Isabella, besides funding Christopher Columbus’ voyage to America, were also responsible for the expulsion of Jews and Muslims from Spain and the Spanish Inquisition. Unsurprisingly, Catholicism has rather a bad reputation because of its past abuses of power, as can anything marked by er-
ror. Despite this history, 73.1 percent of Spaniards identify as Catholic, according to a 2013 survey by the Centro de Investigaciones Sociológicas. However, 58.5 percent of those who identify as religious stated they almost never go to church compared to 13.4 percent who said they attend almost every Sunday.

My host mother is part of the even smaller 2.2 percent that attends church multiple times a week. My first day in Spain we dis-
cussed religion and she informed me that although she was raised Catholic she now attends an Evangelical Baptist church.

The disparity between those who identify as Catholic and those who actively practice Catholicism has been attributed partially to a reaction that persists today against the Franco dictatorship, which created an altogether more liberal and laid-back society. Nowadays, Catholicism in Spain seems more cultural and less life-changingly spiri-
tual (although spirituality does exist). There is still a huge emphasis on tradition. Semana Santa, Holy Week, is especially culturally rich, and draws many tourists to well-known regions of Spain. Sevilla’s processions of large statues depicting scenes from the Bible this year are as likely to draw crowds of sin-
cere worshipers as camera-clicking culture seekers.

The great thing about modern Spain, and about life, is a situation doesn’t have to be Catholic to be a believer. One can be, one has that choice to belong to the Catholic Church, but a person has the same right to attend a Protestant church or a church where the worship leader guitarists looks a bit like a Beatle. Equally, people have the right to not attend church or to not believe anything. That is the University’s role of modern society: choice and accepting that not everyone makes the same choices.

This column originally ran in the March 30 edition of The Rocky Mountain Collegian, serving Colorado State University.

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

Andrew Lynch
senior off-campus Apr. 4
By MARGARET WAICKMAN

The fifth consecutive semester of WVU’s Notre Dame’s Humans versus Zombies begins next Tuesday, April 9. Humans versus Zombies is an epic, five-day game of tag. “Zombies” attempt to tag all “humans” and turn them into zombies; humans avoid getting tagged and defend themselves using Nerf guns and socks, which can stun zombies.

If Nerf guns, zombies, and tag aren’t enough excitement for you to sign up, then consider signing up for the opportunity to meet new people. Sean Brady, junior, and Alexandra Amorati, sophomore, joined Humans versus Zombies for the fun, but ultimately got a relationship out of this large-scale game of tag.

Sean Brady has been playing Humans versus Zombies since his freshmen year. He and his roommates have become Humans versus Zombies veterans. They go all out for the games. They buy three hundred Nerf gun darts, stay away from the dorm halls all week, and research Nerf gun shooting distances. The walls of their dorm rooms are covered in zombie posters and a map of campus clearly marking the locations of their allies. “We take it seriously,” said Brady. For this quad, playing the game seriously yields in serious fun and serious wins. Spring semester last year, Poseidon and Apollo (the HvZ aliases Sean and a roommate go by) won Humans versus Zombies.

Alexandra Amorati is newer to the game. Her first serious HvZ was last spring, when Poseidon and Apollo won. During the game, Amorati and her friends got to know versus Poseidon and Apollo and their rather extreme tactics. Once the game concluded and the boys took a victory, Amorati was determined to beat them in future. Amorati and friends attempted to find out as much as possible about these mysterious figures. They were able to uncover Poseidon and Apollo’s year and dorm, but were unable to figure out their real names.

The pair remained a mystery until Amorati and her friend spotted Poseidon and Apollo at Reckers late on Friday night. Amorati was sure that the two were the infamous Poseidon and Apollo, because, even though it was weeks after the game, Poseidon was still carrying the orange bandana sported by all HvZ players in his jeans pocket.

Brady recalled, “As I was leaving Reckers, I heard people yelling my Humans versus Zombies call sign.” Amorati and her friend proceeded to relay all the information they had gathered to all HvZ players in his jeans pocket. Everyone wants to be friends with casual players. Chill people who just don’t care about all HvZ players. They all ended up exchanging phone numbers. “Within a couple days, he asked me on a coffee date. We started hanging out, and the rest is history,” said Amorati. Brady and Amorati, now a year later, are still dating.

When asked why students should get involved in HvZ, Amorati said, “Definitely for the people. Sure, there are people like Sean and his friends who take it super seriously, but there are also casual players. Chill people who are willing to go out at night carrying Nerf guns. People who just don’t care that much about other people think about them. That’s who everyone wants to be friends with.”

Students interested in playing tag, acting like a zombie, and making new friends can sign up at wvfi.nd.edu/hvz. Registration is open until midnight tonight. The game runs from Tuesday, April 9 to Saturday, April 13.

On the fence about signing up? Don’t overthink it. Just do it. Follow Sean Brady’s advice. “It’s always fun to play with Nerf guns. And, you never know. You might meet someone.”

Contact Margaret Waickman at mwaickman@nd.edu

By JUAN RAMON CANCIO VELA

As I was waiting for “The Lion in Winter” to start, I couldn’t help but notice how welcoming the Washington Hall Lab Theatre felt. The Lab Theatre is not very big, but it offers a stage that promises to deliver a very intimate theatrical experience. The stage lights darken and leave me in complete darkness as I experience. The stage lights darken and leave me in complete darkness as I experience. The stage lights darken and leave me in complete darkness as I experience. The stage lights darken and leave me in complete darkness as I experience.

During their conversation the character happens to provide the audience with a line that ultimately sets the stage for the rest of this wonderful play. Alais, the King’s mistress, asks the King if she should speak with his beautiful mistress of England’s quarters where he is speaking with his beautiful mistress about the current troubles that his kingdom faces.

The story takes place in 1183 inside King Henry II’s castle as he and his family reunite for Christmas. The King has apparently ended up in the arms of his son’s betrothed wife, but he is more consumed by questions about the future of his vast kingdom. The King is ready to do everything in his power to keep his empire from splitting; unfortunately for him, he has three sons and only one throne to pass on. His estranged wife also shows great interest in deciding who is to succeed the King because she sees a chance to finally avenge her betrayal. What better way to avenge herself than to ensure the King’s preferred son does not ascend to the throne?

The play presents the inner workings of a royal family who is at odds with one another, and shows us how seemingly normal their struggles can be. The royal family is host to sibling rivalries and favoritism just like any other, with the one very important difference being that the future of an empire hangs in the balance. This is a story of deceit and how each member of this family plots his or her individual success with little to no regard for anyone who stands in their way. This drama is paralleled by cunning word play that provides the audience with comic relief throughout the play, but also humanizes these characters even further. The petty jibes between a jealous queen and her lustful king are shown on full display, along with how a prince brags to his brothers about how he is the favorite and therefore the only logical option for the next king.

I had the opportunity to meet with the director of “The Lion in Winter” and saw how anxious she is to show off her work to the rest of the student community. Lauren Palomino is a Senior majoring in Political Science and she could not help but radiate excitement as she told me about her favorite play. She admitted to me that this was a bitter sweet opportunity because although she was finally getting a chance to direct her favorite play, it would also be the last time she would have the pleasure of directing here at ND. She has done a great job with this interesting political drama, and I am sure any who attend the play will leave the theatre satisfied after an evening of great entertainment.

This play offers the audience an entertaining story of a fight for the line of succession and power, which turns brothers into enemies and husband and wife into competing puppeteers. It will be on tonight at 7:30 p.m. and tomorrow afternoon at 4:30 p.m. in the Washington Hall Lab Theatre.

Contact Juan Ramon Cancio Vela at jancio@nd.edu
By MADELINE DALY

Wednesday afternoon I nervous-
yly walked straight from class into
the O’Laughlin Auditorium at Saint Mary’s College, excitement fulfilling my
stomach as I awaited my interview
with my favorite YouTube newcomers,
Cal Shapiro and Rob “Rez” Resnick,
together known as Timeflies. I have
been following their weekly Timeflies
Tuesday videos since the very begin-
ing, so finally meeting the guys was
no ordinary interview for me.

As I wandered into the auditorium, empty except for Cal and Rez’s group-
ies starting up sound check, I couldn’t
help but audibly squeal and run to
the very front row. I took my seat
and casually pretended to play cool,
“texting” on my phone when actually
sending Snapchats of the stage to my
incredibly jealous friends. Once Cal
and Rez sauntered onto the stage, my
eyes became completely affixed, and
my heart was racing uncontrollably as
I stood up and went down to the base-
ment, passing dressing rooms labeled
Sylvia Yacob, the Saint Mary’s soph-
omore from “The Voice” who opened
for the duo, Timeflies, and Timeflies
Crew.

I finally arrived in a cozy room
with three couches and a table of every kind
of snack food you could ever crave
where Rez, Cal and Jared sat, Cal eating
beef jerky like he hadn’t eaten in days
and Rez sipping on a blue Gatorade.
They stood up when I walked in, shook
my hand and introduced themselves
(like I don’t already know your names,
your birthdays, where you live, where
you went to school … should I contin-
ue?) as I told them my name, hoping to
make a memorable impression. As we
started the interview, I leaned back on
the couch and started talking to them
like we had already known each other,
just four college kids hanging out talk-
ing about our love for music.

After watching countless videos of
them goofing around, drinking and
partying, I had to ask if they miss col-
lege or if they felt like they were still
in it.

“I feel like I’m still in college,” Rez
said with a smirk, leaning back in his
chair.

“Just yesterday we were in Nashville
and our friend took us into a dorm
room there,” Cal said. “I hadn’t been
to a dorm in forever but those were
some great memories. I think I do
miss college, it’s a lot of friendship.”

Since they are graduates of Tufts
University, the next question I had for
them was whether or not they planned
to attend a concert at their alma mater on this
tour.

“No,” Rez said quickly. “We did play
at Tufts like a year and a half ago.”

“It was the worst,” Cal said. “Tufts
isn’t that fun by itself. I mean, we
had fun but college is what you make
it. Unless you go to a huge awesome
school, college kind of makes you. But
even in that situation, it’s up to you.”

When asked about their hopes for
Wednesday night’s concert, the guys
expressed excitement and curiosity.

“First of all, awesome shoes,” Cal
said, referring to my aqua blue Tory
Burch flats, my favorite part of the in-
terview. “Second of all, I don’t think
we do many seated auditoriums, so
that should be interesting. The ones
in the past have been awesome, but
one time we performed at [Boston
College] and they made everybody sit
down even when they tried to stand
up. But we are so excited to kick our
tour off here. We don’t know much
about [Saint Mary’s], but playing at an
all girls school is a lot better than play-
ing at an all dude’s school. We did per-
form for all guys once, it was a lovely
time.”

After giving me a less-than-enthu-
siastic “Go Irish”, it was time for Cal
and Rez to start prepping for the show,
meaning I had to leave their pres-
ence to go wait in line for the concert.

On my way out I tweeted about Cal
complimenting my shoes and nearly
started jumping up and down from ex-
citement, thinking that nothing could
top those 10 minutes.

However, only a few hours later
Timeflies managed to impress me
once again. With my press pass I was
allowed in the very front row, hands
on the stage with only inches of air
standing between Cal and myself.
The vibe of the concert was amazing,
with hundreds of students screaming,
dancing and waving glow sticks
towards the stage, singing along with
Cal and staring in amazement dur-
ing his freestyles. He even did a Notre
Dame/Saint Mary’s freestyle, insert-
ing phrases like “Domer Fest,” “Manti
Te’o,” and “Go Belles” into his on-the-
spot rap.

I was in a complete state of eupho-
ria after the concert ended, flipping
through the pictures on my iphone,
discovering one of Cal reaching for my
hand (my absolute favorite part of the
concert). Basically, if you were doing
anything besides staring at Cal and
Rez last night you seriously missed
out. This duo really knows how to own
a stage and work the crowd, and if you
ever get the chance to see them live,
you definitely should. And try to get
in the front row, because it is an expe-
rience you will never forget.

Contact Madeline Daly at
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THE OBSERVER | FRIDAY, APRIL 5, 2013 | NSDMCOSERVER.COM
As college hoops faithful converse for Final Four festivities, all eyes will be on Atlanta this weekend. But while these fans gather around the televisions in their living rooms, in their favorite sports bars or, if they're lucky enough, in the Georgia Dome, they will also be celebrating and reflecting on the past five months of college basketball. Oh, what a season it has been.

We started out thinking that Kentucky, led by John Calipari’s annual crop of one-and-dones, would actually be good—that was as big a mistake as Butler’s Boeheim’s squad has faced allegations of players competing while academically ineligible and had players accused of sexual assault and failed drug tests, along with the Bernie Fine abuse controversy. But while the Orange are consistently under fire, they also consistently win, making their storyline line heading to Atlanta one of the most attention-grabbing.

To juice up the Orange’s plot even more, this year marks the 10th anniversary of the team’s only championship. And who is currently the best player in the NBA? Carmelo Anthony, the once-freshman who led that squad. Call it fate, call it coincidence, call it what you may, but there’s no doubt that Syracuse has an intriguing backstory entering this weekend.

On the other side of the bracket lies Louisville. As the No. 1 overall seed, it had the best prospects of making it to the Final Four. But the Cardinals, too, had an interesting run this year. In their two most notable games, they squandered a 15-point lead with less than a minute remaining against Notre Dame before falling to the Irish in overtime, and then overcame a 16-point second-half deficit against Syracuse to claim the Big East championship a month later. But the Cardinals really captured America’s attention last Sunday, when sophomore guard Kevin Ware broke his right leg during his attempt to block a shot against Duke in the Elite Eight. Millions of fans watched the teams’ players and coaches fall in shock at the horrific injury, which quickly became one of the most popular conversation topics across America. As with Syracuse, Louisville has a curiosity-piquing storyline that plays out with renewed.

Judge believes some of those moments come across worse on camera than they really were.

“Honestly, a lot of the things that have been seen have been taken out of context. A lot of things that aren’t seen are when we grab him and kid around,” Judge says. “Like I said before, when people ask me why did I play for him, I told them ‘He’s a players’ coach.’”

“Mike was almost like a big brother,” Woodall said. “He got on the floor with us and got through drills with us. He made it fun. When you have a big brother-type of figure, you know you can play around like that. I have grabbed Mike and put him in a headlock and we joke around and kid. That was the type of relationship he built with his players.”

“i never expected for this to es- calate as fast as it did,” Johnson said. “I am not saying what he did wasn’t wrong, because I do believe it was wrong. But it is also tough because it was a highlight reel of his worst moments.”

“i feel if people had a chance to see the other portions of prac- tice, or had been at practice, their judgment would not be as severe,” Johnson said. “I am not saying what he did wasn’t wrong, because I do believe it was wrong. But it is also tough because it was a highlight reel of his worst moments.”

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Saint Mary's sweeps Olivet

By D.H. KIM
Sports Writer

Saint Mary’s dominat-ed the No. 7 Mustangs on Thursday to remain unbeaten in conference play. Saint Mary’s (5-4, 2-0 MIAA) got off to a great start early with the No. 2 doubles pair of sophomores Audrey Kiefer and Jackie Kjohde, who won 8-0 against the Comets (0-8, 0-4). The No. 2 doubles Bella victory was quickly fol-lowed by an 8-1 win by soph-omore Shannon Elliott and freshman Margaret Faller at No. 3 doubles. The Bellies’ confidence grew as the day continued after junior Mary Catherine Faller and sophe-more Kayle Sexton also won in doubles to give the Bellies a 3-0 advantage heading into singles play.

Overall, the Comets did not win more than two games in any set in singles, and the Bellies won in quick succession in one of their quickest victories of the season.

“We took care of business, and we stayed patient and did what we had to do to win the points, although some of the opponents did not have a lot of pace,” Belles coach Dale Campbell said. The Bellies hope to build on a three-match winning streak and grow their confidence against non-conference foe Judson on Friday.

Saint Mary’s will try to breeze through the Eagles (2-6) just as they handled Olivet. Judson has been struggling throughout a six-match losing streak and five of their losses have come on the road.

“Both squads have faced no. 59 sophomore Oliver Pramming and freshman Ignacio Gonzalez-Muniz lead South Florida in doubles play. Butler has a three-match losing streak that the Irish will seek to stretch to four this weekend.

Both squads have faced No. 5 Ohio State, IUPUI and Ball State this season. Butler (8-10) and Notre Dame suffered 7-0 losses to Ohio State. The Irish beat IUPUI 7-0 and the Bulldogs won 4-3. Both teams ended with a 5-2 score against Ball State, but Butler came out on the losing side.

“They are all going to be challenging,” Monaghan said. “SMU is the best ranking wise, but then again we haven’t beaten USF in over a year.”

The Irish will begin doubles play at 4 p.m. against SMU this afternoon in the Eck Tennis Pavilion. The action will continue Saturday afternoon with Notre Dame against South Florida at 1 p.m. and Butler at 6 p.m.

SMC TENNIS | SMC 9, OLIVET 0

MEN’S TENNIS

Irish face challenging end to regular season

By MEGAN FINNERAN
Sports Writer

The No. 31 Irish return home to take on No. 65 SMU, South Florida and Butler this week-end. The next three matches provide the Irish with their last opportunity to play at home in the regular season.

“These matches will be a lot of fun because it’s senior day and coach (Bobby) Bayliss’ last regular season home match,” freshman Quentin Monaghan said. “I think all of us are really looking forward to this weekend.”

The Irish (7-7) enter the weekend coming off back-to-back wins against William & Mary and Ball State.

“Leading up to the William & Mary match was the start of long preparation for these coming matches and the Big East,” Monaghan said. The Irish (7-7) enter the weekend riding a four-match winning streak against Marquette, Oklahoma State, Idaho and Illinois-Chicago. They stand strong in doubles play, going 22-14 this season. SMU carries the No. 75 pair of sophomore Arturs Kazijevs and junior Mischa Nowicki.

“In particular doubles has been a focus because we’ve been struggling a little in that area, but besides that it has been some of the basic ag-gressive tactics we have been developing throughout the year,” Monaghan said.

In singles, the Mustangs bring No. 124 Kazijevs to face off with Notre Dame’s No. 109 junior Greg Andrews. Kazijevs has led the squad through-out the season on the No. 1 court, going 10-4 this season, including wins in the last six matches.

The squads share little his-tory coming from different regions, but both have taken wins over Marquette this sea-son. The Irish won 7-0 while the Mustangs won 6-1 against the Golden Eagles.

South Florida (7-8) is com-ing off a 5-2 loss to No. 57 UNC-Wilmington last Friday. No. 59 sophomore Oliver Pramming and freshman Emily Sherwood had one of the best doublesheaders of her career,” Sullivan said. “We were solid on the field, but really stepped up at the plate and put the team on our shoulders.”

“We definitely had more confidence and I think are really starting to play better together as a team,” Belles coach Erin Sullivan said. “Although we didn’t get the outcome we had hoped for, we played well.”

Senior captain Emily Sherwood had a great per-formance, scoring both Saint Mary’s runs in the first game and batting 3-for-3 against the Ravens (10-8).

“Emily Sherwood had one of the best doublesheaders of her career,” Sullivan said. “She was solid on the field, but really stepped up at the plate and put the team on our shoulders.”

Junior Callie Selner, who was named MIAA pitcher of the week, endured a loss in the circle in the first game. Selner allowed seven earned runs on 12 hits with seven strikeouts and a walk. Sullivan said looking back on the game, there are many areas ripe for improvement.

“We didn’t execute fundament-al plays at times,” Sullivan said. “We need to be better at putting down bunts and adjusting to the pitcher sooner. We also can’t dig holes too early on.”

Sullivan also said almost all Anderson runs were scored off Saint Mary’s errors.

“It is tough to stomach two losses when we gave the games away rather than Anderson earning the wins,” Sullivan said.

The Belles will now look to rebound against Albion — their first MIAA oppo-nent of the season — on Saturday.

“I think we are ready to play the games that really matter now,” Sullivan said. “We are excited and ready to show everyone how hard we have been working and the adjustments we have made to put us into a good spot to be very competitive in our conference.”

The Belles’ home-field advantage may also have a positive impact against the Britons (0-16, 0-2 MIAA).

“We are 2-0 at home and I think our fans really help,” Sullivan said. “We have a goal to go undefeated at home this year, so I think that is a positive motivator for us, as well.”

First pitch between the Belles and Britons is sched-uled for 1 p.m. Saturday.

Belles drop doubleheader but look to bounce back

By MEGAN FINNERAN
Sports Writer

After a win last week, Saint Mary’s dropped both games of a doubleheader to Anderson on Thursday, los-ing 7-2 in the first game and 6-5 in nine innings in the second.

“We definitely had more confidence and I think are
Irish look to continue streak

By GREG HADLEY
Sports Writer

Ashley Armstrong has taken her game to another level this spring, and it's elevating her team to new heights, too, as the No. 23 Irish head to Dallas for the DAC/SMU Invitational this weekend.

Armstrong has won two tournaments in a row and set a new personal best score of one-under-par at the Instate Lady Jaguar Intercollegiate Tournament from March 15-17. After winning the Briar's Creek Invitational last week, the sophomore was named the Lady Jaguar intercollegiate in her two wins, Armstrong whom have beaten the Irish in and upset No. 3 Oklahoma and This weekend, the squad will driving well and putting well, Armstrong is coming together, she's been good place where everything has defeated eight top-50 opponents and climbed to No. 76 nationally.

“ASHLEY’S BEEN doing everything well lately,” Irish coach Susan Holt said. “She’s in a good place where everything is coming together. She’s been driving well and putting well.”

The Irish as a team have been on a roll lately as well. After finish third and beating then-No. 22 Texas at the Insperity Bank intercollegiate, the Irish were pleased with their performance during the C&F Bank Intercollegiate. Scupider’s round of 67 tied Eastern Michigan’s Casey Oheim for first place and Irish junior Andrew Lane also turned in a solid performance, finishing in third place by firing a two-under par 68 to anchor the Irish at an impressive fifth place overall.

Irish coach Jim Kubinski said the Irish were pleased with their comeback effort after a slow start and are looking for week-by-week improvement.

“We feel good about our performance and bounce back in Virginia, but our goal this spring is to improve each week,” Kubinski said.

Heading into their last two tournaments before the Big East championship, the Irish are looking to get hot as the weather warms. Kubinski said the Irish need West Coast natives junior Niall Plott and senior Paul McNamara III, who did not fare as well as Scupider and Lane last week in Virginia, to improve their play as the schedule goes on and the temperatures rise.

“We improved in Virginia, especially looking at both Cory Scupider and Andrew Lane posting their collegiate best rounds to date,” Kubinski said. “This week we need Cory and Andrew to continue their growth and get both Paul and Niall going again.”

For the Irish to build off the momentum established at the Intercollegiate, Kubinski said a total team effort will be necessary.

“We had two players do a nice job last time out, and I think the big things for us to get four and, ideally, five guys playing well,” Kubinski said.

The Irish tee off Saturday at the Irish Creek Collegiate in Kannapolis, N.C., and return to the course for Sunday’s second round.

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

MEN’S GOLF

Notre Dame readies for the Big East tournament

By D.H. KIM
Sports Writer

After battling back to finish fifth last week at the C&F Bank Intercollegiate, the Irish will head to Kannapolis, N.C., to participate in the Irish Creek Collegiate on Saturday and Sunday.

Freshman Cory Scupider earned co-medalist honors Tuesday following his strong performance during the C&F Bank Intercollegiate. Scupider’s round of 67 tied Eastern Michigan’s Casey Oheim for first place and Irish junior Andrew Lane also turned in a solid performance, finishing in third place by firing a two-under par 68 to anchor the Irish at an impressive fifth place overall.

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

Athletes travel to Michigan for meet

By LAURA COLETTI
Sports Writer

The Irish, off a successful Easter weekend at the Stanford Invitational, will turn their attention to the Spartan Invitational in East Lansing, Mich., this weekend.

Although only a handful of Notre Dame athletes will be competing this weekend, the meet will be key for the team to keep progressing and improving and will also be a chance for some of the younger competitors to put up strong numbers and times.

“This meet is a great meet for some of the younger, less experienced people on the team to compete and put up qualifying marks for (the Big East championships),” sophomore sprinter Chris Giesting said.

The meet will not be scored, which means nothing will be totaled and no team will be named an overall winner of the meet. Giesting said this provides a chance for the meet to be more focused on individual competition.

“This meet is more informal than a conference meet,” he said. “It’s more about the individual events.”

Last weekend, three individuals had first-place finishes, and the men’s 4x400-meter relay team also finished first at the Stanford Invitational, senior thrower Madeline Casanova placed first in the discus and senior middle distance runner Rebecca Tracy took first in the 800 meter. At the Oliver Nikolkoff Open in Cincinnati, sophomore Catlyn Loelfel won the heptathlon. Loelfel will compete again this weekend.

On the men’s side, seniors Dean Odegard and Ted Glasgow and freshman Brent Swanberg placed third, fourth and sixth, respectively, in the decathlon in Cincinnati. Odegard and Glasgow will also compete again this weekend.

Giesting said the men are hoping to use this weekend for some athletes to achieve qualifying times, and for some to continue recovery from injuries earlier in the season.

“Our men’s team has been coming together, in the sprint especially, and I know we are getting a few guys healthy from the distance team that are starting to come around as well,” he said. “We are looking to have some guys qualify this weekend for the conference meet in the hurdles and middle distance area.”

He also said the women’s side has been performing at high levels and looks to continue doing so this weekend.

“Our women’s team is competing great, as well, and are off to a great start for the outdoor season,” Giesting said. “In the first meet of the outdoor season, junior sprinter Megan Yanik was awarded the Big East Athlete of the Week, and last week there were several great performances from the women’s throwers and distance runners. This weekend’s meet is great for working on technique and for competing against some big Ten talent.”

Events are slated to begin at 2 p.m. Friday and 9:30 a.m. Saturday.

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ND WOMEN’S GOLF


By GRANT TOBIN
Sports Writer

The Irish, off a successful Easter weekend at the Stanford Invitational, will turn their attention to the Spartan Invitational in East Lansing, Mich., this weekend.

Although only a handful of Notre Dame athletes will be competing this weekend, the meet will be key for the team to keep progressing and improving and will also be a chance for some of the younger competitors to put up strong numbers and times.

“This meet is a great meet for some of the younger, less experienced people on the team to compete and put up qualifying marks for (the Big East championships),” sophomore sprinter Chris Giesting said.

The meet will not be scored, which means nothing will be totaled and no team will be named an overall winner of the meet. Giesting said this provides a chance for the meet to be more focused on individual competition.

“This meet is more informal than a conference meet,” he said. “It’s more about the individual events.”

Last weekend, three individuals had first-place finishes, and the men’s 4x400-meter relay team also finished first at the Stanford Invitational, senior thrower Madeline Casanova placed first in the discus and senior middle distance runner Rebecca Tracy took first in the 800 meter. At the Oliver Nikolkoff Open in Cincinnati, sophomore Catlyn Loelfel won the heptathlon. Loelfel will compete again this weekend.

On the men’s side, seniors Dean Odegard and Ted Glasgow and freshman Brent Swanberg placed third, fourth and sixth, respectively, in the decathlon in Cincinnati. Odegard and Glasgow will also compete again this weekend.

Giesting said the men are hoping to use this weekend for some athletes to achieve qualifying times, and for some to continue recovery from injuries earlier in the season.

“Our men’s team has been coming together, in the sprints especially, and I know we are getting a few guys healthy from the distance team that are starting to come around as well,” he said. “We are looking to have some guys qualify this weekend for the conference meet in the hurdles and middle distance area.”

He also said the women’s side has been performing at high levels and looks to continue doing so this weekend.

“Our women’s team is competing great, as well, and are off to a great start for the outdoor season,” Giesting said. “In the first meet of the outdoor season, junior sprinter Megan Yanik was awarded the Big East Athlete of the Week, and last week there were several great performances from the women’s throwers and distance runners. This weekend’s meet is great for working on technique and for competing against some big Ten talent.”

Events are slated to begin at 2 p.m. Friday and 9:30 a.m. Saturday.

Contact Laura Coletti at lcoletti@nd.edu
Belles enthused for competition in Saint Louis

By A.J. GODEAUX
Sports Writer

After a sixth-place finish at the George Fox Phoenix Invitational from March 14-16, Saint Mary's will look to improve this weekend at the George Fox University-St. Louis Invitational.

The invitational will be a new experience for the Belles because they did not participate in the inaugural tournament last year.

Belles coach Jason Kolean said the team’s focus is simply on getting better, especially this early in the season. “We’re looking to improve on our previous scores,” he said. “We have continued to put in quality time and effort and hope to see positive results.”

Though the Belles finished last at the Phoenix Invitational after digging themselves a hole they could not climb out of after the first day, they managed to cut 24 strokes off their scores from day one to day two.

The Belles’ stiffest competition this weekend will likely come from the tournament hosts, No. 2 Washington University. The Bears finished second at the Phoenix Invitational, 35 shots clear of the Belles. However, the teams shot an identical 322 over the second day of the event. No. 5 DePauw will also present a strong challenge for the Belles.

Despite the strong competition the team will face this weekend, Kolean said the team is not discouraged. “We have a group of highly motivated girls, who are excited to play against the top teams in the nation,” he said.

The two-day tournament starts Saturday at Gateway National Golf Links in Madison, Ill. Contact A.J. Godeaux at agodeaux@nd.edu

ND WOMEN’S TENNIS
Irish host Memphis

Irish senior Chrissie McGaffigan stretches out to return a ball in Notre Dame's 5-2 win over DePaul on March 2. McGaffigan won the No. 4 matchup 6-1, 7-6 (7-5).

By VICKY JACOBSEN
Sports Writer

Memphis compiled a perfect record at home in 2013, but the Irish will try and trip up the Tigers when they travel to South Bend for a Sunday matinee.

The No. 36 Tigers (15-4) have won eight matches in a row, and haven’t dropped a point since their 6-1 victory over UCF on March 8. They have won all 14 matches at home this spring, including a 5-2 victory over No. 16 Virginia, sophomore Molly O’Koniewski’s former program. All four of their losses have come to teams ranked in the top-25.

“Memphis is a very talented team, and they have a lot of top players on their team, so it’s definitely going to be a tough match that we have to be ready for,” senior Chrissie McGaffigan said.

“Memphis has been my arch-rival,” McGaffigan said. “We’re planning on playing outside, but it’s weather permitting,” Sanders said. “Temperature wise it should be good, but I think it’s looking like it’s going to rain, so it may be inside.”

The Irish have only two more matches before the Big East tournament, which will be held in Tampa beginning April 18. The Irish will celebrate senior day by hosting Memphis at the Courtney Tennis Center at 1 p.m. Sunday.

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Irish senior Chrissie McGaffigan stretches out to return a ball in Notre Dame's 5-2 win over DePaul on March 2. McGaffigan won the No. 4 matchup 6-1, 7-6 (7-5).
Irish hope to protect top spot in Big East

By LAURA COLETTI
Sports Writer

The Irish, fresh off the program's 1000th all-time win, return home to face Villanova in a three-game weekend series beginning Saturday.

Notre Dame (24-8, 5-0 Big East) racked up wins No. 1000 and 1001 with back-to-back victories over Georgetown on Wednesday. Junior Laura Winter allowed only two hits and fanned 12 during the first game, en route to an 8-2 win. Senior Brittany O'Donnell took the circle in Game Two as the Irish cruised to a 15-3 victory. O'Donnell said it was an honor, particularly for this year's senior class, to be a part of such a significant Irish benchmark.

“It’s a great honor to be on a team that was able to accomplish that, both for one another and for [Irish coach Deanna Gumpf] and for the program itself,” O’Donnell said. “It’s such an amazing honor and feeling to put on the Notre Dame jersey every time we go out on the field. We’re always trying to represent the university as best we can.”

With their two victories over the Hoyas, Notre Dame moved into sole possession of first place in the Big East. The Irish will try to maintain that position in the standings as they welcome the Wildcats (12-17, 0-6) this weekend.

“We know that we have to play our best Notre Dame softball every game and not play down to any opponent’s level,” O'Donnell said.

The team has focused on all areas of play at practice this week, keeping its fundamentals sharp and preparing to perform in key situations.

“We kept working on hitting the ball hard on the ground and playing solid defense,” O'Donnell said. “We’ve been working on our fundamentals because we know that that's going to take us far in the Big East and keep us going. We’ve been working on executing when we need to and coming up clutch in big situations.”

As the Irish continue in the Big East portion of their schedule, the team is focused on making its last season as a member of the conference a special one.

“We just know that our goal is to leave a mark on the Big East conference by winning it all, so that’s what we keep working towards,” O'Donnell said. “This is our last year in the Big East, so we work hard every day at practice to do the best we can. We don’t worry so much about the rankings, we’re just worried about the end goal of leaving our mark.”

The Irish will open play against Villanova at Melissa Cook Stadium on Saturday at noon.

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and be the strongest, they would be one of the front-runners. But I think we’ve got a lot more poise and smarts, so we’ll match up pretty well.”

The Irish will then travel to the newly-opened Sheahey Athletics Center in Cincinnati to meet the Bearcats (5-4, 0-2). Notre Dame is 4-0 all-time against Cincinnati and beat the Bearcats, 22-2, in last year’s meeting. Despite the program’s recent success against the Bearcats, Shawhan said she expects a tough fight from the Bearcats.

“How we’ve played has given us our best game, so we’re expecting that from all the teams we play,” she said. “We always play a nameless, faceless opponent and try to give every team our best as well, so we’ll try to do that Sunday.”

Cincinnati junior midfielder Taylor Young, senior midfielder Kyle Ramald and sophomore midfielder Megan Bell power the Bearcats’ balanced scoring attack.

Notre Dame will look to improve to 10-0-0 when it meets Louisville on Friday at 5 p.m. and Cincinnati on Sunday at 1 p.m.

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ROWING

Irish to race top competition

Observer Staff Report

The No. 13 Irish will compete in Columbus, Ohio, this Saturday, where Notre Dame will race against No. 4 Ohio State, No.8 Michigan and Tennessee. The race will pose an early challenge for the Irish as they progress through their season.

Notre Dame is coming off an impressive Easter weekend performance against Iowa, Michigan and Michigan State on the Grand River in Lansing, Mich. Notre Dame’s top two varsity eight boats, as well as the first varsity four and novice eight were each double winners on the day.

The Irish novice eight won against both Iowa in the morning and Michigan State in the afternoon, cementing their place in the top 20. The Irish varsity four also compiled a set of wins against the Hawkeyes and Spartans. Notre Dame’s varsity four beat Iowa by more than 15 seconds in their race. This impressive performance was enough for the Irish to take their second consecutive Big East Boat of the Year honors. The Irish squad consisted of senior coxswain Danni Schneider, freshman Elizabeth Kelley, sophomore Stella Willoughby, junior Kiersten DeHaven and senior Kelsey Murphy.

The first varsity eight also defeated both Iowa and Michigan State. Notre Dame will now try to maintain its momentum developed during Easter weekend racing into its upcoming contests against the Buckeyes, Wolverines and Volunteers on Saturday.

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Notre Dame to engage in weekend contests

Observer Staff Report

Notre Dame will host the Mexico Under-20 team in an international friendly today in its third match of the 2013 spring season. Notre Dame will also entertain Iowa, IPFW and Grand Valley State in a four-team event Saturday.

Earlier this spring, the Irish faced Michigan State in a charity match March 23 in Fort Wayne, Ind., and lost to the Chicago Red Stars 4-1 on Wednesday in Alumni Stadium.

The Red Stars, members of the newly formed National Women’s Soccer League (NWSL), scored twice in the first half off the foot of former Irish midfielder and All-American Lauren Fowlkes.

Notre Dame has history on its side today. The Irish have played various permutations of the Mexican national team eight times since 2001 but lost only twice. In their most recent match, however, Mexico prevailed 4-1 on April 23, 2010. In that game, over 2,700 fans crowded Alumni Stadium to watch the Irish take on their international neighbors.

Irish coach Randy Waldrum will have a nearly full roster to use against Mexico. Though the Irish were one of the youngest teams in the nation last season, Notre Dame loses only two seniors from last year’s squad.

Before the Irish faced the Red Stars on Wednesday, Mexico played Haiti’s national team in Alumni Stadium and beat them 1-0. The same Mexican squad lost to Nigeria 1-0 in the quarterfinals of the 2012 FIFA U-20 Women’s World Cup in Japan last summer. The United States beat Germany in the title game to earn the Cup.

Today’s action against Mexico begins at 7 p.m. in Alumni Stadium and Saturday’s games begin at 10 a.m. on the Notre Dame practice field.
Villanova

"It's like any Big East weekend, I think. You've got to make sure that you play well in order to come out with the results that you want."  

Mik Aoki

Irish sophomore pitcher Pat Connaughton throws a pitch in the 3-1 loss to St. John's on April 29, 2012. Connaughton is penciled to start Friday against Villanova.

Aoki said his team will not be counting them out because the series is over. "They've struggled a little bit more than they did last year, but they've got a couple of good arms," he said. "It's like any Big East weekend, I think. You've got to make sure that you play well in order to come out with the results that you want."
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Happy Birthday! Welcome any help that is offered. What you have to give back will be at your own pace. There is no right or wrong to anything and expecting nothing, but this way you gain the true air of this aspect of your life more. You can tune into balance if you wish to be successful. An old friend will be reconsidered. Your numbers are 1, 9, 15, 21, 26, 33, 47, 69.

Aries (March 21-April 19): Offer assistance and good things will happen in return. The joy you spread and the offers you share will enhance your personal relationships. Doing things differently and being the instigator of your own destiny will prove to be beneficial.

Taurus (April 20-May 20): Refrain from making complaints. An emotional issue must be handled both gently and carefully. Open your mind to the possibility of greater development. Avoid secret encounters.

Gemini (May 21-June 20): Secret love will enhance your daily working relationships. A share of this will add to your knowledge, expertise and ability to make constructive alterations to your personal lifestyle, attitude and appearance.

Cancer (June 21-July 22): Your intuition will not lead you astray. You are best not to share sensitive information. Taking responsibility for your actions will bring the results and recognition you desire. Protect your physical and financial wellness.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22): Enjoy your life. Get together with friends or peers could lead to conversation that will encourage you to pursue your dreams. A change of plans, direction or location will enhance your chances of reaching your goals.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Listen carefully and make sure that what’s being said is accurate. Let your common sense and gut feeling lead you down the right path. A contract should be considered, but only if you negotiate your terms explicitly. Embrace change.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): A relationship will be enhanced if you are willing to make a compromise. Don’t fight change when it’s essential to moving forward. People from different backgrounds will inspire you. Love will blossom.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Get involved in events that will help you connect with influential people. Contributions you make will attract someone who has something to offer you professionally, financially or creatively. Don’t allow personal situations to slow you down.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Put more energy into your home, family and romance. Make a decision that will help you put any misrepresentations or uncertainty to rest. Focus on ways to make your future stable and your lifestyle more suited to your personal goals.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Look for common ground before you decide to become closer with someone from your past or present. You want to be aligned with people who contribute, not dictate. Uranus may be a factor. Let your intuition guide you.

Aries (March 21-April 19): Generosity will draw unique individuals into your life. Draw on past experience and make the changes you must to make in order to improve your future. Larger quarters or sharing your space with more people will improve your outlook. Romance is in the stars.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20): Moderation is a must if you don’t want to ruin a good opportunity. Keeping your life and plans simple will bring the best results. Let your wisdom come from insight, past experience and a keen sense of practicality.

Birthday Baby: You are outspoken, innovative and curious. You are inventive and tousy.
Strong rotation leads Irish into weekend

Notre Dame prepares for series against Villanova

By MARY GREEN
Sports Writer

While the professionals have just begun their season, No. 20 Notre Dame is entering the heart of its schedule as it prepares to face Villanova in a three-game series this weekend at Frank Eck Stadium.

The Irish (7-2, 1-1 Big East) dropped their first Big East matchup to No. 10 St. John’s on Saturday after winning their conference opener against Rutgers on March 24.

Irish coach Kevin Corrigan admitted his team had started to get away from its intended focus. Instead, Notre Dame looked ahead to its opponents too much.

“I think that the focus needs to stay on us,” Corrigan said. “While we’re preparing for other teams, the focus needs to stay on our team a little bit more. That’s my fault for letting us get too far away from that.”

But against Marquette, Corrigan was happy with the way his team rebounded and got back to doing what it does best: defending, taking advantage of scoring opportunities and avoiding turnovers.

Connaughton defies naysayers by playing two sports

By VICKY JACOBSEN
Sports Writer

Some athletes might have gone out to celebrate, reveling with the students who stormed the court after the Irish knocked off No. 1 Syracuse. Some might have spent the night relaxing and recovering in the training room.

But sophomore guard Pat Connaughton capped off the most exciting night of the 2011-2012 basketball season with a workout. After all, baseball season was coming.

“They beat Syracuse here last year, and I think 45 minutes later we have him throwing long toss over in Loftus,” Irish coach Mike Brey said. “Pat can move seamlessly from basketball to baseball, literally within minutes. It’s like he never left.”

And while that can mean missing out on a night of celebration, it also means the right-handed pitcher doesn’t have