Law student recounts experiences in Syria

Humanitarian aid missions bring food and infrastructure improvements to millions displaced by war

By KATIE MCCARTY

Notre Dame law student Kenan Rahmani has had his share of fear-inducing experiences in his travels to war-torn Syria, and his mission trip to the country over spring break was no exception to this rule.

“One night in Kafranbel, we were just sitting and eating and rockets started falling, fired by the Syrian government,” Rahmani said. “There were six hours of continuous bombing, and we just prayed and tried to comfort each other.”

Over Christmas break, Rahmani traveled to Syria as part of a humanitarian aid mission sponsored by the Syrian American Council. This spring break, Rahmani returned to the country in a group with 20 others, traveling from city to city to deliver aid to refugees.

Uprisings have occurred throughout Syria against the regime of President Bashar al-Assad, Rahmani said. On his second trip, Rahmani said he delivered supplies like food baskets, baby formula and flour to some of the many refugees in need.

Refugee camps are filled with people freezing and children raised over $100,000 worth of supplies to deliver to refugees.

Duncan Hall hosts golf tournament

By CAROLYN HUTYRA

After weeks of preparation, Duncan Hall will host its first campus-wide golf tournament, The Duncan Classic, the weekend of April 13th and 14th. The tournament will include separate men’s and women’s brackets, if necessary.

Sophomore Michael O’Brien, a Duncan Hall resident, said he saw the potential for an individual golf tournament for the Notre Dame community when coming up with a plan. “Josh Whelan started a new tradition in Duncan Hall, the Duncan Blazer, and I loved the idea,” he said. “Duncan was in need of a new dorm event, and I was inspired by Josh’s idea and our location by the Notre Dame Golf Course.”

O’Brien said he decided to combine the two ideas and the Duncan Classic was born. “This tournament is a way to spread the Duncan tradition with those who participate in and win the Duncan Classic,” he said.

The tournament will include separate men’s and women’s brackets, O’Brien said. Any students and faculty from Notre Dame, Saint Mary’s and Holy Cross may participate, but to keep the competition fair and to encourage more participation by amateur golfers, Division I golfers may not compete.

The dorm also hopes to make the event more accessible by providing participants with necessary equipment. “Duncan Hall will provide all participants with a set of clubs, if needed, free of charge,” he said.

Those who participate will play on Saturday, and those who make the cut will compete in the next round on Sunday when coming up with a plan.

Conference addresses climate change

By CHARITHA ISANAKA

The inaugural Climate Change and the Common Good Conference, an event focused on the “multidisciplinary exploration of the challenges and opportunities society faces in addressing climate change and resource scarcity,” was held April 8-10 in McKenna Hall.

“The conference was designed to show how an important scientific issue also demands help,” associate biology professor Jessica Hellmann said.

This multidisciplinary event brought together the fields of technology, science, theology and philosophy in facing this issue. “We wanted to show the University that climate change is critical to our mission,” she said.

Almost 450 people registered for the event, and attendees included representatives of various universities as well as members of the local community.

The topics of the conference included “The Long Thaw: How humans are changing the next 100,000 years of Earth’s climate,” “Jane Austen vs Climate Economics: An Inconvenient Mind: The Mental Barriers to Confronting Climate Change” and “The Long Thaw: How humans are changing the next 100,000 years of Earth’s climate.”

RLAC raffles balloon ride

By CATHERINE OWERS

Students looking for off-campus housing may have extra incentive to do so now. Rent Like a Champion is raffling off a hot air balloon ride for anyone who signs a lease prior to May 1.

“Essentially anyone who signs a lease with us from now until the end of the school year will be put in a drawing,” Mike Doyle, Vice President of Business Development, said. “The winner gets a free hot air balloon ride around Notre Dame with two friends.”

Doyle said the company wanted a unique promotion students would find attractive, finding it in Michiana Balloon Rides. “A lot of companies do promotions where they’ll give you cash or an object if you sign a lease, but we were trying to think of something that would be a cool experience that we could provide.”
QUESTION OF THE DAY:
What is your favorite Pokemon?

Juan José Daboub
Freshman
Alumni Hall
“Charmander.”

Jenni Sanchez
Senior
Welsh Family Hall
“Bulbasaur.”

Lindsay Smith
Senior
Welsh Family Hall
“Who cares?”

THE NEXT FIVE DAYS:

Wednesday
Wellness Wednesday
LaFortune Student Center
12 p.m.-1 p.m.
Tips on social anxiety.

Thursday
Zen Meditation
Coleman-Morse Center
6:15 p.m.-7:15 p.m.
Practice meditation.

Friday
Relay for Life
Compton Family Ice Arena
8 p.m.-9 a.m.
Fund cancer research.

Saturday
Duncan Classic Golf Tournament
Notre Dame Golf Course
10 a.m.
Individual 9-hole tournament.

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

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

Freshman Elizabeth Konicek takes advantage of the 75-degree weather and studies on South Quad on Tuesday. Students also played frisbee and took naps in the balmy temperature.

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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.
Water Ski Club seeks to revitalize program

By KATIE MCCARTY
News Writer

"The Water Ski Club was only started a few years ago by Adam Carlson and ever since he graduated, the club has gone downhill," Littlejohn said. "We are essentially working together as a team to get as much done this year as we can really make it soar with leadership, membership, and campus activity for next year." Club president sophomore Jackie Pau, said the club currently had about 20 members who practice at a lake 20 miles west of campus. Permission to use the lake was granted by alumni from the area, she said. The club spars participants in collegiate tournaments against other Midwest teams. Those competitions consist of three parts: slalom, trick, and jump. "Slalom is skiing through a course. The goal is to get around as many of the six buoys you can at the fastest speed with the shortest length of rope as possible," Paul said. "Trick can be anything from wake board to trick ski and is scored on the difficulty of the trick. Jump is when you ski over a five foot jump in order to jump for distance." Littlejohn said because the tournaments get very competitive, even little details matter. "The ski type, the gloves you wear, the life jacket, the type of handle on the rope, how you hold the rope, it all matters," Littlejohn said. "Obviously the type of boat, the driver, the conditions of the water are also very important, and even the swimsuit you wear makes a difference." With South Bend's cold winters, Paul said finding time to ski can be difficult. "Most of our tournaments are right away in September or early October in the fall and late April or early May in the spring," Paul said. "We practice as long as the weather cooperates and people are brave enough to deal with the water temperatures." The club has something to offer to everyone regardless of their skill level, Paul said. "It is not necessary to be a master of any of these skills (slalom, jump, trick) to be a part of the club," he said. "Our members are at all different skill levels." "The goal of the club is to offer a welcoming environment to all skiers, including beginners," Paul said. The club tries to maximize their ski time whether they are practicing or competing at a tournament, he said. "It is fun to hang out at the lake as people get their runs in and to just be at the lake," she said. The tournaments are a ton of fun also. It can get competitive but the skiers from all over the schools are fun people to meet and hang out with for a weekend." Those interested in joining the Water Ski Club can, email Jackie Paul at JPaul1@nd.edu or waterski@nd.edu.

Contact Katie McCarthy at kmccar16@nd.edu.

Rent

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

that students might not otherwise have the opportunity to do," Doyle said. The idea for Rent Like a Champion took shape under the leadership of three 2001 Notre Dame graduates. "It started out with them buying properties within a mile of campus," he said. "They'd renovate them and rent them out to students." While most properties were rented to students, several remained unrented. Doyle said the business decided to offer those empty properties for rental to fans coming into town on football weekends. "(The houses) were sitting empty, and we rented them out for football weekends, and that idea kind of caught on, and other people started asking us to help rent out their houses as well," he said. Doyle said the business now has two sides: renting properties to students and weekend rentals for events like home football weekends. "We have about 15 student properties that we own and that we rent out on a yearly basis to students," he said. "On the other side, we have about 100 properties to rent for football weekends and graduation." The company now owns furnished homes which range from two-bedroom to six-bedroom properties.

"We have places right by campus and places a little farther out, really anything that people could want," he said. "A lot of them come with really cool stuff in them like TVs or pool tables. Those are really popular, especially for larger groups." In order to improve the rental properties, Doyle said the company often renovates its properties and hires Notre Dame students throughout the school year to better understand what appeals to students. "We try to have our houses have really big common spaces, big, fenced-in yards, so that the houses get better and better every year," he said. The company hopes to expand the number of properties available to rent around campus. He said Rent Like a Champion is now in the process of expanding football-weekend rentals to other schools like Alabama and Florida State. Those who live around those campuses will have the opportunity to list their residences for rent on the Rent Like a Champion website.

"We don't own those homes; we're more of a listing service website. People will list with us, and we'll help them rent," Doyle said. "That side is expanding very fast, and that's definitely exciting." Contact Catherine Owens at cowers@nd.edu.

Notre Dame CHORALE

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LEIGHTON CONCERT HALL
DEBARTOLO PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

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Syria

Continued from page 1.

starving, and there even some camps in which families live on one boiled potato per day, Rahmani said.

For this trip, Rahmani and his companions journeyed with $100,000 of supplies raised via online donations. "These [donors] come from cities all across the country," Rahmani said. "They went to their families and friends, and it was a massive online campaign. "We split the $100,000 into several different areas. Thirty thousand dollars went to providing food baskets to people in need within the city of Aleppo, and another $20,000 went to food baskets for people in the province of Idlib."

Rahmani and his companions provided aid in areas liberated by the Free Syrian Army, a rebel group that fights against the Syrian government. There are approximately five to six million refugees displaced by the war, he said.

Rahmani and his companions also used $10,000 for various projects in refugee camps.

"We built a sewer system at one camp," Rahmani said. "Five thousand dollars spent on the system will probably save about $100,000 over the course of the summer."

"We also worked on water filtration project and a project to improve the representation of women within the organization and management of the camps."

The group spent $20,000 to provide baby formula and flour to people in need in other areas of the country, as well as $15,000 given to Syrians in the city of Kafranbel, where Rahmani and his companions endured six hours of continuous bombing.

Rahmani said he experienced another scare as he and his companions drove into the city of Aleppo. They were driving on the highway when one of the men in the car started to scream at the driver, Rahmani said.

"He said, 'The next checkpoint is government-controlled, if they find these people they will torture them and kill them,'" Rahmani said. "'I felt just gone a little bit further they would have captured us and tortured us.'"

Approximately 60 percent of the country is in rebel hands, but Rahmani said the war has reached a stalemate.

"The rebels don't have the weapons they need, and the government cannot retake the areas the rebels have taken," Rahmani said.

Violence is widespread in the country, and 15 to 20 architecture students at the University of Damascus were recently killed by bombing, Rahmani said.

Notre Dame will hold a vigil for the victims tonight at 7 p.m at the Grotto.

Contact Katie McCarty at kmccarr16@nd.edu

Golf

Continued from page 1.

Golf Association (USGA) rules will apply throughout the competition, O'Brien said.

"Tee times are available from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. all day Saturday, and you can see which tee times are available on an embedded link on the Google doc," O'Brien said. "The best way to find the document and register is to search 'Duncan Classic' on Facebook, you can also check the Week at ND email for the link."

O'Brien said the scoring system in place is individual stroke play, meaning the total number of shots taken on each hole will compose the final score.

"Golf is a gentleman's sport so we trust participants to record their scores individually and accurately," he said. "However, there will be a large Duncan staff presence on the course. Any cheating will not be tolerated."

The competition will conclude with a green jacket ceremony, supplemented with refreshments in the Duncan courtyard. First, second and third place finishers for both the men's and women's teams will receive a gift card, O'Brien said.

Awards will also be given to the top finishers in the putting, chipping, longest drive and closest pin challenges, O'Brien said.

The goal for this year was to get the tournament up and running, but in future years we hope to partner with the Bald and the Beautiful or another charity," he said.

Contact Carolyn Hutyra at chutyra@nd.edu

The preliminary men's round of as a group of four.

"You can sign up with your friends, but you are not guaranteed your Saturday foursome until all have officially registered on the Google form," he said.

"The costs for participating will vary according to the event of choice. O'Brien said $10 will cover the cost of the nine-hole game. Competing in either the putting or chipping challenge will cost three dollars, and participating in both will cost a total of five dollars. Individuals who would like to do all three events can participate at a fee of $15."

The preliminary men's round will start from the white tees, while the women will start from the red tees, he said. On Championship Sunday, the men who advance will begin at the blue tees. All United States
By REBECCA O'NEIL

Activist-artists and avid supporters of immigration reform Julio Salgado and Steve Pavey contributed their work to La Fuerza’s “Education without Barriers” week April 9 at Saint Mary’s. The week explores the intersection of education and immigration reform.

Both Salgado and Pavey use images to advance the cause of undocumented immigrants in the United States. “Art defines culture,” Salgado said. “We need to use art as a tool to fight the hate against us because this country is anti-immigrant. I want people to see images that are very negative about us.”

Salgado said he initially was inspired by the civil disobedience displayed in Washington, D.C., when an undocumented student was arrested for refusing to leave the sit-in advocating passage of the Federal Dream Acts. “There are so many dreams of potentially fixing immigration reform, fixing it the right way, but there really is no right way,” Salgado said. “We must change the way we’re seen, change the way we exist. We never go deep into what it means to be an immigrant, this issue touches Salgado personally, he said. “I am committed to using so-cial scientific methods to facilitate social change and work for justice,” Pavey said. “The activists in the field know much more about themselves than I do.”

Pavey has followed and chronicled stories of people like Marco Saavedra and Isabel Castillo, undocumented immigrants who protested against the injustice of their marginalization. “I am committed to using social scientific methods to facilitate social change and work for justice,” Pavey said. “The way to critique the structural evils in our political economy is to be with the least of us. I want to be a part of empowering their voices.”

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Climate

continued from page 1

the next 100,000 years of Earth’s climate,” “Jane Austen vs. Climate Economics” and “An Inconvenient Mind: The Mental Barriers to Confronting Climate Change.” “We hope to strike a balance between scientific theory [and to understand] the response of the religious community, particularly the Catholic religious community and how it is that other responsible communities are responding,” theology professor Robin Darling Young said. On Monday, the conference included “several interesting talks and discussions with the audience,” Hellmann said. Two speakers presented different strategies of reducing different greenhouse gas emissions,” he said. “Both agreed, however, that with our action, society is on a disastrous course that will threaten human lives and environmental health.” The panel of scientific researchers spoke about the need for scientists to help society understand the scope of the climate challenge.

Professor of Atmospheric and Climate Sciences at the University of California, San Diego Veerabhadran Ramanathan opened the conference with a talk on ways to reduce black carbon emissions in India. The last talk of the conference will be given today by Bob Doppelt, instructor at the University of Oregon who will speak on Buddhist base theory and the process of “getting out of the self-centered communist mentality.” Video tapes of the conference will be available at a later date through the event’s website the event website at http://climatechange.nd.edu/ Contact Charitha Isanaka at cisanaka@nd.edu

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The University of Notre Dame is an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer.
I recently was baptized, received my first Communion and was confirmed into the Catholic Church. The majority of my friends were not sitting in the pew; instead they were singing from the choir loft. The music they provided was beautiful, emotion-evoking and enchanting. Throughout high school, we sang a mix of religious and secular music, but I always felt that the religious pieces were more empowering and provided more satisfaction. Religious music played a great deal in my decision to pursue and understand a faith, my faith.

As a freshman seeking extracurricular activities, I knew what I was looking for. I definitely had to be a part of, and the Liturgical Choir was a perfect match for me. Days after trying out, I received an email informing me that I had been accepted and that rehearsal was later that week, it was an awesome feeling. The friends I made in the choir were very friendly and very enthusiastic about the work they did each week. Every minute spent with the Liturgical Choir was a minute I spent closer to understanding my faith, my faith.

When I had decided that Catholicism was the faith that I had been searching for, I wasted no time and was ready to commit myself. When I found out the Liturgy for Christian Initiation for Adults class conflicts every Sunday with the 10 a.m. Mass that the Liturgical Choir sings at, I was torn; do I pursue the music I love or the faith I love? Thankfully, I did not have to choose one over the other; through the collaboration of Dr. Andrew McShane, my choir director, and the Dillons, who ran the RCIA and Confirmation classes, I was thrown into a hectic schedule where I would attend rehearsals, extra classes, and extra Masses each week. I was willing to do whatever was necessary. Through this hectic schedule I was able to meet my current godfather, Scott Boyle, who was the greatest teacher, supporter and friend I could have ever met. He patiently answered every question I had concerning Catholicism and was with me every step of the way.

This passing Easter break was the most important weekend in all of my life. It was a period of spiritual and moral transformation. I needed Catholicism because it gave me something to believe in and hope for. It completed me.

Giving me something to believe in and hope for. It completed me. I gave me something to believe in and hope for. It completed me. It was for. It completed me. I gave me something to believe in and hope for. It completed me.

I enjoyed living in a society where social debate can take place and where people have differences of opinions and can discuss them intelligently. This is what caused me to upload an image of a blue X with the description: “Here’s my take on the issue: Marriage is between a man and a woman.” I have an equal right to make my social and political leanings known as those who prefer to show their support for the national recognition of homosexual marriage.

Through five minutes of my sharing of this image, a Facebook friend of mine who I admittedly do not know very well commented “lol” (laughing out loud). As I read the comment, I noticed that he had changed his profile picture to the red “X”. I also had friends that had liked my picture, but I was taken aback by this comment. Why do you have the right to share your opinion without negative feedback? I would never think of commenting negatively on someone else’s profile, but as soon as someone offers a different perspective, you belittle their opinion? I am a firm defender of the freedom of religion and of speech, as well as a firm defender of marriage being exclusively between a man and a woman. I decided to message this Facebook friend of mine and let him know that respecting different opinions is more mature than belittling them. I tried to be as polite as possible so as to not come across as angry, which I wasn’t. He responded by calling me an unintelligent hypocrite for connecting religion and marriage. He then challenged me to defend the exclusive meaning of marriage being between a man and a woman, and it is this that encouraged me to write this article. I have noticed a trend in many leftist social ideological groups that want their beliefs to be legally recognized as equal, but these same groups are the first to call someone a homophobe or a racist for simply disagreeing with them. If you are preaching equality, then the first step is to respect others’ beliefs as your own. In reality, opinions are not in fact equal, and those that are objectively reliant on fact are indeed superior to mere whimsical feelings.

I stand firm in my belief that marriage is indeed a relationship between a man and a woman and cannot be interpreted to cover any domestic or sexual interaction between two people. Marriage is a religious term, properly referred to as matrimony, and as much as critics like to argue that it should be a secular recognition, it simply is not. Many of the first recordings of marriage are present in the Bible, and it has always been ceremonial and surrounding the joining of a man and a woman for the purposes of starting a family. In this sense, marriage is simply not possible between two members of the same gender. The sexual context of marriage is meant to be both uniting and procreative. It is, naturally, physically impossible for two members of the same gender to bear children. If this aspect of sexual intercourse is removed, and it is viewed simply as an act to be performed at ones will, which is what is essentially being argued, then why is prostitution and bestiality both illegal and immoral? It is near impossible to leave the Church out of a defense of marriage because marriage is a religious term. Even without religion, the natural state of the human body only permits procreation between a man and a woman. Without this aspect, all traditional purposes of marriage are nullified.

The United States was founded by a group of intelligent and mature men who imprinted our currency with what was an important motto for them: “In God we trust.” If they founded this country having trusted in God, then why should America change to accommodate the minority with dissenting opinions, contrary to our nations character? I have been called a homophobe by bigots in the past, but I view all humans equally, as does the Church. Loving your brother or sister who self-identifies as a homosexual does not mean that you must support a destruction of the significance of marriage. The Church clearly wants to welcome all human beings no matter how they feel. I draw the line in the same place as the Church however, which is that sex and inherently marriage are reserved for monogamous, heterosexual relationships. I am a firm believer in true equality of marriage; equality of marriages of different races, different economic standing, and different practices, but marriage is marriage.

Mark Gianfalla was recently elected President of College Republicans and Morrissey Hall. He can be contacted at mgianfalla@nd.edu

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

Carter Boyd
God, Country, Notre Dame

Skittles’ commercials a few years back asked people to taste the colors of the rainbow in their chewy fruity candies. Similarly, the homosexual-ity movement that is being pushed in today’s culture seeks to see the colors of their rainbow. I have spent much time in thought, prayer, dialogue and research trying to understand the many aspects of the push for gay rights in America. With my deep faith, guidance in prayer and love as a Christian, I outline my conclusions.

Culture’s latest social justice fad has been the gay movement, attracting attention on television news, Twitter and Facebook. The sign for the “gay equality” propaganda scheme has been an equal sign. I was shocked to see many of my friends turn a red equal sign into their profile pictures on Facebook, especially since I find one of the greatest arguments against the gay movement to be in this very picture. As representation of a homosexual civil union, the equal sign consists of two exactly indistinguishable bars with the same orientation that forever remained distanced from one another.

To combat the equal sign, I also saw many of my friends post red crosses representing their pro-traditional marriage values. The cross accurately displays and describes the beauty of a marriage between a man and a woman. The cross: a juxtaposition of two different orientations which perfectly fuse into one single shape.

I do not refer to this as “gay marriage” because it does not exist. Marriage is a covenant between a man and a woman. Clarifying the word marriage with the word gay is a juxtaposition and oxymoron. It doesn’t work.

As a Catholic in such a troubled world, I have spent much time loving and benevolent God who wants the best for his people. This same God created man and woman so that the two shall become one unified in love for one another and love for their creator through God’s gift of sexuality to them. This same God created every person in his likeness, in his image, through his love for us. He created us with our strengths, weaknesses, good and bad qualities.

Some use this argument to justify homosexuality. Being gay or lesbian or undecided must be okay, because God made me this way. As a society, we don’t use the “God made this person that way” argument to justify the behaviors of alcoholics, murderers, rapists, adulterers, robbers, swine,ildoers, cheaters and thieves.

Why do people use this argument for homosexuals?

Then, people turn away from God and say, “God and gays should have freedom to get married in America for tax purposes. It shouldn’t even be about religion or God.” I ask, why not? In time, the United States of America will dissolve, fall apart, and our seemingly important rights, freedoms and Constitution will all be lost. All people, however, will have to answer to the Kingdom of God and Jesus Christ, His beloved Son Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit. So why should we make laws defying the will of God’s eternal, glorious and all-powerful kingdom?

For non-believers, homosexuality also clearly defies the rules of nature. The purpose of any living being’s existence is to survive and produce a viable offspring. Animals (humans included) are designed to produce offspring. In nature, there is no way for homosexuality to produce offspring whereas heterosexual relationships do in fact produce offspring. That’s why the human race still exists: because we aren’t gay.

Comrades often point out that practices of homosexuality have been a part of human history. Most of the major prominent civilizations, Greece, Egypt, Rome and now the United States, have all had cultural fads of expressing homosexuality in some form. These crazes and fashions of homosexuality have only developed in lavish, wasteful societies whose people seek pleasure more than anything else. Historically, the homosexuality mania disappeared and reappeared many times throughout human history, but heterosexual remained, and for good reason. Without marriage between man and woman, humanity would have no future.

Despite all these arguments against the possibility of gay civil unions forming in America, I also demand that we show compassion, love and respect to all people in this world, following Jesus’ example. There is no room for hate. As humans, we are all journeying through a life filled with hardship, suffering and pain, but united in faith and peace we can find joy, happiness and comfort in the most desolate waters. But just like Jesus, loving a person is different from tolerating the sin that they commit. Jesus loved some of the wickedest people in his time: tax collectors, prostitutes and criminals. Jesus loved them, but he didn’t accept their sin; he urged them to repent and live their lives in accordance with the will of His Father so that they too as sinners could come to share in the Kingdom of God. We must find a way to enter the hearts of those in our communities who struggle with homosexuality, love them, teach them, pray with them, heal them and change their hearts and lives.

Pope Francis as the Cardinal of Buenos Aires proclaimed the gay movement as a “destructive attack on God’s plan” led by the devil. Somewhere over the rainbow, this issue will be settled. I pray and hope that we lovingly stand firm and fight for God’s will and His Kingdom.

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

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

The (N)ot (R)esponsible (A)ssociation

Adam Newman
Science Previa Year

The most anticipated statement after the horrific shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School was that of Wayne LaPierre, the Executive Vice President of the National Rifle Association (NRA), an organization that represents four million gun owners. Due to its passionate member base and deep financial resources, the NRA is one of the most powerful lobbies in Washington.

Mr. LaPierre’s address was disappointing, but not surprising from an organization that has historically evaded responsibility for gun violence. To his credit, he began by offering condolences to Newtown and the affected families. And that was about where reason in his speech ended and blinding ideology kicked in. He went on to blame everyone, every politician who pass gun controls and the media and everything (violent video games and movies) without mentioning the role that guns played in the shooting. This is comparable to a life-time smoker blaming their lung cancer on everything except cigarettes.

Mr. LaPierre did offer a solution to prevent another Sandy Hook, though: ensuring every school has an armed guard, an idea which may have merit, but is certainly no silver bullet. Notable gun control measures occur in the presence of armed personnel, such as at Columbine. Placing armed guards at every school also does not take into account the many other places shootings take place: gas stations, street corners, mosques and malls, nor does it take into account accidents or other risks that guns create when brought into a public place or home. Placing an armed guard in every school that currently does not have one (roughly 2/3 of schools) is estimated to cost $4 billion annually, a large sum at a time when local and state governments are struggling with fiscal issues. As expected, Mr. LaPierre offered this solution without any promise.

This brings me to what Mr. LaPierre left out of his address: a call for new gun restrictions and regulations. Not asking for them should be considered political malpractice. By standing fast on refusing to endorse any new measures for gun controls and filling the airwaves with (unlikely) hypothetical situations and refusal that government can do anything to curb violence, LaPierre is alienating his organization from both the American public and its own members. LaPierre should realize that not endorsing even common sense gun controls after a tragedy such as Newtown will only hurt the standing of the NRA and its members, which will make it easier for new gun controls to pass in the future.

One can argue that Mr. LaPierre is simply reflecting the beliefs of NRA members by the Creeds of Gun ownership. His beloved Son Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit. So why should we make laws defying the will of God’s eternal, glorious and all-powerful kingdom? For non-believers, homosexuality also clearly defies the rules of nature. The purpose of any living being’s existence is to survive and produce a viable offspring. Animals (humans included) are designed to produce offspring. In nature, there is no way for homosexuality to produce offspring whereas heterosexual relationships do in fact produce offspring. That’s why the human race still exists: because we aren’t gay.

Comrades often point out that practices of homosexuality have been a part of human history. Most of the major prominent civilizations, Greece, Egypt, Rome and now the United States, have all had cultural fads of expressing homosexuality in some form. These crazes and fashions of homosexuality have only developed in lavish, wasteful societies whose people seek pleasure more than anything else. Historically, the homosexuality mania disappeared and reappeared many times throughout human history, but heterosexual remained, and for good reason. Without marriage between man and woman, humanity would have no future.

Despite all these arguments against the possibility of gay civil unions forming in America, I also demand that we show compassion, love and respect to all people in this world, following Jesus’ example. There is no room for hate. As humans, we are all journeying through a life filled with hardship, suffering and pain, but united in faith and peace we can find joy, happiness and comfort in the most desolate waters. But just like Jesus, loving a person is different from tolerating the sin that they commit. Jesus loved some of the wickedest people in his time: tax collectors, prostitutes and criminals. Jesus loved them, but he didn’t accept their sin; he urged them to repent and live their lives in accordance with the will of His Father so that they too as sinners could come to share in the Kingdom of God. We must find a way to enter the hearts of those in our communities who struggle with homosexuality, love them, teach them, pray with them, heal them and change their hearts and lives.

Pope Francis as the Cardinal of Buenos Aires proclaimed the gay movement as a “destructive attack on God’s plan” led by the devil. Somewhere over the rainbow, this issue will be settled. I pray and hope that we lovingly stand firm and fight for God’s will and His Kingdom.

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The views expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.
One of the most striking scenes shows the group of eight sitting in a circle, tears running down their faces as each one confesses his or her biggest struggle, fear or weakness. This moment shows how truly connected the students became after just a few days together. They all feel comfortable revealing these personal attributes with each other, and we become convinced that the cultural wall has been torn down.

The relationship between two of the students, David and Rochd, is given special attention and highlights the absolute dissolution of the “border” between the two cultures. These two students in particular form a special bond that arises from their shared humor and bright personalities. They joke together, laugh together and yet are still able to talk seriously and find the root of the problem of the cultural border.

David describes Rochd as a full force, taking up all of your attention and completely capturing you with his presence. At the very end of the film, as David is back in his New York apartment, Rochd prank calls him, bringing David to unstoppable laughter and showing the deep friendship formed after just a week together. This ends the film with a sense of hopefulness that the results of the experiment will be permanent.

Because the students in this documentary are around the same age as us, it was especially empowering and inspirational. After finishing the 70-minute film, I thought about what my experience would be like if I were to join a similar experiment, and I gain more respect for all eight students for being brave enough to face such a challenge. Simply put, the documentary captured my attention and sparked my interest in the cultural border.
By MAGGIE WAICKMAN
Scene Writer

The ever-increasing submissions to ND Confessions prove Notre Dame students are searching for authenticity. ND Confessions, a Facebook page that allows people to anonymously submit their secrets, has posted over 500 confessions in the past two weeks and claims to have received over 20,000 confessions. Donors have secrets, and we want to share them.

The catch: we just don’t want anyone to know they are our secrets.

This past weekend, “show some skin: it’s complicated” brought a selection of Notre Dame students’ secrets to the stage. This theatrical production consisted of 27 monologues which all revolved around topics of personal identity. Similar to ND Confessions, “show some skin” allows for completely anonymous truth telling. All monologues are anonymously submitted, and other Notre Dame students then perform these monologues.

This year’s production of “Show Some Skin” branched out from the direction of last year’s debut production. Last year’s “Show Some Skin: The Race Monologues” focused solely on topics of race and ethnicity at Notre Dame. This year, the monologues were broadened to any identity-related topic. During one performance, we heard monologues about sexuality, race, class, gender and mental illness to name a few.

It is hard to explain precisely why I loved “show some skin.” The format and timing of the show—two and a half hours of heartfelt, straight-to-the-audience monologues on a Friday night—could be called a recipe for disaster on a college campus.

Perhaps I loved “Show Some Skin” because some of the pieces were legitimately brilliant. “Crayola,” a monologue about a gay Asian’s quest to fit in as Asian, as a gay man and as a human, was hilarious. The monologue opens with the author remembering the horrors of attempting to pick a skin-tone color from the Crayola box in kindergarten, going back and forth between tan and peach. This heavy topic, however, was quickly followed by the audience’s laughter. The author remembered a fellow kindergartner observing his tan-crayon skin-tone self-portrait, and this peer asking him, “did you fall in the mud?” The author snapped back to this white peer, “no, bitch, did you fall in the sour cream?” This monologue continued in this style, altering between heavy secrets and hilarious one-liners.

Perhaps I loved “Show Some Skin” because it wasn’t about the monologues, the cast or the production crew — it was about the Notre Dame community. The production concluded with all cast members coming onto stage as a small ND Confession-like secret was read, and this scene ended with the cast calling the audience to, “be bold.” It was unclear whether these closing secrets belonged to the actors proclaiming them or if the actors were indeed revealing a small part of themselves to the audience. The beauty, however, was that it didn’t really matter. Maybe we don’t really need the veil of anonymity that ND Confessions and “Show Some Skin” provide because everyone is a little bit complicated.

If you are interested in trying to be a little bit bold yourself, you can attend the post-show discussions on Friday from 6-8 p.m. in the Notre Dame Room of LaFortune.

Contact Maggie Waickman at mwaickma@nd.edu
Betting on the Masters

Isaac Lorton
Sports Writer

The observer

The overblown March Madness has finally come to an end, so what sporting event do you bet on next? Bet on the Masters. It is a time-les American tradition and probably the only golf tournament most people actually watch for enjoyment. And don’t just bet on it for fun, but for the entertainment as well. Here are a few stories that deserve to be looked at further.

3-1 — Tiger Woods

As of now, Tiger Woods is listed at 3-1 odds for winning the green jacket according to Vegas insider. What would a golf story be without Tiger Woods? Whether you love him or hate the guy, his presence makes golf more interesting. He is back as the No. 1 golfer in the world and he is back as the projected winner for every tournament here on out. If Tiger wins, he will bring his green jacket total to five. With five, Woods will surpass Arnold Palmer (the bever- age mogul) and be within one title of Jack Nicklaus’ six Masters victories.

If ETI Tiger is a winner come Sunday, it will mark his first Masters title since the great infini- dility fiasco of 2009. If all of this is not enough motivation for Tiger to win, then the new Nike ad featur- ing Tiger saying, “Winning takes care of everything,” will be sure to get the job done. It is an extremely polarizing ad, some people claim the ad shows his hubris, arrogance and the flaw in his singular mind-set that winning will cure all of the events that took place in his life recently. But should we really hold athletes to a higher standard outside of their profession? He did not cheat, at least not in the game of golf. He just wants to get back to his job and his job (and what is expected from golf fans) is simply to win.

14,000-1 — Guan Tianlang

Guan Tianlang does not actually have odds listed on Vegas insider. — he is part of the “field” category at 201-1 — so I made one up for him. 14,000 seemed appropria- te because Tiger is 15 years old. Oh, 14 years and five months, apologies. The Chinese eighth- grader received the invite to the Masters after winning the Asia- Pacific Amateur Championship last November. To celebrate his arrival at Augusta, Tianlang said he brought homework. He will be the youngest person ever to compete in the Masters, breaking the previous record of age 16 by Matteo Manassero in 2010. Both Jack Nicklaus and Tiger Woods were 19 years old when they made their first Masters ap- pearance. Tianlang was six years old when Tiger Woods won his last Masters in 2005 and was not born yet when Woods won his first in 1997. Although the odds are against him (including mine), I hope Tianlang makes the cut, because imagine what you were doing when you were 14.

8 1 and 16 — Rory and Lefty

Rory McIlroy (8/1) and Phil “Lefty” Mickelson (8/1) are ranked second and third respectively to win the Masters by Vegas insider. Why did I group these two guys together? Because they are both in the shadow of Tiger Woods. Even when Woods was rehabbing, the media still talked about Woods more. Once McIlroy was picked up by Nike, the comparisons to Woods began faster than Woods backing out of his driveway as his wife chased him down with a nine-iron.

And none of these comparisons were warranted. They are two different players, with two differ- ent styles and demeanors. It has added an unnecessary pressure to McIlroy and the pressure seems to have had an effect on him so far this season. Yet, McIlroy has proven himself to be a new young contender for the green jacket, so the 8:1 odds are warranted.

Then there is poor old Phil. His whole career has been dominated by being second best to Tiger, but if he is victorious this weekend, he will bring his jacket total to four for his career. McIlroy believes fields have nor- mally had no chance to win the Masters, but along comes Lefty to knock Tiger down from the mountain and even out the score. It might be that Mickelson went to Arizona State or possibly that he is a great guy, but whatever it is, I hope the 10/1 odds work out for him this weekend.

Contact Isaac Lorton at ilorton@ nd.edu.
The views expressed in this Sports Authority are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.

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The Masters

Associated Press

AUGUSTA, Ga.— There was a time not long ago when Britain’s golfers ruled Augusta National like no other country. Now, the lat- est group of talented Brits is deter- mined to end the empire’s 17-year dominance at the Masters.

England’s Justin Rose ranks third in the world and country- man Luke Donald is No. 4. Ian Poilter and Lee Westwood give Britain four of the world’s top 13 players, second only to the United States’ six. And none of the British stars have broken through at the majors — something they hope to change when the Masters starts Thursday.

All four have excelled in Europe’s recent Ryder Cup tri- umphs and all four have con- Tribute to Augusta National. So doesn’t it seem surprising none have yet to slip on the green jacket?


That’s when the winning stopped for British competitors.

Nothing surprises me in golf anymore,” said Donald, the for- mer No. 1.

Donald has come close here twice before, tying for third be- hind Tiger Woods — remember the hole out from the bunker on No. 16 — in 2005 and then fin- ishing fourth six years later when champion Charl Schwartzel led his round with four straight birdies.

Donald believes fields have be- come stronger over time, mean- ing more golfers have the chance to rise up on a given week.

Poilter, a Ryder Cup hero at Medinah last September, has had two top 10 finishes here includ- ing a seventh behind champion Bubba Watson last April. Poilter believes they simply haven’t been good enough on this given week.

“I think the guys are disap- pointed, to be honest, that one of the guys would have expected to have come through by now “ he said. “What’s the reason for that? Don’t know.

There are a couple of major the- ories, though. Tiger Woods and Phil Mickelson have won half of the 16 Masters played since Faldo’s final victory. Two South Africans have broken through in Trevor Immelman (2008) and Schwartzel two years ago. A European’s last Masters win was in 1999 when Jose Maria Olazabal took his second championship. Faldo slipped the green jacket on the shoulders of a young Woods in 1997 and Britain hasn’t gotten it back since.

Rose, the world’s highest- ranked Brit, has three top 11 fin- ishes in seven previous Masters, including the past two years. He rose to eighth a year ago with a fi- nal round 68 and he likes the way he’s playing this year.

“So I feel like it is a course that I can win on,” Rose said.

But Rose knows he’s not alone in that belief. With its wide-open fairways and less punitive ar- eas when you don’t land in the short grass, big hitters can wind up and let it fly. Look throughout Thursday’s pairings and there are many number of people like Watson, Rory McIlroy, Keegan Bradley and Phil Mickelson, Rose says, capable of moving on top.

“So I don’t feel like I have any particular advantage over those guys,” he said. “But yes, I do feel like it’s a course that I can do well on.”

Westwood, the oldest of the four top world-ranked Brits who turns 40 later this month, has had the most near misses at the Masters of all his countrymen. He held the second and third round leads in 2010 when Mickelson won and led after the opening round a year ago.

Westwood finished tied for third in 2012. He has struggled at times this year, but made the top 10 in his last event, the Houston Open, two weeks ago.

Donald thinks there’s no rhyme or reason why one group or an- other has success or falters at an event. Golf is a sucha singular men- tal game, he says, that it’s often the least fragile player that week who have the best chances — no mat- ter what country they’re from.

“Obviously there’s a bunch of great and good European play- ers right now,” Donald said. “We certainly have as good a chance this year as any other” to win the Masters.

Justin Rose tees off at the 14th hole during a practice round for the Masters in Augusta, Ga. on April 8.

‘Cause here we are/ We are shining
on the floor/ Close the door, hold
your breath/ It’s never right/ It’s never
what we are/ We are shining
star/ We are invisible/ We are who we are/ Oh our darkest day/ When we’re miles away/ Sun will come/ We will find our way home/ If you’re lost and alone/ Or you’re singing like a stoner
Carry on/ May your past be the sound
Of your feet upon the ground/ Carry on/ Who’s head is on fire but my legs are free/ After all
they are mine/ Lay your clothes down on the floor/ Close the door, hold the phone/ Show me how no one’s ever gonna stop us tonight
‘Cause here we are/ We are shining

‘Carry On’ - Fun.
Town & Gown

A Conversation with Mayor Pete Buttigieg and Student Body President Alex Coccia

Tomorrow, April 11 at 7:00 PM
Carey Auditorium, Hesburgh Library

Pete Buttigieg is the 32nd Mayor of South Bend, Indiana. A graduate of Harvard College and a Rhodes Scholar at the University of Oxford, Buttigieg was elected in 2011 as the youngest mayor of a U.S. city with at least 100,000 residents. Buttigieg is the co-founder of the Democratic Renaissance Project and a fellow at the Truman National Security Project. His commentary has appeared on NPR, The Boston Globe, The New York Times, and others.

Alex Coccia is the Student Body President at the University of Notre Dame. A native of Columbus, Ohio and a resident of Siegfried Hall, Coccia is a junior Africana Studies and Peace Studies major. He is a founding member of the 4-to-5 Movement and co-president of the Progressive Student Alliance.

Both will come together to discuss the current state of town and gown relations and outline a vision of progress in an event sponsored by Siegfried Hall and moderated by Dr. Robert Schmuhl, professor of American Studies.
Toronto suffers tough loss to Tigers

Associated Press

DETROIT — This isn’t the way Jose Reyes and the Toronto Blue Jays hoped to begin their season.

The Blue Jays, who spent millions during the winter to upgrade their roster, lost to Miguel Cabrera and the Detroit Tigers 7-3 Tuesday.

At 2-5, Toronto is off to its worst start since 2004.

“It’s still early. But if you’re going to win at this level, you’ve got to play good baseball,” Toronto manager John Gibbons said.

Two of those offseason acquisitions were productive in the loss.

Melky Cabrera had three hits and his first RBI for the Blue Jays, and moved past 1,000 career hits. Reyes had two hits, scored a run and drove in one.

“It’s only seven games, but in August or September we’re playing like this, it’s kind of hard to believe,” Reyes said.

“We’re not relaxing at all. We’re disappointed in the way we’ve played.”

Colby Rasmus hit his third home run in the Toronto ninth.

Brandon Morrow (0-1) gave up five runs and nine hits in 3 2-3 innings.

“Just didn’t make a pitch when I needed to,” Morrow said. “Probably, that was the story of the game.”

Miguel Cabrera hit first homer of the year and drove in four runs, left fielder Don Kelly made a home run-robbing catch and the Tigers pulled away.

Cabrera, coming off his Triple Crown season, had four hits and scored three times.

“He’s the best right-handed hitter I’ve ever seen,” Tigers newcomer Torii Hunter said.

“He did a nice job. He held us in check and went deep into the game for them.”

Drew Smyly and Al Alburquerque combined to pitch the eighth. Joaquin Benoit worked the ninth and gave up Cody Rasmus’ solo home run.

Cabrera hit an opposite-field liner just over the fence in right for a three-run homer in the fourth for a 5-1 lead.

His 100th career home run at Comerica Park came after Austin Jackson and Hunter singled, and finished Morrow.

Cabrera added a run-scoring single and Matt Tuiasosopo had an RBI double in the eighth.

Detroit took a 1-0 lead in the first on Prince Fielder’s RBI double off the wall in right-center. He drove in Cabrera, who singled with two outs.

Avila’s second home run of the season made it 2-0 in the second. He homered on Morrow’s first pitch of the inning — it was the first pitch Avila saw since the birth of his first child, Avery Noelle, on Sunday.

The Blue Jays got a run in the third on Emilio Bonifacio’s triple and Reyes’ single.

Blue Jays starting pitcher Brandon Morrow throws a pitch during Toronto’s 7-3 loss to the Tigers on Tuesday at Comerica Park. At 2-5, the Blue Jays are off to their worst start since 2004.
Belles return home for Hope doubleheader

By CASEY KARNES
Sports Writer

The Belles return home Wednesday after an inconsistent weekend and hope to get back above .500 when they take on Hope in a doubleheader.

The Belles (10-10, 2-0 MIAA) have been inconsistent this season, often pairing winning streaks with losing streaks. This past weekend continued that pattern, opening with a dominating pair of games against Albion.

The Belles protected their home field with a 9-4 victory followed by a 21-4 offensive outburst that gave them a five-inning victory via mercy rule. Junior pitcher Callie Selner earned the win in the first game by pitching all seven innings, and freshman pitcher Sarah Burke rode the offense to a win in the second game.

The pitching was backed up by six home runs: one by senior captain and shortstop Emily Sherwood, two by freshman third baseman Kayla Chapman and three by freshman first baseman Jillian Busfield. Senior captain and catcher Morgan Bedan, who also played well with three hits in the second game, said she believes Busfield’s offensive explosion could be a sign of good things to come.

“[Busfield] had a great week. She’s worked very hard to get where she is; she’s playing a new position, but she’s done very well,” Bedan said.

As long as she continues her hard work, there should be a lot more to come from her.”

The offense willed in the second doubleheader of the weekend however. The Belles managed only three runs on the road against North Park on Sunday, falling 1-0 and 6-3. Selner took the loss in the first game despite allowing one run, and Bedan said the Belles need to support their pitchers more.

“(Our focus is) being smart and consistent hitters. We need to support our pitchers,” Bedan said. “We need to have better at-bats and be smarter hitters. We did this well on Saturday, but struggled to adjust on Sunday. We need to be more cognizant of our game plan.”

Wednesday will bring the Belles a matchup with another undefeated team in Hope (12-10, 4-0). The Flying Dutch have opened the conference season on a tear, but that will not affect the Belles’ preparation for them, according to Bedan.

“Almost every team in this conference is competitive,” Bedan said. “We know the teams that are traditionally more competitive, but we still have to prepare well for every game. It doesn’t matter if it’s Trine or Kalamazoo.”

With the extra pressure of conference play, the Belles can relax knowing their next few games are at home. So far this season the Belles are a perfect 4-0 at home, with two victories via mercy rule. The Hope games begin a stretch of three straight home doubleheaders.

Bedan believes in home field advantage, but also said the Belles can’t get complacent.

“We love playing at home, there’s no question about that,” Bedan said. “It is definitely a much more comfortable situation, we are much more familiar with the field and field conditions. It doesn’t give us an outright advantage over Hope, but it helps.”

Saint Mary’s hosts Hope in a doubleheader at 3:30 p.m. on Wednesday.

Contact Casey Karnes at wkarnes@nd.edu

Michigan

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

score a fourth Michigan run, bringing the tally to 4-1 in favor of the Wolverines.

“All I was trying to do was catch the ball, and once I caught it, it was just chaos,” Markson said of the play. “That was one of the most chaotic plays I’ve ever been a part of in my 15 years of playing baseball.”

Though freshman righthander Nick McCarty pitched two solid innings of relief, the Irish could not climb back, stranding two more runners in the eighth inning and going quietly in the ninth inning to end the game.

After a four-game win streak, Notre Dame now finds itself on the losing end of two straight, a trend it will try to turn around against Eastern Michigan today, who enters with a 14-16 record after taking two out of three in its latest series against Bowling Green.

Markson said it’s sometimes difficult to find the drive to play mid-week games without the buildup and excitement of a weekend series, something the team needs to correct starting with Notre Dame’s matchup with the Eagles.

“I think we need to take more pride in these mid-week games, and just figure out a way to win,” he said. “We’re on our home field, and we shouldn’t lose on our home field, and we just need to figure out how to become tougher and win these games, overcome a little bit of adversity because we’ve lost two in a row.”

The Irish will try to pick up a win against the Eagles tonight at Frank Eck Stadium, with first pitch coming from sophomore righthander Matt Ternowchek at 5:35 p.m.

Contact Mary Green at mgreen8@nd.edu
The Belles have made it look easy in back-to-back 9-0 victories. But Wednesday’s conference matches against Albion will be different, as one team will have to suffer its first conference loss of the season.

The Britons (5-6, 4-2 MIAA) Saint Mary’s (6-4, 2-0). Belles coach Dale Campbell said he knows Albion will be a tougher opponent than Olivet or Judson, who Saint Mary’s faced in their last two meets. The Belles will have to be on top of their game and they cannot play defensively, Campbell said.

“Albion will definitely be tougher than our last two opponents,” Campbell said. “It will depend on our ability to go for our shots, to be aggressive and to not wait for things to happen. We must make them happen.”

Conference meets are critical for the Belles who had a shot at fourth place in the conference last year as an inexperienced, young team. Only two players had collegiate experience prior to the season, and a crop of freshmen filled out the roster. The Belles ended up falling to seventh, thanks to a 3-5 mark in conference matches in 2012.

Now that they have the experience, the Belles hope to improve on last season’s showing. For Campbell, improving conference performance starts with finding the right mindset. Saint Mary’s will have to exhibit heightened mental toughness when they face Albion if they hope to better last year’s conference record, he said.

“Certainly there is a different mindset,” Campbell said. “We want to beat our rivals a bit more and we want to make the conference tournament.”

Saint Mary’s currently sits at third in its conference, but there is a lot of time left in the season. Making the conference tournament depends on how much success the Belles can achieve moving forward.

Team success in tennis comes down to individual performance, and Campbell said he sees many opportunities for individual growth. “Everyone has that potential,” Campbell said. “Potential means nothing without determination to improve, however. Basically, we have to know our strengths and focus on them and use them shot after shot. There is no time to let up now. All shots matter.”

Saint Mary’s takes on conference rival Albion at home today at 4 p.m.

Contact Samantha Zuba at szuba@nd.edu

By SAMANTHA ZUBA
Sports Writer

“The potential means nothing without determination to improve.”
Dale Campbell
Belles coach

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CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Elle Fanning, 15; Kristen Stewart, 23; Leighton Meester, 27; Dennis Quaid, 59

Happy Birthday: pump things up a bit. Set your goals and make them happen. Change will be required, but impatience and impulse must be controlled. Love is on the rise, and letting your passion lead the way mentally, physically and emotionally will help you establish standards for anyone wishing to engage in a personal or professional relationship with you. Your numbers are 8, 13, 16, 23, 28, 36, 44.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): You have lots to offer and will be able to move into a leadership position if you step up and show your skills. Don’t let emotions or nervousness stand between you and getting ahead. Stay active will encourage meeting new people.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Scrutinize your position and what is required to bypass some of the hurdles you’ve been facing personally and professionally. Don’t let someone’s uncertainty unnerve you. Leap into the forefront because you want to, not because you are being pressured.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Use your ability to express your concern to make reforms. Take a position of leadership even if a project seems daunting. A partnership will prove to be exactly what you need in order to achieve your personal or professional goals.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You’ll be taken advantage of if you are too intent on taking over. Sit back and let others pay the price. You can be responsible and maintain your freedom to manage and take care of what you consider to be most important. Delegate wisely.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Enjoy friends, lovers and pastimes. Make changes that will improve your daily routine and motivate you to get involved in exciting adventures. Expanding your friendships and updating your look and your life will revitalize you. Proceed with passion.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Avoid getting involved in a financial deal that makes you uncomfortable. Donations and handouts must be kept to a minimum. Children, friends, lovers and even older relatives can cost you if you can’t say no. Discipline will be your salvation.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Get everyone around you fired up and eager to help. You won’t please everyone, but as long as you get the momentum flowing, you stand a good chance of reaching your goals. Love is on the rise and celebrations will be exhilarating.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Listen carefully and let your intuition guide you. Don’t fold under pressure or let someone’s anxiety drag you down. Express your feelings with unfiltered truth and protect what you have worked hard to achieve.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Choose what and who you enjoy the most to be in your future. Love and romance along with socializing and entertainment should be high on your list. A personal update will bring in compliments that will help build your confidence.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Don’t share your thoughts or your plans. You’ll face opposition that leads to setbacks if you are not discreet. A friendship will face turbulence due to a difference of opinions. Put more time and effort into developing and securing your professional goals.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You’ve got more going for you than you realize. Share your thoughts and explore unusual ways to utilize your skills, talents and expertise. Friendships are on the rise, and meaning with people from your past will be a pleasant surprise.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Test the people around you. Ask questions and determine if and how others can contribute to your plans. Refuse to be pushed into making a premature decision. Flesh out your ideas and take care of important relationships.

Birthday Baby: You have courage and charisma. You are aggressive and a humanitarian.

DAILY

The Observer

Published Monday through Friday, The Observer is a vital source of information on people and events in the Notre Dame and Saint Mary’s Community.

Join the more than 13,000 readers who have found The Observer an indispensable link to the two campuses. Please complete the accompanying form and mail it today to receive The Observer in your home.
By MARY GREEN
Sports Writer

Coming into its matchup against Midwestern rival Michigan, No. 18 Notre Dame hoped to get a win to rebound from its loss Sunday to Villanova.

However, the Irish (19-11, 4-5 Big East) could not climb back from an early deficit and fell 4-1 to the Wolverines (17-14, 4-2 Big Ten).

Despite the evening’s gusty conditions, the team got off to a solid start as freshman starting pitcher David Hearne retired the first six batters he faced, collecting three strikeouts through two innings. However, Michigan junior catcher Cole Martin got on base with a double in the top of the third inning, advanced to third on a sacrifice bunt and scored the game’s first run on a wild pitch with two outs.

After another Wolverines run in the fourth, junior right hander Donnie Hisa replaced Hearne and quickly gave up an RBI double to Michigan sophomore designated hitter Kevin White to bring the score to 3-0.

Notre Dame was not able to capitalize on early scoring opportunities, leaving four runners on base through four innings. The team scored its only run in the bottom of the sixth, after freshman right fielder Zak Kutsulis led off with a double and came home on a hard-hit single by junior third baseman Eric Jagielo.

The wackiest play of the evening came in the next inning on a bases-loaded hit from Michigan sophomore second baseman Eric Johnson to centerfield. It was not immediately clear if Notre Dame senior center fielder Charlie Markson made the diving catch, but he threw the ball in to try to get the Michigan runners on third and first out, resulting in what had the potential to be a rare triple play if Markson did grab the ball before it hit the grass.

After much deliberation, the umpires ruled that Markson did make the catch and force an out at first but the runners on second and third successfully tagged up to advance and

Mid-week blues
Irish drop rivalry game against Wolverines, prepare for Eastern Michigan contest

By MEGAN FINNERAN
Sports Writer

Northwestern scored nine runs in the fifth inning to erase an early Irish lead as the Wildcats pulled away from Notre Dame for an 11-3 victory Tuesday night in Evanston, Ill. “In the fifth inning we just did not play Notre Dame softball,” senior pitcher Brittany O’Donnell said. “We didn’t shut the door.”

Irish senior catcher Amy Buntin loaded the bases in the top of the first inning, but the inning ended with all runners stranded when Northwestern senior center fielder Kristin Scharkey caught the last out.

The Wildcats (20-14) took a 1-0 lead with a home run from sophomore outfielder Olivia Duehr before Notre Dame junior pitcher Laura Winter closed out the inning.

The Irish (26-10) loaded the bases again in the third and tallied three runs to go up 3-1. Junior outfielder Lauren Sturh scored first to tie the game 1-1 and a single from Buntin scored sophomore outfielder Emilie Koerner and freshman pinch runner Carly Piccinich.

Notre Dame entered the fourth leading 3-1.

Northwestern captured another run in the fourth to narrow the gap to 3-2.

In the bottom of the fifth, the Wildcats exploded. Junior infielder Marisa Bast tied the game with a hit to center field. Then sophomore outfielder Andrea DiPrima hit a double to stake the Wildcats to a 4-3 lead. Northwestern added seven more runs to turn the game into a one-sided affair.

“When we play Notre Dame softball we can beat anyone,” O’Donnell said. “Today we did not do that and allowed a team to hang with us who shouldn’t have.”

Now the squad must push past the loss as it hosts Toledo (9-23) tonight. The Rockets come directly off a split against Oakland yesterday, winning the first game 6-2 before losing the second 9-7.

Senior second baseman Courtney McCarthy leads the Rockets at the plate with a .384 average and a .500 average