Students adjust to new environment

International freshmen experience American culture

By CHARLIE DUCEY
News Writer

Notre Dame’s newest freshman class contains 350 international students, representing 70 different countries. Last week, all of these students participated in International Student Orientation, which aimed to help foreign students adjust to an American university.

McKenna Pencak, assistant director of communications and outreach, said the orientation process for international students differs from the traditional freshman orientation. International Student Orientation, which took place during a four-day orientation, aimed to make transfer students’ transition into the Notre Dame family as smooth as possible.

“Our goal during orientation is focused on helping them adjust to Notre Dame, the community and making new friends right from the start,” Pencak said. “We especially emphasize what it really is as simple as that,” Tarnacki said. “There isn’t another career choice I could make that would give me the fulfillment of working with the young men and women that come here.”

Krough Hall rector Pat Reidy, a seminarian who lived in Sorin College as an undergraduate, said Notre Dame’s Holy Cross heritage is his inspiration for becoming a rector.

“Notre Dame would become a powerful means for good, that its graduates would be good people who cared deeply about the world and one another,” Reidy said. “That lofty dream is shaped into the work of family, an ideal strongly resonant with my own upbringing and my discernment of religious life in Holy Cross.”

Reidy, who will be ordained a priest next year, said his only long-term plan is to preside over Mass in the dorm.

“I’m most looking forward to celebrating Mass in Kough’s the long-term plan is to preside over Mass in the dorm,” Reidy said.

Campus welcomes six new rectors

By TOBI ROECK
Associate News Editor

As the school year begins, new rectors are getting acclimated to their roles as community leaders and mentors in Cavanaugh Hall, O’Neill Hall and Ryan Hall.

All of the new rectors have studied at Notre Dame or Saint Mary’s College in the past and have returned to give back to a residential system that allowed them to grow.

O’Neill Hall rector Chris Tarnacki, who lived in the dorm as an undergraduate, said he felt called to be a rector because of the unique nature of Notre Dame’s residence life.

“I wanted to become a rector because I believe deeply in Notre Dame’s residential mission. It really is as simple as that,” Tarnacki said. “There isn’t another career choice I could make that would give me the fulfillment of working with the young men and women that come here.”

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Department offers new engineering majors

By LILY McGILL
News Writer

The Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering and Earth Sciences (CEEES) underwent a major rearrangement this year by adding environmental engineering and environmental earth science majors and removing a previously offered environmental geosciences major.

Dr. Elizabeth Kerr, director of undergraduate studies for the College of Engineering, said the department takes an interdisciplinary approach to the study of the environment.

“The new environmental engineering and earth sciences curriculum merges environmental earth systems, chemistry, hydrology and water flow and transport into a unique interdisciplinary curriculum focused on the environment at a range of scales,” Kerr said.

Previously, an environmental concentration was available through the CEEES department, but it was relatively unknown, Kerr said.

“Environmental Engineering

By MEG HANDELMAN
News Writer

Notre Dame’s 2013 transfer orientation, led by former transfer students Joseph Ragukonis and Heather Bartlow, welcomed 129 new Domers this past week during a four-day orientation.

Ragukonis said the purpose of transfer orientation is to make transfer students’ transition into the Notre Dame family as smooth as possible.

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By MEG HANDELMAN
News Writer
Question of the Day:

What is one event all freshmen should attend before they graduate Notre Dame?

Emma Kusters
junior
Lewis
“All the musicals.”

Catherine Clark
sophomore
Farley
“Muddy Sunday.”

Matthew Staffelbach
sophomore
Siegfried
“Anything with swing club.”

Carolyn Cones
junior
Farley
“Farley Fiasco and bobsledding on ice.”

Kevin Cloetinling
freshman
Alumni
“Rally in the Alley and the USC game.”

Lizzy Helping
senior
Lyons
“Fun, exciting, free stuff. And Activities Night.”

Two Morrisey residents share their mutual love of cycling at Main Circle. Tandem bicycles offer twice the pedaling power of conventional bicycles, with only slightly more frictional loss.
Saint Mary’s hosts summer leadership institute

By KAITLYN RABACH
Saint Mary’s Editor

Editor’s Note: A version of this article appeared in the South Bend Tribune on Aug. 24. Kaitlyn Rabach served as a student program coordinator for the Study of the United States Institute.

Saint Mary’s has a 169-year history of women’s leadership. The college’s founders, the Sisters of the Holy Cross, crossed many boundaries as they traveled from Indiana to Le Mans, France. Over the years the sisters have worked hard to meet the needs of the South Bend community through avenues like education and health care, while also acting globally.

Similarly, the students at this Catholic women’s college cross boundaries often, serving Michiana as volunteers and interns while choosing, in many cases, to study abroad. So notes Elaine Meyer-Lee, director of the college’s Center for Women’s Intercultural Leadership (CWIL).

For the second summer in a row, the college has connected the global community with South Bend’s local needs in a unique way. This year Saint Mary’s hosted 19 under-graduate women leaders from Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Libya and Tunisia for a five-week U.S. Department of State-sponsored program titled “Study of the United States Institute” (SUSI) for Student Leaders on Women’s Leadership.

“We are very gratified the State Department recognized the college’s accomplishments in promoting intercultural exchange by awarding us this grant,” Meyer-Lee said. “It is this type of exchange that broadens everyone’s horizons.”

This program not only offered global interaction for faculty and students at Saint Mary’s, but also for several service organizations in South Bend. Each of the 19 participants volunteered in the community for a total of 12 hours, Meyer-Lee said.

“For the participants’ curriculum, we cover various proficiencies we think women should acquire to become effective agents of change,” said Mana Derakhshani, the SUSI academic director and associate director of CWIL. “The theory they get in the classroom is reinforced with the practice at the service locations. This year’s service locations included the Center for the Homeless, Chiara Home El Campito, Hannah’s House, Hope Ministries, Saint Margaret’s House, Sister Brannick Clinic and North Central Indiana YWCA.

“We picked the locations carefully to fit the theme of women’s leadership and rights,” Meyer-Lee said. “Many of the service placements have strong women leaders running the programs and many of these places are focused on serving women’s needs, which dovetails with the curriculum.”

Derakhshani said many of the participants only knew about the United States from Hollywood movies and TV shows, contributing to misconceptions.

“They see extremes like gangsters and criminality as well as very rich and very plastic Hollywood images of women,” Derakhshani said. “The service component, among other aspects of this program, helps to debunk some of those stereotypes. This way, participants can meet individuals from diverse ethnic, racial and economic backgrounds.”

Anood, an 18-year-old Jordanian college student, tutors a young girl at Saint Margaret’s House in South Bend. Anood volunteered there as part of the Study of the United States Institute.

“Anood’s story is very motivating,” said Kathy Schneider, executive director of Saint Margaret’s House, said the young women have been working with the house’s Girls Club, which serves young girls from ages 8 to 13.

“This has been a very humanizing experience,” Schneider said. “These young girls see their world being much bigger than just their house and town. They then think if these girls could come all the way here maybe one day they could travel the world as well.”

Anood said her experience with the Girls Club was very much related to the concepts learned during her SUSI experience.

“The house is all about giving to people in need,” Anood said. “You give to them by being friends with them, by communicating with them and by becoming close to them rather than just offering them food, money or other needs.”

For most of these women, this type of service is not common in their home countries. Hajer, a 21-year-old Libyan college student, said volunteering in Libya is very different from volunteering in the States.

“What I saw at Saint Margaret’s House was volunteers giving their time on a regular basis and volunteering long term,” Hajer said. “In Libya, this kind of volunteering is usually only for a few days. Most of my peers volunteer for non-profits as project managers.”

While volunteering at Saint Margaret’s House, students from the United States Institute were housed at Saint Mary’s, but also for several service organizations in South Bend. Each of the 19 participants volunteered in the community for a total of 12 hours, Meyer-Lee said.

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Anood said her experience with the Girls Club was very much related to the concepts learned during her SUSI experience.

“The house is all about overcoming obstacles and crossing borders together to make a brighter future for each and every woman,” Anood said. “At the Girls Club, we learned a leader should be a person who gives support to others and serves others. If a leader can’t give to the community or the people around her than she is not a true leader.”

Contact Kaitlyn Rabach at krabac01@saintmarys.edu
Cinema upgrades technology

By ABI HOVERMAN

News Writer

Due to a technology upgrade in the Browning Cinema, the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center can now screen digital cinema packages (DCPs), the high-quality digital format used to film most movies today.

Ted Barron, senior associate director of the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center, said this recent transformation would ensure the theater stays current with changing film industry standards.

“Because of the investment the University made, we are at the cutting edge of current technology,” Barron said.

The noteworthy installation of a server and projector to play DCPs allows for higher definition image and improved audio, he said. in addition, a move to only one panel of projection room glass helps maximize image and improved audio, he said.

“Faculty can now make the best use of their resources in a way they have not before,” Barron said. “The technology they’ve been using was incompatible with the projection capabilities we had.”

Barron said the project fits in with Notre Dame’s mission of leadership and excellence.

“Professors are awestruck about the quality of the presentation they have,” he said. “This is a huge benefit to their academic mission. “Faculty can now make the best use of their resources in a way they have not before.”

This University-funded project, largely completed in June, marks the first major upgrade to the Browning Cinema since its 2004 opening, Barron said.

“This is the biggest change we’ve done to the cinema to ensure that it is around for years to come,” he said.

Contact Abi Hoverman at ahoverman@nd.edu

“Technology as the industry moves away from 35-millimeter film.

“This is a huge change within the film industry,” he said. This digital capability also ensures much easier transcription and projection of films, Barron said. Before, only 35-millimeter films could be shown, which involve manual threading of projectors and multiple bulky film reels for each film, which are much more difficult to handle than the DVD-box-sized DCP that simply needs to be uploaded to the cinema’s server.

Barron said he was grateful the Chicago-based film projection specialist Full Aperture Systems could install the upgrade because the company employs experts in the field.

Browning Cinema used to not be able to project student films in the high digital quality in which they were recorded, so Film, Television and Theater (FTT) students will now benefit from the technology upgrade, Barron said.

“It better reflects and showcases what the students are doing for FTT students who are making films,” he said. “The technology they’ve been using was incompatible with the projection capabilities we had.”

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is special and unique to Notre Dame and show them that even though they are transfer students, they are just as much a part of the University as everyone else.”

Barlow said the Transfer-O committee is aware transfer students come to Notre Dame already having had some college experience, and therefore the program focuses more on orienting students with their new school.

There are many challenges that come with transferring to a brand new school, Ragukonis said, including a change in academic difficulty and adjusting to a new college experience while your peers have already settled into life at Notre Dame. “Transfer students who come to Notre Dame have left everything they have worked hard to achieve at their old school in order to attend a new school where they must adjust to different academic expectations, a different social environment and a new campus,” Barlow said.

Transfer students are also offered last pick of classes, which can make it difficult to build an optimal schedule, and they can have trouble meeting peers who have already formed their friend groups during freshman year, she said.

“To help alleviate any challenges, we keep open many lines of communication as possible so that the new transfers can seek our help if they want,” Ragukonis said. “We also make clear that everyone at Notre Dame is happy to help them with a transition.”

Barlow said the orientation involves many social events, such as a welcome mass, a campus tour, a scavenger hunt, a trip to the Indiana dunes, a field day and a grotto visit to help the students make friends and feel comfortable in their new environment.

“My favorite part of the orientation was the grotto visit,” Barlow said. “A few of the committee members gave a brief history, led a prayer and shared a personal reflection with the new students. I think this event gave students the opportunity to bond in a unique way due to their shared experiences.”

She said the grotto visit allowed students to reflect on their journey to Notre Dame, and each student received a specially made Transfer-O candle, which the students could light at the grotto.

The Football 101 program, held Friday afternoon, was a favorite for Ragukonis.

“During Football 101 we were able to get one of the leprechauns and cheerleaders to help teach the new transfer class the cheers and other aspects that make up game day on campus,” he said. “That was definitely one of the best parts.”

Students also meet with advisors to aid in scheduling their classes and can choose to “Adopt-a-Dorm” if they are living off campus, to connect them with an on-campus hall, she said.

“The Transfer-O Committee understands what it is like to transfer to Notre Dame since each member has been in the exact same shoes as the incoming students,” Barlow said.

Knowing what the transfer students were going through during the program was a huge motivator in her decision to lead the program, Ragukonis said.

“My previous two experiences of Transfer-O, both as a new transfer student and last year as a transfer orientation committee member, were two of the most amazing experiences of my life,” he said. “I wanted to be co-commissioner so that I could have a change to make the new transfer class have as great an experience as I had, at the University that I love.”

Barlow said she received excellent feedback at the events and was very thankful for the support of their fellow committee leaders.

“We had great attendance at all of our events throughout the four-day orientation, and every new student I talked to said they enjoyed it,” Ragukonis said. “I know it went well when multiple new transfers were asking me how they could go about getting on the orientation committee in the future.”

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Engineering CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

associate professor Dr. Joshua Shrout said because of the ob-
scurity of this concentration, the CEES emphasis needed a restructuring to publicize its offerings.

“The idea for some change in environmental engineering has been on the table for years,” Shrout said. “It became clear over time that we were a little bit hidden, so we needed to change that.”

Kerr says the program’s mer-
its should be better known.

“We wanted to make it so students knew we had this en-
vIRONMENTAL portion in our de-
PARTMENT,” she said. “We have faculty that are very strong in these areas, and we really wanted our undergraduates to be able to even more from those strengths.”

Students participating in the environmental engineering program will obtain an accredited environmental engineering degree, Kerr said. Also, although housed in the College of Engineering, participating in the environmental earth sciences program obtain a science degree, she said.

Dr. Jeremy Fein, director of the Center for Environmental Science and Technology, said the two disciplines often coincide.

“There’s a lot of overlap between en-
vironmental engineering and earth sciences,” Fein said. “We’ve had students graduate and because of the College of Engineering had more of an es-
tablished graduate program, it was combined that way.”

Fein also said the environ-
mental earth science degree offered through the CEES department differs from the environmental science degree offered through the College of Science in that it is more specialized and focuses spe-
cifically on earth sciences, or processes that occur near or at the surface of the Earth.

Students graduating with a degree in environmental en-
gineering or environmental earth sciences will be prepared for a variety of fields, Shrout said.

“Many issues pertain to water, air and soil,” he said. “Protecting human health, the environment (and) preventing contamina-
tion are some of the things that environmental engineers do.”

Environmental Engineering and Environmental Earth Sciences programs are open to all students entering the CEES de-
PARTMENT with sophomore status in the fall of 2013 and fu-
ture years.

Although there are currently only 16 environmental en-
gineering majors, Kerr said the CEES department soon hopes to attract upwards of 30 to 40 stu-
dents enrolled between the two programs.

Those who graduate with these degrees will be prepared to look at environmental is-
SUES from a big-picture per-
spective, Fein said, opening up important career goals in their futures.

“Graduates can also go on and contribute to policy,” he said. “We’ve had graduates go on and work for senators and congressmen, educating them about global climate change and things like that.”

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Orientation CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

from Aug. 20 to 21 in the Jordan Hall of Science, is as much about America as it is about Notre Dame, he said.

“International Student Orientation provides an op-
portunity for new international students to learn about Notre Dame’s campus and resources as well as American culture,” Pencak said.

In the spirit of America and Notre Dame’s shared passion for football, the Football 101 workshop was a highlight of the program, Pencak said.

“Football 101 [was] presented by ND’s football announcer Mike Collins and [helped] the new international students learn the basics of football just in time for the first home game,” Pencak said.

Freshman Fernando Huyke of Puerto Rico said his experience with the 2013 International Orientation was slightly differ-
ent because of his background.

“It was a different experience because many students were legit international, while I am a resident of a U.S. territory,” Huyke said.

He said the activities were very informative, even though it wasn’t his first exposure to American culture.

“I enjoyed the lecture on the American classroom and the crossing cultures chat,” he said. “Sometimes Americans don’t understand where you’re from. You have to find a system to stay focused.”

“The activities were really fun. It made me feel as part of a family.”

Fernando Huyke

In comparison to his dorm’s Frosh-O, Huyke said his resi-
dence hall orientation was more enjoyable.

“Stanford Hall has a lot of re-
ally nice guys. They don’t care about what you are,” he said. “The activities were really fun. It made me feel as part of a family.”

Contact Charlie Ducey at cducey@nd.edu
Responding to God's call

Scott Boyle
The Sincere Seeker

A few weeks ago, my family traveled to Colorado for vacation. Not a big deal, on the surface; many families take vacations, after all. For my family, however, this was a different sort of vacation. You see, for the first time in five years, me, my two brothers and my Mom and Dad were all in the same place, together, for an extended period of time. Outside the range of cell phone towers and internet service, we left behind swim meets, rowing regattas and work responsibilities, commitments that had consumed much of our time and taken us away from one another. Here, we were really present. It wasn’t long, however, we began to realize how distant we had grown from each other.

We were out of sync, and nobody listened. Everybody had different ideas for what the vacation should look like, what we should do and how we should do it. Some of us wanted to hike and go fast, others wanted to bike and go slow. Feelings were hurt, and people got mad. And this was only the first day. The disagreements reached their peak in a hotel room in Vail. After a couple of hours of this, however, it became clear we were getting nowhere. Unbeknownst to us, these disagreements regarding vacation plans were masking our true feelings, insecurities and hurts that had built up from years of emotional and physical distance. All of a sudden, my brother Steven blurted out: “I never told you this, Scott, but when you left for Notre Dame, I knew, I didn’t think he even cared when I left for Notre Dame. Tears immediately welled up in my eyes. It was in that moment I realized I had played a big role in all of this. I had not known (or even thought to ask) how Steven might feel because I had not taken the time to care. Swept up in everything I had going at Notre Dame, I had not only neglected him, but my whole family as well. I had taken the very people who had been my support for granted.

As we talked more, however, it became clear I was not alone. All of us realized we had forgotten the family at some point during those five years. We had all become so absorbed by our passions and interests we could not say, “I know you and I love you” to one another.

Our disagreements about vacation were ineffective attempts to brush that fact aside. We had lost touch with each other, and we were paying the price. In the movie “Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part II,” Albus Dumbledore makes a poignant observation: “Words are our most inexhaustible source of magic, capable of both inflicting injury and remedying it.” Led by Steven’s example, the very words that had previously divided us became the source of our openness and our transformation.

As we shared what was in our hearts, we were transported to depths we had not traversed in a long, long time. Our own walls came down, and there, in that cramped hotel room, we brought years of unshared feelings out of the darkness and into the light. We realized how much we longed for that love from one another. And slowly but surely, we journeyed back to the magical reality we had been longing for: love. But this is just the beginning. We are recommitting ourselves to making that reality of love more fully present in our family. For me, that began when my brother Steven helped me to realize we never really stopped loving one another. We had just simply chosen to turn away from it for a time. And this struggle can be, I think, the same with God. Although we sometimes take Him for granted and turn away, God’s love, the fundamental reality of our lives, is always there waiting. Isaiah 43:1 reminds us of this: “I have called you by name; you are mine.” It is just up to us to respond to that call. No matter what I do, I belong to my family. I am made more complete because of their love. But it is in God that we are drawn to our ultimate completeness and glory. In him, the triumph of love is celebrated. We just have to play our part, recognizing we have choices to accept or reject that love. But we must not take God’s love for granted. We must rather always act to make it manifest in our own families — and the world.

Scott is a graduate of Notre Dame and is currently pursuing his Master’s degree in Theology through the Echo program. He can be reached at sboyle2@nd.edu.

The views expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.
Coming home from a long summer

Bianca Almada
This is Real Life

After making the long journey to return to my humble dorm room, having a dramatic reunion with my Notre Dame friends and talking for hours on end about all of the exciting things that will take place under the dome this year, I have to say I am beyond excited to be back at school. The promise of a new beginning looms in the air, as everyone is eager to set new goals and create new memories. Everyone seems to have a spring in his or her step, soaking in the comfort and the excitement that comes with moving back in and enjoying the first few days with limited schoolwork.

College summers truly are the longest summers. Although I was blessed with an eye-opening internship experience for eight weeks as well as six weeks in my hometown this summer, many times I found myself longing for my life in South Bend. I wholeheartedly enjoyed spending time with my family as well as gaining work experience, but the time away from the Notre Dame campus often felt long, even dragged out. I missed my friends, the familiarity, the freedom and the easiness of living within walking distance from everything I need. Much to my surprise, however, many of my friends from other universities found these sentiments funny, even strange. I would say something along the lines of “I can’t wait to get back to school,” and people would just look at me oddly and ask why. “Isn’t schoolwork stressful?” they would ask, along with, “Doesn’t it feel nice to just relax and not have to worry about everything?” and “Didn’t you miss your family?” I would answer all of these questions in the affirmative, which of course only furthered their confusion. The truth is that I could never eloquently put into words exactly why I was so excited to return to Middle-of-Nowhere, Ind. I could never really say what it was about Notre Dame that made me love it and miss it so much. The spirit of Notre Dame is really an indescribable feeling. It is as if one cannot fully understand what Notre Dame is and what it means without spending some time on its campus.

Notre Dame is walking back to the dorm after a long day and the sparkle of the golden dome providing encouragement to keep going. It is walking around campus on a blissful football Saturday and realizing that every visitor wishes that he or she were in the students’ shoes. It is going to the Grotto on a quiet night and feeling solidarity from the other community members praying. It is singing the alma mater arm-in-arm with fellow students at the end of a sporting event. For me, it can even be taking in the beautiful trees and buildings that decorate campus as I walk alone, looking around me and taking in the fact that, yes, I go to school here and, yes, this is real life.

And now this coming weekend, as my family flies in all the way from Los Angeles, for their very first home football game, I cannot wait to share this with them. Of course, my parents already sing the school's praises to anyone who asks, my 16-year-old sister has her eye on the school, and they were all present for Frosh-O Weekend. But I know this will be different. The electricity of a football weekend and the overwhelming amount of school pride is enough to make anyone emotional, and the experience will answer the question “What makes Notre Dame so special?” better than my words will ever be able to. This will come along with their realization that Notre Dame is my home now. California with my family will always be my home, but this campus and its people are my home for the time being.

This is life — messy, complicated, beautiful, rewarding, scary, real life. It is the here-and-now, the who-I-am, and the where-I-am-going. It is this beautiful campus, this talented student body, the promise of a new school year and the feeling that there is nowhere else quite like this university. For the time being, my reality consists of Notre Dame, my budding career and my college shenanigans. This semester, I hope to help you to accept yours, and to see the beauty that it holds.

Bianca Almada is a sophomore residing in Cavanaugh Hall. She is studying English, Spanish and Journalism. She can be contacted at balmada@nd.edu

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

Obama should think long term on college affordability plan

U-WIRE

President Barack Obama must provide more details and think in the long term about the latest government proposal he has laid out for millions of college hopefuls.

During his upstate New York tour last week, Obama outlined plans to make higher education more affordable by using strategic federal pressure. His plan includes a rating system to illustrate how much progress colleges are making in increasing scholarships, diminishing costs and admitting more disadvantaged students. The further the progress, the more aid these colleges would receive to support incoming students.

This rating system could potentially push colleges to drive down tuition, which would attract applicants toward education that was once financially out of reach. The plan could even affect fellow peers. Chancellor Nancy Cantor said she thinks Syracuse University would rate highly on Obama’s rating scale. SU has both the socioeconomic diversity and strong financial aid program to rate high enough to get additional aid. According to the White House’s College Scorecard, the median amount of money an SU student borrows is $24,300 in loans.

However, before underprivileged students get their hopes up about this proposal, Obama must lay out more of its details. Currently, it is too vague to fully support. More graduates will eventually enter the workforce, so Obama must think long term about this proposal.

He must continue to focus on building jobs within the economy. This will ensure there are plenty of jobs open for the stream of students he hopes to help one day attend and graduate from college.

It is important that Obama has stepped forward and started to lead the discussion on the affordability of higher education.

Alongside Obama, Congress should put partisanship aside and work to make the country’s system of higher education more affordable.

The next generation of college students will be the future of this country. Obama’s proposal could allow for the education of an underprivileged student who might just be the next generation’s great innovator.

The Daily Orange is the student newspaper serving Syracuse University.

The views expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.
By WILL NEAL
scene writer

“My name is Walter Hartwell White. I live at 308 Negra Arroyo Lane, Albuquerque, New Mexico. 87104. This is my confession.” This is how the story of the legendary Heisenberg ends. on Jan. 20, 2008, southern gentleman/mastermind Vince Gilligan introduced the world to “Breaking Bad” and the beginning of one chemistry teacher’s descent into fortune, darkness, and destruction.

As a severely over-qualified chemistry teacher working two jobs to support his growing family at the age of 50, the life of Walter White (Bryan Cranston) spirals out of control with one devastating piece of news. “Lung cancer. Inoperable…” Walter mindlessly repeats back to his doctor in the pilot episode, followed by muttering his low chances of survival. Between his medical bills and the threat of his impending demise, what can a man do to support his family?

The solution becomes clear to him after being exposed to the potentially substantial profits of cooking meth and an opportunity rises to form partnership with a former student turned delinquent, Jesse Pinkman (Aaron Paul – aka greatest “Price is Right” contestant of all time). “You know the business,” Walter tells Jesse to reach an understanding, “and I know the chemistry.” After purchasing an RV to quietly cook meth in the New Mexico deserts, Jesse learns that Walt not only knows the chemistry, but also makes the highest purity methamphetamine the state of New Mexico has ever seen. After adopting the alias “Heisenberg,” and adding a “colorful” twist to his meth formula, Walt begins to learn of the darkness inside of him and what he is truly capable of.

“i like to think of chemistry as the study... of change,” Walt tells his class in the pilot episode, or rather “growth, decay, then transformation.” While these words were directed to explain the science of chemistry, they more importantly foreshadow the journey of Walter White: the first character on television to (mentally) change from one man into another. This is an average man who has thrown himself into from a mild-mannered lifestyle into one of the most dangerous and deceptive businesses on earth.

Now throw in marital troubles (that’s putting it lightly) with his wife Skyler (Anna Gunn), a growingly estranged son with a love for breakfast (RJ Mitte), a sleazy yet loveable lawyer (Bob Odenkirk), kleptomaniac sister-in-law with an obsession for the color purple (Betsy Brandt), and a badass senior citizen who knows his way around a gun (Jonathan Banks). There’s also murder, arson, roof pizza, Pontiac Aztek’s, magnets (“yeah, magnets!”), exploding cars, exploding tortoises, lots of coughing, train heists, countless vengeful Hispanic adversaries, and a lot of fun with science (“yeah, science!”).

Enough with the recap – let’s get into what’s really important: how’s it all going to end? we’re three weeks in to the final season and so far, there’s no clear sight of the fate of any character on the show. Fans have dissected “Breaking Bad” from beginning to end and, thanks to “BuzzFeed” and the rest of the internet, we’ve been introduced to some captivating theories – but it’s all speculation at this point. Every episode has taken an unexpected turn and continues to deliver excellent performances and storytelling. we were promised an extraordinary final season to this iconic AMC series, and so far, “Breaking Bad” has fully delivered that promise. Will the “one who knocks” finally have what’s coming to him? Will anyone have a happy ending to this story?

We’ll have to wait another five weeks to find out. Until then, just sit back and enjoy the ride. And if you haven’t started watching, shame on you and spend the next several weeks binge watching on your roommate’s Netflix account.

Contact Will Neal at wneal@nd.edu
Head to south quad tonight to see comedian Jim Gaffigan perform for free under the stars. Even if it rains, in which case head to Stepan Center, Gaffigan is famous for his hilarious stand-up career, including his “Hot Pocket” bit that you should definitely look up if you haven’t heard. Others may recognize him as the “meow guy” from the classic comedy film, “Super Troopers.”

PRO
It was just one verse. One verse. It’s not on an album. It’s not on the radio. It’s not even his own song. But, somehow, he caught everyone’s attention. He had the crumbling world of rap crying: All hail King Kendrick. It was just one verse, yet it jumpedstart ed Twitter, blew up the internet and will continue to feed blogs for the rest of the year until he wins the Grammy for Album of the Year.

What Kendrick Lamar did in one verse has never been done before. He’s rebuilding the allure of rap while rein- carnating the lore of Pac and Big. The amount of response verses and disses that immediately burst from the under- ground, home studios and labels alike is unmatched. The lucid passion and rising anger of response, that sort of reaction? Not even his own song. Kendrick does that. He wants the new generation to step up, or let this art fall by the wayside. He doesn’t care if you’re his friend or if you share his song. He’s here to win. It’s the ultimate competition, something along the majestic lines of Bird vs. Magic; the fiercest competition on the court and the best of friends off it.

That’s how rap used to be, coast-to- coast, lyric-to-hook. And that’s where Kendrick Lamar wants it to return. The way he did it: stunning. The culture he brought back to life: legendary. All hail King Kendrick.

The annual BI Block Party brings OK Go to campus this year, three years after their last trip to campus when they performed at halftime of a Notre Dame football game. Food and beverages will be sold onsite, and the event will be held rain or shine. You must have a valid student ID card from Notre Dame, Saint Mary’s or Holy Cross.

The football season kicks off this Saturday against Temple. If that alone doesn’t get you stoked out of your mind, there’s nothing else to say.

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What: Comedy on the Quad
When: 10 p.m.
Where: South Quad
How Much: Free

What: BI Block Party
When: 8 p.m.
Where: Legends Parking Lot
How Much: $10

What: FOOTBALL
When: 3:30 p.m.
Where: Notre Dame Stadium
How Much: Free (with a ticket)

What: Richard III
When: 2 p.m.
Where: DPAC
How Much: $12

The Notre Dame Shakespeare Festival’s Professional Company presentation of “Richard III” closes its run at the DeLortolo Performing Arts Center on Sunday. Michael Gotch’s performance in the lead role as the deformed Richard was praised by our own Meghan Thomassen in her review of the play.

“Control” is the ultimate competition, something along the majestic lines of Bird vs. Magic; the fiercest competition on the court and the best of friends off it.

That’s how rap used to be, coast-to-coast, lyric-to-hook. And that’s where Kendrick Lamar wants it to return. The way he did it: stunning. The culture he brought back to life: legendary. All hail King Kendrick.

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

Contact Kevin Noonan at knoonan2@nd.edu
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THURSDAY

JIM GAFFIGAN

FRIDAY

BI BLOCK PARTY

SATURDAY

FOOTBALL

SUNDAY

RICHARD III
Treacherous openers set the tone for SEC's season

Associated Press

Wednesday: “When you play somebody good, you really see where you are, which is helpful.”

No. 12 LSU will find out rather quickly how well it’s going to cope with heavy losses to the NFL. The Tigers begin the season Saturday against No. 20 TCU at AT&T (formerly Cowboys) Stadium in Arlington, Texas. In late September, they hit the road again to face Georgia in what very well could amount to an elimination game in the national title race, if either or both teams are already saddled with a loss.

Also keep an eye on this game: No. 10 Florida faces a potentially treacherous trip to play state rival Miami in Week 2. The Gators shouldn’t have any trouble in their opener against Toledo.

Georgia has some experience with this kind of early season schedule though it would prefer to avoid a repeat of two years ago, when the Bulldogs opened with losses to Boise State and South Carolina.

Even though that team bounced back with 10 straight wins, good enough to claim the SEC East title, it would be nearly impossible to contend for a national championship after an 0-2 start.

Swann said Georgia is treating its opener much like it would do at the end of the season.

“You never want to have that start we had back in ’11,” the junior said. “That’s what you try to avoid, so we’re preparing like we prepared for the SEC championship game, like we prepared for the Nebraska game” in the Capital One Bowl.

Tightened: Malcolm Mitchell said this opener feels “a lot bigger” than the 2011 opener against Boise State. Maybe that’s because the Bulldogs have a lot higher expectations after coming up just short of being the team that played Notre Dame for the BCS championship.

Starting with stopping SEC title game, the clock ran out on the Bulldogs as they closed in on the win-

Under Saban, the Crimson Tide has made a habit of opening the season against teams with neutral-site games. Last year, Alabama set the tone for a second straight national title with a 41-14 rout of then-No. 8 Michigan at Arlington. This will be the third time in six years the Tide has opened the season in Atlanta, preceded by a 34-10 rout of Clemson in 2008 and a 34-24 victory over Virginia Tech in ’09.

“Any time you play in these neutral-site games, it’s almost preparing your team a little bit of what it’s going to be like be playing against a good team on the road,” Saban said. “In our league, it’s critical to be able to play well on the road against good teams.”

That will certainly be the case on Sept. 14, when Alabama hosts South Carolina State looking to avenge Texas A&M’s shocking 29-24 upset a year ago — a game that largely propelled Manziel toward becoming the first freshman to win the Heisman.

Saban feels the chance of Manziel not being eligible to the rematch because of allegations he accepted money for providing autographs to memorabilia dealers ended Wednesday when it was announced he would only be suspended for the first half of the Aggies’ opener against lowly Rice, for what was described as an "inadvertent" violation of NCAA rules.

Not that Saban is ready to talk about Texas A&M.

Remember, no looking ahead.

Sports Authority

Fox Sports 1’ underwhelms

Brian Hartnett

Sports Writer

Like nearly every avid sports fan that grew up in the late 1990s or early 2000s, my daily routine consisted of turning on ESPN and waiting with bated breath as much "SportsCenter" as I could before going to school. I loved the show for its cool graphics, snappy commentary, memorable catch-phrases. Quite simply, in an era when the Internet was still developing and social media was still a dream in the minds of budding entrepreneurs, it was my connection to the sporting world.

Unfortunately, somehow down the line, ESPN shifted its approach from news reporting to loud opinion. The network began employing and promoting pundits, such as "First Take" contributor Skip Bayless, who often goad the athletes they’re interviewing.

Add in ESPN’s borderline obsession with certain athletes (Tim Tebow, anyone?), frequent misuse of social media (does anyone really care what LeBron James tweets about the Yankees-Reds game?), and failure to credit other journalist for many of their scoops, and it’s easy to see why many are now tired of the self-proclaimed "Worldwide Leader in Sports."

Recently, however, some wonder if ESPN has gone too far, with many athletes and other fans saying so. Not long after NBC launched NBC Sports Network, Fox announced its new sports channel, Fox Sports 1, unlike NBC, which seems content to focus on niche sports for now, Fox did the unthinkable and announced it was planning to directly challenge the evil empire over at ESPN.

As I sit down to write this, it’s been 11 days since the launch of Fox Sports 1, and the network hasn’t exactly loosened ESPN’s grip on the sports world.

In fact, Fox Sports 1 has many of the same problems ESPN had when it launched in 1979 — limited live sporting events, production that is clunky at times and difficult drawing viewers to the network. The channel’s answer to "SportsCenter," "Fox Sports Live" shows direct competing with the television network’s 24-hour sports channel of its own, Fox Sports 1. Unlike NBC, which seems content to focus on niche sports for now, Fox did the unthinkable and announced it was planning to directly challenge the evil empire over at ESPN.

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One major factor for Fox Sports 1’s survival is the live sports programming it provides. Right now, the network seems to be a little too similar to the Speed Channel, the network it replaced, as it’s been offering a few NASCAR races thus far. It has also heavily marketed UFC, a sport that hasn’t exactly become mainstream in the United States. But with college football, college basketball and soccer on the horizon, Fox Sports 1 should soon have little issue with live programming.

The executives at Fox Sports 1 have undoubtedly figured out that last spring’s sports television network, even a well-funded, high-profile one, is far from easy, a lesson its main competitor learned over a quarter century ago. But as the success of the network over in Bristol shows, an all-sports network can be successful. The question is when it deviates from what made it successful.

Contact Brian Hartnett at bhartnet@nd.edu

The views expressed in this Sports Authority are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.
Manziel to sit first half of home opener

Associated Press

HOUSTON — Johnny Football’s season will start a little later.

Johnny Manziel was suspended for the first half of Texas A&M’s opening game against Rice on Saturday for what the school called an “inadvertent” violation of NCAA rules by signing autographs.

The penalty appears to have brought a quick end to an investigation that could have ruined the seventh-ranked Aggies’ upcoming season.

The school issued a statement Wednesday saying it declared the season.

The quarterback was being investigated by the NCAA for allegedly accepting money for signing autographs for memorabilia brokers, a violation of NCAA rules that could have led to a much longer suspension. ESPN first reported the allegations against Manziel earlier this month.

According to the statement, Texas A&M and the NCAA “confirmed there is no evidence Manziel received money in exchange for autographs based on currently available information and statements by Manziel.”

Conditions for reinstatement include Manziel discussing his actions with teammates and A&M reviewing how it educates student-athletes about signing autographs.

“Student-athletes are often asked for autographs from fans, but unfortunately, some individuals’ sole motivation in seeking an autograph is for resale,” said Kevin Lennon, NCAA vice president of academic and membership affairs.

“Is important that schools are cognizant and educate student-athletes about situations in which there is a strong likelihood that the autograph seeker plans to resell the item.”

He likely will be replaced in the starting lineup by either junior Matt Joeckel or freshman Kenny Hill. Joeckel has thrown only 11 passes in his college career.

The news of Manziel’s suspension was the talk of Twitter after the ruling was made public.

The decision also had a major impact in Las Vegas, where the odds of Manziel’s chances of repeating as a Heisman winner and Texas A&M’s chances of winning the national championship shifted dramatically on Wednesday.

Manziel got to meet Heat star LeBron James and rapper Drake, and he posted some Tweets that made headlines.

His biggest misstep, however, came during the summer when he departed early from a quarterback camp for high school players run by the Manning family in Louisiana. Manziel said it was a mutual decision after he overslept and missed meetings and activities.

“7b / I was disappointed with what’s going on down there,” Manziel said recently. “It’s been a distraction. He made a bad decision and he’s just got to move on… but overall the guy has put A&M back on the map.”

Former Texas A&M coach R.C. Slocum, who is now a special ad- viser to Texas A&M’s president, has watched Manziel’s career with great interest and is looking forward to seeing how he’ll follow up his incredible first season.

This young man has been in a position that no one has ever been in,” Slocum said on Wednesday before the suspension was announced. “He’s been a freshman and a 20-year-old winner of the Heisman Trophy, and he’s done some great things with that and he’s had a few things I’m sure he’d like to have a do-over with. And if I were advising him, I might have said, ‘That’s probably not in your best interests to do that or say that or be there,’ but in terms of the upcoming season, I’m as anxious as anybody to see what happens and see what the results are.”

Manziel was the main attraction at SEC Media Days, where he was peppered with questions but answered with the same cool and calm he often shows in the face of a pass rush.
Bloop single gives Boston victory over Orioles

VENUS WILLIAMS OUSTED EARLY FROM U.S. OPEN

NEW YORK — After her latest early Grand Slam exit, Venus Williams was asked whether the future holds for her at the U.S. Open. In one breath, Williams brushed aside the unsung reference to retirement saying, “The only thing I want to come to back for the atmosphere.”

And in the next, she added, “I mean, next year’s Open is so far away right now.”

At 33, she showed the past couple of years of an autoimmune disease that saps energy, and hampered much of this season by a bad back, Williams knows by now that such queries are going to arrive, particularly after results such as her 6-3, 2-6, 6-7 (6) loss in 50th-ranked Zheng Jie of China on a wet and rainy evening in Flushing Meadows.

During her on-court interview, Zheng addressed the partisan crowd that was raucously pulling for Williams in Louis Armstrong Stadium, saying: “First, I want to say, Sorry, guys.”

Bain began falling in the early afternoon, jumbling the schedule, and eight women’s singles matches were postponed entirely, including Williams’ younger sister Serena’s second-round match against Galina Voskoboeva. More than four hours of delays during the day meant that five matches were pushed into Tuesday, including Williams’ third-round match against 30th-seeded Agnieszka Radwanska.

“I remember being so nervous when I walked on court,” the 19-year-old Robson said. “She made a lot of mistakes in the first set, which helped quite a lot. Hopefully she’ll do that again.”

Venus Williams and Zheng played all of two points before being interrupted by showers. When they resumed two hours later, Williams kept making mistakes.

“I couldn’t play a ball in,” she said. But in the second set, Williams played more like someone who won the U.S. Open in 2000 and 2001, and five Wimbledon titles.
Irish lose All-American but remain strong

By GREG HADLEY
Sports Writer

Coming off its fifth conference championship in its final year in the Big East, Notre Dame enters the fall season full of confidence and eager to prepare for its first campaign in the ACC.

Irish coach Susan Holt, entering her eighth year at the helm of the program, has four returning golfers, all of whom scored for the Irish last year, including Big East co-medalist sophomore Talia Campbell. With this core, Holt has high expectations, even as her team enters the highly competitive ACC.

“We’re going to do what we always try and do,” Holt said. “We want to win championships. That will always be our goal, no matter what.”

In preparation, the Irish have a challenging fall schedule that includes some of the top invitationals in the country, such as the Mercedes-Benz Collegiate Championship from Sept. 20-22 at Knoxville, Tenn., and the Tar Heel Invitational from Oct. 11-13 at Chapel Hill, N.C.

“We want to get off to a good start and be competitive in every event,” Holt said. “The fields we’re going up against are very competitive with some teams in the top 25 so we want to position ourselves for spring, know where we stand and move forward.”

However, the Irish will have to move forward without All-American sophomore Lindsey Weaver, who transferred to Arizona after last season. Weaver, who shared the Big East individual title with Campbell, leaves a big hole in the Irish roster that will be filled by freshmen Janie Fineis and Jordan Ferreira, and junior Ashley Armstrong, who ended last season on a hot streak.

Armstrong won two tournaments in a row before taking All-Big East honors at the conference championship.

Holt, though, is not as concerned about the overall impact of any one golfer as she is about the overall depth of her squad.

“In our sport … we need four scores out of five every day, and everyone steps up at different times,” Holt said. “Sometimes, someone just has an off day, so someone else steps up and fulfills that role [of leader] and allows us to be successful. You can’t lean on one player and we have very good depth.”

The Irish will rely on senior Kristina Nhim and junior Kelli Oride to provide that depth and veteran leadership for the younger golfers.

Beyond the fall, the Irish look to gain momentum to carry through the winter into the spring and, finally, into championship season. A big part of maintaining that momentum will be the Rolfs Family All-Season Varsity Golf Facility the team uses to train in bad weather.

“Recently, we enhanced the facilities and added a simulator which will be really helpful for us, and for the men’s team, as well,” Holt said. “I think it will only help us prepare better later in the fall and throughout the winter.”

Preparation will be key as the Irish enter the ACC, which ended last season with four teams ranked in the top 25 nationally.

The Irish start their fall schedule on Sept. 8 at the IU Fall Kickoff in Noblesville, Ind.

Contact Greg Hadley at ghadley@nd.edu
Mixer, who graduated in 1993 with a marketing degree, said he did not feel how big the microscope on the Notre Dame quarterback was until he left South Bend.

“I’ve been away and I can vouch for the number of people that are watching you from all over the place,” he said. “Notre Dame has people everywhere. I don’t think you can understand that when you’re in that town and on that campus. You don’t really get away.”

Following his senior season in 1992, Seattle selected Mixer with the second overall pick. Mixer was being hailed as the next Joe Montana and was competing with then-Washington State quarterback Drew Bledsoe for the No. 1 overall pick.

Mixer started all 16 games his rookie season, throwing for 2,833 yards, 12 touchdowns and 17 interceptions during a 6-10 season. He never threw for more yards and only once threw for more touchdowns in 12 NFL seasons spanning seven different franchises.

“Nothing was easy,” he said. “I had a lot of opportunities on teams, some were ready to win and some weren’t. It was a great experience. Not every situation is an easy one. I was a part of a lot of different coaching changes and a lot of different systems, probably not the way I would have drawn it up. But in the end, you get a chance to see everything — the good, the bad and everything in between.”

Mixer now owns Mirror Wine Company, based in Napa Valley. Mirror launched in 2008 and has tripled its production since then, Mixer said. In August, the company re-launched its sixth different wine, a Cabernet Sauvignon.

Mixer said the venture has been rewarding and that Mirror sends wine throughout the country.

“We want it to be accepted by some of the wine experts and that’s happening,” he said. “Chefs [and] critics have put us in the level of fine wine and luxury level.

“There are plenty of good wines out there, it’s just: how do you get recognized in a crowd?”

Mixer, 43, lives in San Diego with three children (Morrison, 15; Orange, 12; and Charlie, 9) and his wife of 19 years, Stephanie.

Contact Matthew DeFrank at mdefrank@nd.edu

Irish sophomore midfielder Cari Roccaro shields the ball from a Cincinnati defender in Notre Dame’s 7-0 home win on Sept. 16.

Roccaro

Continued from Page 10

anything I can do to help my team do that is amazing for me.”

Embodying the adage that “there’s no ‘I’ in team,” Roccaro even credits her placement on the watch list with her game having to offer.

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Want to get paid to make comics?

E-mail Editor-in-Chief Andrew Gastelum at agastel1@nd.edu

Happy Birthday: Keep your personal life private and your emotions in check. Protect what you have worked so hard to achieve and avoid getting involved with individuals who show unpredictable qualities that could harm your position, status or reputation. Put your responsibilities first to avoid meddlers and complainers from causing you grief. Caution your intuition instead of letting someone else run your life. You have the power to make a difference in the situation you are in. 

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Get out and enjoy your friends and new activities. Visiting a destination you have never been to before will open up all sorts of new possibilities. Keep your emotions in check and avoid getting involved with someone who can cause harm to you.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Networking will result in suggestions that can lead to travel or experience that will enable you to move in a better direction. Ask questions and share thoughts. A partnership will bring you closer to your goals. Don’t make personal changes.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Avoid compromising with someone who can cause personal problems. Strive to find time to make directional alterations. Pick up knowledge that will make it easier to deal with those set in their ways and likely to cause problems.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Networking will result in suggestions that can lead to travel or experience that will enable you to move in a better direction. Ask questions and share thoughts. A partnership will bring you closer to your goals. Don’t make personal changes.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Compromise to avoid a rift with someone who can cause personal problems. Strive to find time to make directional alterations. Pick up knowledge that will make it easier to deal with those set in their ways and likely to cause problems.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Keep your feelings and your emotions under control. Emotional deception is apparent and must be considered before you make a move that may have a negative effect on your financial future. Practical choices will far outweigh an impulsive short-term fix.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Your emotions will not lead you astray. Take note of your feelings, but don’t take action. Someone you are dealing with will overreact, giving you the opportunity to make a move that will be for the better. Listen to what’s being said and take steps to absorb what’s happened and what works best for you. You are sitting in a much better position than you realize. Take time to choose your words.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You are in a much better position than you realize. There are opportunities that you can make use of. Don’t let anyone bait you into an argument. Listen to what’s being said and take steps to absorb what’s happened and what works best for you. You are sitting in a much better position than you realize. Take time to choose your words.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Stick close to home. Dealing with institutions or people who are quick to manipulate or twist your words will create problems when you travel or try to take care of paperwork. Domestic changes will bring good results.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Listen over deals, contracts and agreements. Research a health issue that concerns you and you will find a way to address it. A problem with a friend, relative or neighbor can affect your relationship with someone you love.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Your emotions will not lead you astray. Take note of your feelings, but don’t take action. Someone you are dealing with will overreact, giving you the opportunity to make a move that will be for the better. Listen to what’s being said and take steps to absorb what’s happened and what works best for you. You are sitting in a much better position than you realize. Take time to choose your words.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Keep your emotions and your emotions under control. Emotional deception is apparent and must be considered before you make a move that may have a negative effect on your financial future. Practical choices will far outweigh an impulsive short-term fix.

Birthday Baby: You are sensitive, emotional and compassionate. You face challenges head-on.
**ND WOMEN’S SOCCER**

**Young Irish team seeks first College Cup since 2010**

By GREG HADLEY  
Sports Writer

A year after coming within one win of the College Cup, the Irish return a squad loaded with experience as they join the ACC and take aim at a third national championship under coach Randy Waldrum.

A year ago, the Irish, composed mostly of underclassmen, took the nation by surprise and upset two top-10 teams before falling 1-0 in the NCAA quarterfinals against Florida State. Waldrum thinks his team has the talent and experience to exceed expectations once again and win a conference crown, and possibly return to the Final Four for the ninth time in his tenure.

“We know [winning the ACC] will be difficult, but we’ve played really well over the years against teams like Wake Forest, Florida State [and] North Carolina, so

**Roccaro hopes to build upon recent individual success**

By MARY GREEN  
Sports Writer

For any collegiate soccer player, being named to the Hermann Trophy Watch List is a big deal. The award, given annually by the Missouri Athletic Club and voted upon by the NCAA Division I coaches who are members of the National Soccer Coaches Association of America, is presented to the most outstanding players in both men’s and women’s college soccer.

But for Irish sophomore Cari Roccaro, one of 31 players named to the watch list, it’s not about individual accolades such as the Hermann Trophy.

“Traditionally, individual success has always come second to team goals,” Roccaro said. “I want to do anything to help our team win a national championship; that’s our goal. We want to win the ACC, win the national championship, and

**Irish sophomore midfielder Cari Roccaro beats a Seton Hall defender in Notre Dame’s 5-1 victory over the Pirates on Oct. 5. Roccaro was named to the Hermann Trophy Watch List after her performance in 2012.**

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**WAKING THE ECHOES | RICK MIRER**

**Irish quarterback Rick Miler took on national spotlight, being the “next Joe Montana” and, now, wine**

By MATTHEW DeFRANKS  
Assistant Managing Editor

Rick Miler always had big shoes to fill.

First, he had to follow national championship-winning quarterback Tony Rice. Then, he had to live up to expectations of being called the next Joe Montana. Then, his career was compared with Drew Bledsoe’s.

And he would not have it any other way.

“You still have to make things happen and you still have to perform,” Miler said in a phone interview with The Observer. “After going through it, and I think everyone who has gone through it realizes, as I have, sometimes you catch a break and sometimes you don’t.”

Miler quarterbacked the Irish for three full seasons after taking the reins as a sophomore in 1990 following Rice’s departure. Miler and the Irish finished that season 9-3.

Miler said the one season he spent with Rice helped him prepare for his turn at the helm.

“I benefited greatly from being around a team that was coming off a national championship with the quarterback coming back,” he said. “That was a pretty big advantage going forward because he was in the spotlight as much as everybody in the country. I could watch how he handled it and it helped me in the future when some of that happened to me.”

Current Irish senior quarterback Tommy Rees faces a similar scenario when the Irish open the season against Temple on Saturday. He is taking over for the suspended Everett Golson, who led the Irish to a national championship game berth a season ago.

“He can’t seem to avoid the spotlight,” Miler said of Rees. “He’s had an interesting run there and I’m pulling for him. I think he’s had ups and downs but a lot of good things have happened and he’s got a pretty good squad around him.”

**Former Irish quarterback Rick Miler dives into the endzone for a touchdown against Purdue on Sept. 29, 1990. As a sophomore, Miler led Notre Dame to a 37-11 victory over the Boilermakers.**

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