Professors react to Pope’s remarks
Theologians say Pope Francis’ comments on social issues signal a perspective change in the Church

By ANN MARIE JAKUBOWSKI
News Editor

Pope Francis made headlines worldwide when a lengthy interview with Italian Jesuit journal “La Civilta Cattolica” published last Thursday suggested his leadership would alter the Catholic Church’s focus on social issues. Notre Dame theology experts said it is clear that Francis’ statements provide a potential perspective change but not a radical upending of Church teaching.

“Pope Francis is making his own decisions,” said Father Brian Daley, a member of the Jesuit order like Pope Francis, said he does not find Francis’ ideas revolutionary but rather just a demonstration of different style and points of emphasis.

“As (Pope Francis) has said, what he’s saying has been there in the Catechism, it’s been there in the teaching of the Church, but people perhaps haven’t realized it.” Daley said. “Part of it is the way the media picks it up and spins it. But I do think the style of the Pope is distinct, and it’s very much his own. And to a great extent, I think it comes out of his Jesuit spiritual background and the Jesuit way of approaching pastoral issues.”

Humor Artists maintain success

By KYLE WITZIGMAN
News Writer

The Notre Dame Humor Artists see funny business as no laughing matter.

Senior co-presidents Alec Vanhouthen and Stephen Elser are gearing up for an upcoming show at Legends on Oct. 3 and one in Washington Hall on Oct. 11, and Elser said their experience alleviates their stage fright.

“Our flexibility of improv helps,” Elser said. “We can do so many shows because it’s a lot of fun for us and it seems like the audience enjoys it.”

Elser said he and Vanhouthen are working on recruiting more members for the 30-person group.

“There is a six-week training schedule to really understand how we work as an improv troupe,” Elser said. “We have to really know each other and have a connection to improv to succeed.”

Fair showcases full-time volunteer programs

By THOMAS HUGHES
News Writer

The Postgraduate Service Fair, sponsored by the Center for Social Concerns (CSC), took the first steps toward achieving the University’s mission statement of “sensibility to the poverty, injustice and oppression.”

Wednesday evening in the Joyce Center, showcasing service organizations where seniors can work next year.

According to the CSC website, the service fair included booths representing the Alliance for Catholic Education, the Peace Corps, Dominican Volunteers and Jesuit Volunteer Corps, among others. Some of organizations represented operate in South Bend, and send volunteers as far away as South Africa or China, according to the CSC website.

A student speaks with a representative from the Providence Alliance for Catholic Teachers at the Postgraduate Service Fair on Wednesday in the Joyce Center.

Student runs race for charity

By HALEIGH EHMSEN
News Writer

Saint Mary’s junior Maddie Helman isn’t celebrating her 21st birthday like most young women. Helman will be running the Walt Disney World Marathon on Jan. 12 to raise money for Girls on the Run, a non-profit organization that provides guidance through running to young girls ages third through fifth grade.

In addition to the marathon falling on her 21st birthday, Helman said this year’s marathon marks the 20th anniversary of her mom’s first marathon at Disney.

Jamie Helman said she ran her first marathon at Disney two days before her daughter’s first birthday. As a baby, Maddie

see MARATHON PAGE 3

see SERVICE PAGE 5

see HUMOR PAGE 5

see FRANCIS PAGE 5
QUESTION OF THE DAY:
If your life were a shape, what shape would it be?

Clare Donohue
Sophomore
Ryan Hall
“Star.”

Ray Zhao
Sophomore
Duncan Hall
“Oval.”

Mike Samide
Junior
Duncan Hall
“Square. I’m boring.”

Bridget Mooney
Sophomore
Badin Hall
“icosahedron.”

Cristin Pacifco
Junior
Badin Hall
“A circle (of life).”

Arthur Laciak
Junior
Sorin Hall
“Triangle.”

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6:00-8:00 p.m.
9:00-11:00 p.m.
10:00-12:00 p.m.
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Group addresses prayer service, diversity concerns

By MARGARET HYNDS
News Writer

At Wednesday night’s senate meeting, Student Body Vice President Nancy Joyce addressed the service Sunday night held to pray for the most recent on-campus victim of sexual assault.

She said the prayer service was part of an ongoing response to any possible future sexual assaults.

“I want to challenge you guys today as student leaders to really sit here and talk openly and honestly,” Ramirez said. As part of the workshop, Ramirez screened a video, which was shown to rectors, assistant rectors and resident assistants during their training this summer. The video comes from “A Call to Action,” a diversity forum that took place as a result of an act of racially-motivated vandalism Feb. 2012.

The video showed students speaking about their own experiences with racial prejudice within the Notre Dame community.

When the video was over, Ramirez asked Senate to break up into small groups to discuss their reactions.

After finishing small group discussion, Ramirez asked the senators to share their thoughts. The resulting discussion focused largely on how to address inappropriate behavior.

“I challenge you all,” Ramirez said, “to continue this conversation. Take it back to your dorms and to your friends — that’s how we can move forward.”

Contact Margaret Hynds at mhynds@nd.edu

Saint Mary’s student launches poetry club

By ALEX WINEGAR
News Writer

Sophomore Claire Bleeker had an idea to create the first Saint Mary’s Poetry Club this spring. She wanted to discuss new and different poetry with her fellow students.

Now, her idea is starting to catch on.

“There wasn’t a poetry outlet at all at Saint Mary’s… I’m sort of ignorant when it comes to poetry, I needed to learn more about it and the club is forcing me to learn more about it,” Bleeker said.

Bleeker said the club meets at Dalloway’s Clubhouse on Sundays at 6 p.m. She sends out a weekly theme via email before each meeting.

“This week’s theme will be Irish poetry, last week it was imagery poetry and the first week we were going to pick your favorite poet,” she said.

Bleeker said she starts the meetings by introducing the theme of the week and it is relevant to the group. One by one, each member reads a short summary of their chosen poet’s life and then reads a selected piece.

“I want to challenge you guys today as student leaders to really sit here and talk openly and honestly,” Ramirez said. As part of the workshop, Ramirez screened a video, which was shown to rectors, assistant rectors and resident assistants during their training this summer. The video comes from “A Call to Action,” a diversity forum that took place as a result of an act of racially-motivated vandalism Feb. 2012.

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Contact Margaret Hynds at mhynds@nd.edu

“I am also planning on having a poetry of the world night next year. I want to give people to read from different countries to read poetry in their native language so that the night will be about listening to the sounds and rhythms, even if you don’t understand it, of the native language,” she said.

Bleeker said one member in particular was excited to join the club because she had been introduced to authors such as Emily Dickinson and John Keats at her school, but now she has much more access to poetry that she would not have had in her home country.

Bleeker also said the member was eager to learn about new poetry and the other member’s favorite poems.

“And I felt the same way,” she said. “I’m going to be introducing you all to the new things. I’m excited that other people are excited about poetry because I didn’t think they were excited about it. I’m excited that other people are excited.”

Contact Alex Winegar at awinegar@saintmarys.edu

Marathon

Continued from Page 1

Helman was hospitalized at Riley Children’s Hospital in Indianapolis three weeks before the marathon, and Jamie Helman said she shifted her focus from training to her daughter. Fortunately, Jamie Helman said her daughter recovered fully before the race.

“It was a great accomplishment for us both, and I know running this marathon together on her 21st birthday, in 2014, will be an even greater cause for celebration,” Jamie Helman said.

Maddie and Jamie Helman have partnered with the Michiana Council of Girls on the Run through a program called SoleMateS, which teaches health and nutrition to the girls and trains them for a 5K race over the course of 12 weeks, according to the Girls on the Run website. SoleMateS raises money by encouraging runners to get sponsors, according to the Girls on the Run website.

Maddie Helman said her goal is to raise $2,100 in honor of her 21st birthday, and Jamie Helman said her goal is to raise $2,000 in honor of the 20th anniversary of first running the Disney marathon.

Maddie and Jamie Helman’s impact on the organization goes beyond just fundraising. Jamie Helman said she serves as the co-chair for development for Girls on the Run, and Maddie Helman said she is a coach.

As a coach, Maddie Helman said she understands the direct impact her fundraising will have on the girls. When her team finished the 5K last spring, she knew what she was doing something meaningful, she said.

“You could see the sense of accomplishment on their faces,” she said.

Maddie Helman said running is a prominent part of her life and her inspiration comes from her favorite running partner: her mom.

“Mom inspires me to dig deep and keep going even when it’s not fun,” Maddie Helman said.

Maddie Helman said she started running in seventh grade and didn’t enjoy it at all, but she grew to love it and ran her first half marathon in eighth grade.

“It’s about mind over matter; it’s about never giving up,” she said.

Maddie Helman said her love for running has only grown since, culminating in running her first marathon in Chicago in 2011.

“I can’t go for a run and not say thank you,” she said. “It automatically makes the day better.”

For more information on Maddie Helman’s training and fundraising, visit her blog at http://twentyseventhinmile.wordpress.com/.

Contact Haleigh Ehmsen at helems01@saintmarys.edu
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TAKE THE PLEDGE

TO NEVER TXT AND DRIVE
Humor

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

program. Each week, Meghan Brown, rectress of Lyons [Hall], runs a focus program on some particular aspect of God’s word. "Elser said. "[The students auditing] them will present a show and people are invited back."

Vanthournout said the group doesn’t have much time to prepare for most of its shows.

"Legends shows are known in advance, but we do a lot of shows on short notice," he said.

Vanthournout said the group performs four times per semester at Legends, which are the biggest in terms of campus audience. They also do shows in dorms, before football games, in the library, in front of the Fisher Roof Sit and with Hannah and Friends, an organization that works to improve the quality of life for children and adults with special needs, he said.

For two years now, Vanthournout, said, 480 seats out of 500 in Washington Hall were filled for their shows there.

“We like to check out the venue, attendance and how many games we can play, and then see how many people can be in the games because of the chemistry in the group," Elser said.

At one of the group’s Washington Hall shows, Elser said the Humor Artists performed with the a cappella group Halftime.

"The crowd has an immense energy. Being there and having a show that goes as well as it does is exciting," he said. "We wrote a script and learned lines. Having everything coming together and the audience loving it feels really rewarding."

Elser said his responsibilities as co-president include meetings with the Student Activities Office and other officers, on top of eight hours of straight improv per week, but the role isn’t necessarily work for him.

"It’s a great time to relax and just laugh," he said.

Vanthournout said he enjoys the group’s practices.

"I never think, ‘Oh dang, I have to go to improv practice,’" he said. "It’s a lot of fun and I look forward to every week."

The Humor Artists earned the distinction Club of the Year last year because of its hard work, but Elser said the group only received a certificate for the honor.

"We didn’t even get the concession stand [Humor Artists] was promised," Vanthournout said.

Elser said the group is still proud of the award.

"We remind our audiences of that constantly," he said.

Vanthournout said the group is branching out beyond live improv by making digital shorts on YouTube under the account "HumorArtistsND."

Elser said the group also manages a Facebook page and a Twitter account under the handle @HA_ND.

Even though students can watch Humor Artists’ skits online, Elser said he still recommends they attend the group’s shows.

"If you like laughter, and general merriment, come to Humor Artists’ shows, because that’s what we provide," he said.

"I’ve never talked to anyone said that they hated the show," he said. "How could they? We’re the Club of the Year!"

Contact Kyle Witzigman at kwitzigm@nd.edu

Francis

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Daley said the Jesuit tradition has been to be at the service of the world, meeting the needs of the members of the order intellectually “in the highest standards of the day,” but also to be deeply rooted spiritually in prayer, contemplation and the Gospels.

“I think the basic instinct of the Jesuits and modern Ignatian spirituality in general is a pastoral one,” Daley said. “It’s a matter of asking what can we do to help people come into contact with Christ and follow him.”

“And as Francis says, it’s not that the rules that the Church presents us with are false or irrelevant, but the Church is basically there to announce rules. It’s there to pronounce God’s love to people,” said John Cavadini, theology professor and director of the Institute for Church Life at Notre Dame, said he sees Francis’ statements as a continuation of Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI’s reminder to focus on the essentials of Catholicism.

“What [Pope Francis] has been saying is very much in keeping with Pope Benedict,” Cavadini said. “I think people seem to have this dichotomy between them, but remember that Pope Benedict published his first papal encyclical on love, called God is Love. I don’t think you can get more essential than that.”

Benedict’s next two encyclicals were on the Pope and faith, respectively, and Cavadini said Francis’ statement last week highlights the same focus on these essentials in a different way.

“Pope Francis has a very distinctive pastoral application of this emphasis on the essentials,” Cavadini said. “When he’s basically saying is that you don’t attract people to the faith and you don’t keep people in the faith by concentrating all the time on other things and you have what he’s kind of an introvert, I think. And he’s a first-class intellectual theologian, where his Francis is much more of an extrovert, a charismatic personality.

“I think what he’s doing is a typically Jesuit approach, training himself as well as possible in human culture and human understanding,” he said. “I think he’s really someone who tries to think in contact with the present time, but the reason for this is always to do the work of God and bring the Gospel to people.”

Cavadini said viewing these issues as part of the larger context of the essentials of faith makes it clear that the Church’s mission goes beyond rule-making and finger-pointing.

“These are pastoral issues before they’re political issues,” he said. “I think that makes a big difference to people’s lives. With this new approach, you create new possibilities with that warmth and presence and a willingness to bear people’s burdens with them.”

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Service

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Hebbeler said the CSC will host this year to inspire more students to pursue postgraduate service, including many other visits from service organizations.

Hebbeler said the CSC will run a discernment seminar with direct ties to the Gospel.

“The [seminar] challenges students to think critically about vocation and cultivate a way of living that responds to the Gospel demands of right relationship ... in short, the path of justice,” he said.

Contact Thomas Hughes at thughes2@nd.edu
Beyond borders

Wei Lin

This passing summer may have possibly been the most eventful summer I’ve ever had. I was granted the opportunity to study Chinese in Beijing with the Duke Study in China program. Since my parents cannot communicate in English with me, I speak to them in Mandarin and my Fuzhounese dialect. I started in third year Chinese last year and felt comfortable and confident enough to spend an entire summer under the smoggy skies of Beijing. At first, I wanted to go to Beijing to study Chinese, head back to New York and never go back again. This was not my first time in China, nor was it the second. It was the sixth. Prior to my departure from New York, my perception of China included dirty streets, rude people and crowded bathrooms. It was only after I had ordered food entirely in Chinese, gotten a temporary phone card in Chinese and used a squatting toilet did it occur to me I was in China, the China with the streets, the people and the bathrooms.

However, this time I had much more to experience than just that; I had a whole two months to explore an entire city, to survey every nook and cranny, to eat at every renowned restaurant. This was my great adventure. I traveled a lot outside of my class time. My friends and I took weekend excursions to provinces hundreds of miles away.

By the end of my two months in Beijing, I learned so much about my heritage, and I was much closer to being fluent in Mandarin. I was blessed to have met so many great people, both within and outside the program. By the end of the summer, I was set on coming back to China; in fact, I accepted that my career will most likely be closely tied with China. It was truly a contrast from my initial plan. If I could identify my time in China with one word, it would be “metamorphosis.” I went through many hardships and changes, but the results were nothing but positive. (Granted, I still have a slight cough from the air pollution.)

I love my Chinese heritage, and I love being a Chinese major (along with my two other majors.) I enjoy sharing the awesome stories I have with friends. I love the thrill of going bungee jumping into a beautiful gorge. I miss relying solely on my Chinese to get around. One of the items on the Dean’s A-List is to learn a language. Just do it. Enrich your time at Notre Dame by studying a language and using it abroad. Enrich your life by mastering another language. It can open doors of opportunities to learn, live and love life.

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The views expressed in the Inside Column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.

Katrina Linden
Kat’s Memoire

“I don’t understand how non-violent rape even happens.”

I have encountered a variety of opinions while at Notre Dame, the most interesting of which—like the one above—require a great deal of patience and tolerance.

As a generally open-minded individual, validating most opinions is not too difficult, but when a male student shared this gem, I had a hard time comprehending and digesting what exactly he meant.

There is a difference betweenregrettin g a sexual encounter and being legitimately raped, I agree, as this is the point he was apparently attempting to make. However, I am afraid that somewhere in this boy’s life, somebody forgot to make sure he knew how to differentiate between the two.

I wanted to be angry with him, I wanted to pour my drink all over his disheveled head, slap him in disgust and walk away. But what would that have accomplished? Rather, I think the more effective route would be to realize if one individual holds this view on rape, there must be a handful of others with the same opinion.

Non-violent rape is a thing. We all attended the campus safety course freshman year, so no need to relive it. But no one says, “Why didn’t she run, fight back or yell!” without understanding that for some, it is impossible. With the dismissal of rape accusations, as well as the rise of numerous reports on our campus in the past year, I think he was just sucked into the “Rape Culture” that everybody keeps trying to make a social phenomenon in order to defend disgusting monsters and to validate naïve opinions.

It is not even this one comment that has set me off on this tangent. It is the acculturation of phrases like “forcible fondling” and “Rape Road” that devalues legitimate situations of fear on campus. I do not want to be walking home from a friend’s apartment at night and have to fear being attacked by a random creep in the bushes. I do not want to be running around the lake at dusk and have to check over my shoulder constantly to make sure that nobody is following me while I grip my hot pink pepper spray in one hand and keep my phone’s Emergency Call function one digit away from 911 in the other.

I do not want to be at a dorm party and be unable to trust a friendly male acquaintance. But society tells me, as a female, not to put myself in these types of situations, when realistically the latter is significantly more risky than the others.

But why should we live in fear? Why can we not instead tell our boys (and girls) not to rape, to treat females as humans, not as objects, and to respect a woman’s fashion choices, however risqué they may be? I realize it is a tiresome argument we have all heard before, but something as serious as rape needs to be readressed constantly until it is hammered into certain individuals’ thick skulls.

However, I am no saint, as I am just as guilty as the next closed-minded individual in using the phrases throughout this article jokingly, ignoring the further implications of creating a mockery of serious rape accusations. After having written this piece I have realized what a desensitizing effect the use of sexual assault related terms has on myself. As I am sure it has had on many others.

It has generally come to the point that when a female announces she has received undesired and unprovoked sexual advances and demands justice the male undergoes minor investigation, while the female is scrutinized thoroughly, questioned about her past relationships, encounters and every other insignificant event that led up to her rape. Though I cannot speak for policies in place at Notre Dame, I can speak for the greater female student body in stating that there seems to be an obvious social stigma against reporting rape and sexual assault due to the overwhelming Catholic moral standards of many students and the holier-than-thou mentality many students hold on their own.

It would not surprise me to find that a woman may fail to report sexual assault on campus due to this simple fact. As it is her fault for being in the wrong place at the wrong time with the wrong people and she should probably be more careful next time. Perhaps this is all an exaggeration, but mainstream media accepts rape as a sign of changing times by criminalizing rape victims and oversuing the defense, “boys will be boys.” But, I digress. She is always just “asking for it.”

To end on a positive note, I applaud the recent actions of the Student Government for addressing the recent victims of sexual assault on Notre Dame’s campus with the Sexual Assault Prayer Service. It is events like these that bring our student body together in unity, hopefully sparking an even greater discussion on an overwhelming and increasingly common occurrence.

Katrina Linden is a sophomore English major with a Studio Art minor living in Lewis Hall. She can be reached at klin103@nd.edu

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

EDITORIAL CARTOON

GO AHEAD. MAKE MY FRAPPE.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

“Life is like eating an elephant. Take it one bite at a time.”

Matthew Romano
American humorist

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THE OBSERVER | THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2013 | NDMOCOSERVER.COM
From panic to Providence

The Observer | Thursday, September 26, 2013 | ndsmcobserver.com

Scott Boyle
The Sincere Seeker

It’s not often that I get discouraged. I tend to think of myself as a pretty happy, upbeat guy. I enjoy life and the people in it. But Monday was one of those days when it was hard to see the light.

Everything was okay on the outside. It was a beautiful fall day, and I had just returned home to one of my favorite things in the entire world: food. The smell of homemade chili wafted through the house, buoyed by a breeze that carried not only the aroma of slowly cooked potatoes, beans, tomatoes and chilies but also the unmistakable crispness that made it clear fall was upon me.

I almost couldn’t move. It was that much sensory overload. I could have started charging admission to see the Niagara Falls gushing through my throat as my salivary glands promptly began production.

Composing myself, I practically glided towards dinner. But as I trudged towards our dining room, my giddiness was replaced by a deep heaviness and feelings of unresolved questions that overwhelmed my mind and my heart.

All of this caught me by surprise, especially after a great first month in Indianapolis. I have had the opportunity to work at a school and parish I love. I live in an intentional faith community that teaches me more about myself each and every day. And I get to do all of this while working on my masters degree in English. I love writing and I love working with students. Nice, right? But that is what it was. It was also a massive sensory overload. I could have had it all, but I didn’t. And I had to look at all of this without prompting, like floodwaters bursting through a dam, questions came crashing down, one right after the other: “How will I juggle four different areas of responsibility? How will I maintain the stamina to give myself to these parts of my life while still taking time for myself and those people who are closest to me? Will I be able to do a good job with all of these obligations? How will I live up to people’s expectations of me?”

So much so, however, my surprise turned to recognition and realization. I encountered these types of feelings before. I realized that my feelings were only a surprise because I had grown out of touch with myself. That is to say, in all of the activity, meetings, dinners, studying and work I had allowed to consume my time in that first month, I had not given myself the space to examine how I was really doing or what I was really feeling. I had not taken the time to deal with the questions and thoughts that had been lying and lurking beneath the surface of my heart.

One thing was clear, though: Doubt and uncertainty, some old familiar friends of mine, were creeping my visits once again. But later that evening, I heard these words from Saint Mother Théodore Guérin: “We are not called upon to do all good possible, but only that which we can do … You may have to wait longer than you would like, you may have to bear privations; but, bear and forebear. Have confidence in the Providence that, so far, has never failed us. The way is not yet clear. Grope along slowly. Do not press matters; be patient, be trustful.”

Have confidence in the Providence that so far has never failed us. I promised to myself, however, that point, I had placed “confidence” in one place only: myself. My busy schedule had become the measure of who I was and there was good I was doing. On the outside, I was only dissatisfied because I was not “doing” enough. But in reality, I realized I was happy because I was hopeful. The realization of the reality I would encounter once I took the time to face those questions and vulnerabilities lingering deeper in my heart.

But we never need to face these questions alone. I had forgotten God’s providence and thus forgotten this truth. I had simply not made the time to acknowledge that it was God who could provide me with not only the strength to confront my questions, but also the strength to face and wrestle with the answers.

In Deuteronomy 31:6 we read: “Be strong and courageous. Do not fear or be in dread … for it is the Lord your God who goes with you. He will not leave you or forsake you.”

The struggles and doubts of our lives will never go away. But neither will God. God will always be with us, giving us the strength and the grace to stand and face our difficult realities. We must be patient, though. We must be trusting. If we are, God will help us overcome our doubts and those difficult moments, and we will become the people He called us to be.

Scott Boyle is a graduate of Notre Dame and intern in the Office of Campus Ministry. He can be reached at sboyle26@nd.edu

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The fight is far from over

Bianca Alameda
This Is Real Life

This past summer, my hometown high school became involved in a messy local scandal involving the termination of a long-time faculty member. More specifically, one of my favorite male teachers was fired on the account that he married his same-sex partner after the legalization of gay marriage in my home state of California on June 28.

I attended an all-girls, private, Catholic high school, not unlike many Notre Dame students. It is owned and organized by a group of beloved Benedictine nuns, and it is independent of any church diocese. This fact, along with the fact that the nuns themselves are considered quite progressive, made the decision even more shocking to the student body, alumni, parents and community members alike.

The school administration was aware of the teacher’s homosexuality for years. He did not discuss his personal life in class or within the school community. When I had the privilege of meeting his partner at a non-school-related event, he was introduced as his roommate.

It was not until same-sex marriage was legalized in California and under the teacher proceeded with a same-sex marriage that the administration found the situation problematic. His partnership was not a threat to the administration, the teacher was featured in a news story and became involved in a non-school-related event, he was introduced as his roommate.

The school administration said that the teacher was fired not for being homosexual, but for violating his contract. According to a public statement, the administration found the situation to be a breach of a contract, and a peace march was organized in his honor, but the school ultimately stuck with its original decision.

I loved my high school, and I had a wonderful experience as a student there. I still love my high school, but I do not by any means respect their decision with regards to this teacher. No one should lose his or her livelihood because of sexual orientation or because of personal lifestyle choices, eat because of who that person is exceptionally at their job. No one should be forced to fearfully hide his or her identity, especially among Catholics who are meant to be loving and accepting.

Unfortunately, the teacher could not successfully pursue legal action in the matter, as he did technically violate his contract. This is real life. We like to think that we live in a very progressive world — one in which racism, sexism, homophobia, etc. are things of the past. This country has made tremendous strides in all of these respects, but the fight for equality is far from over. In reality, “ethics contracts,” such as the one that the teachers at my alma mater are required to sign, are still legally allowed. Gays in multiple states are not allowed to marry the people they love, and they are often the targets of hate speech, abuse and prejudice; and the gay community is only one example of a group suffering injustice.

The real world is not always a wonderful place, but it is our responsibility to help make it a better one. I signed the petition. I wrote a letter to the school. And now, I am sharing this teacher’s story. I stand with him, and I encourage everyone to stand for justice.

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

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

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From panic to Providence
Maybe it’s because I’m not terribly athletic, maybe it’s because I come off as a bit of a klutz or maybe it’s just my obsession with pizza. No matter what it is, I can assure you that no one would ever look at me and think, “That girl definitely likes to work out!”

But guess what, everyone! I enjoy exercise most of the time. Maybe I don’t do it enough (okay, I definitely don’t do it enough), but I have nothing against going for a run or hitting the gym, even upon learning in P.E. freshman year that free weights aren’t exactly my thing. So, now that it’s clear that I do not hate exercise, I will confess to you there is something about “getting swell” that I do absolutely despise (despite the phrase “getting swell”). No, it’s not the fact that everyone stares at themselves in the mirror all the time. It’s not even that extremely traumatic moment when you’re running and your ear bud gets ripped out of your ear. It’s the music. I hate gym music.

Maybe this is just my experience, but music played at gyms always seems to be a blend of top 40 hits, bad house music and old Katy Perry songs. Also, I think it might be against the law in the state of Indiana to teach a fitness class and not include at least one Ke$ha and two Pitbull songs. I don’t know who is responsible for picking tracks at fitness centers or passing those speculated laws — my theory is that it’s all Richard Simmons — but I have given up hope in thinking that I’ll ever hear something quality while exercising. Sometimes I tell myself that these awful, awful song choices are actually a good thing — bad music can fuel a hate-fire within and motivate you to do more. A bad song can inspire you to hate-run another mile, hate-lift another rep or hate-dance your heart out to that one really bad Zumba song you’ve never liked. Another upside is that if a workout is particularly excruciating, at least it won’t forever be associated with a great song. It’s never fun to force a tune into early retirement because you experience phantom muscle aches and painful flashbacks every time it comes up on shuffle.

Still, occasionally, I just want to hear some songs I like while working out. Because of this, I have most everyone, I’ve taken the exercise playlist into my own hands. But as an avid fan of slow, weird alternative music, it’s not always easy to track down the right songs that will get you pumped for a workout. I learned, for example, that no matter how you try to get a good pace running to Fleet Foxes, it’s never going to happen.

If you’re like me and need a little help finding something upbeat, the internet has come to our rescue. Running music websites like jog.fm exemplify the wonders of modern technology by giving its users the tools to customize any run, ride or workout playlist to fit any and all music needs. The site lists exclusively upbeat songs you can work out and organizes tracks by beats per minute.

This way, you make a playlist with a consistent tempo or even preset an overly ambitious mile time for your run that you’ll later regret! Best of all, you can filter by genre or look through pre-made playlists to discover the best workout music you’ve never heard.

Take a look on the right to see my recommended gym playlist.

Contact Allie Tollaksen at atollaks@nd.edu

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

Contact Allie Tollaksen at atollaks@nd.edu

The Observer | Thursday, September 26, 2013 | ndsmcobserver.com

Kings of Leon — “Mechanical Bull”

By JIMMY KEMPER
Scene Writer

Before I get into the nitty-gritty of this review, I must personally say that I have been fanboying over “Mechanical Bull” since it was first announced back in June. Even though Kings of Leon’s previous release, “Come Around Sundown” was dull at best, I have had extremely high hopes for this sixth studio album. The band has had some rather emotional experiences over the past two years, and a mechanical bull seems to be a near perfect way to describe it. On a deeper level though, the title represents the group’s intentions to shake things up with this album and move forward with their sound. These intentions are made obvious with the leadoff track and the first single from the album, “Supermover.” The song captures the raw feral energy the band possessed in its first few records, while also emulating the smooth, refined choruses of “Only By The Night.” While “Only By The Night” did push Kings of Leon into the international spotlight with the hits “Use Somebody” and the infamous “Sex on Fire,” a good majority of the album lacked intensity and energy. With “Mechanical Bull,” Kings of Leon has combined all of their best elements to produce a record with an eclectic mix of songs that not only have a fun energy about them, but also reflect the band’s experience.

Part of the fun of listening to this album is the swing, bluesy throwback sound that the Kings invoke in songs like “Family Tree” and “Rock City,” which isn’t about Los Angeles, Detroit, or New York, but the band’s hometown of Nashville. Kings of Leon really rock the southern sound, mixing the influence of bands like Lynyrd Skynyrd and the Allman Brothers Band to give all their songs on this album an upbeat driving force.

One of my personal favorites off this album is “Temple,” a rocking arena anthem that has a bouncy rhythm and fun guitar hooks. But even the slower stuff on “Mechanical Bull” is very solid and great to listen to. Specifically, “Tonight” is a passionate song which draws upon the darker sounds of “Only By the Night” but feels fresher and more polished.

The best song from “Mechanical Bull” by far is the ambitious “Comeback Story,” which is a neat little reflection of the band’s upheaval since lead singer Caleb Followill’s alcoholic downfall in 2011. The song makes good use of darker tones, a jangling guitar, and an echoing chorus to create a ter-rific sound. It also gives rise to the clever couplet “I walk a mile in your shoes/ now I’m a mile away and I’ve got your shoes.”

At this point, I’ve basically praised almost every song on the album. And honestly, this is an album that deserves the ac-claim. This is the most fun, energetic, well-produced record the Kings have had since “Aha Shake Heartbreak” way back in 2004. The band creatively blends two guitars to make some sick riffs to push their music forward into new territories. Caleb’s vocal work is superb as usual, but it seems as the focus of the music has shifted from featuring his voice toward highlighting the overall harmony of the band, which is a great change and makes everything more special.

Simply put, this album is awesome and is definitely worth a listen.

Contact Jimmy Kemper at jkemper2@nd.edu

“Supermover”

Kings of Leon — “Supermover”

If you like: Lynyrd Skynyrd

Label: Sony Music

Tracks: “Tonight,” “Comeback Story,” “Rock City”

If you like: Kings of Leon
The saxophone quartet Project Fusion, winner of the gold medal in the senior wind division this spring at the 2013 Fischoff National Chamber Music Competition (which claims to be the largest chamber music competition in the world), comes to the Leighton Concert Hall in the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center on Thursday.

**What: Project Fusion**  
*Where: DPAC*  
*When: 7 p.m.*  
*How Much: $10*

"It was a powerful instance, for me, of what makes poetry, and Dante’s poem in particular, so special,” Coppa said of the final recitation. "Seeing how students alike not only relished in the beauty of the poetry, but in some cases prayed the poem, opened up new meaning for me personally."

**What: Peter Bevacqua**  
*Where: DPAC*  
*When: 12:30 p.m.*  
*How Much: Free*

"For me, the poem begins at 2:30 p.m. at various locations around campus. Each performance takes about seven minutes and the performers will move locations every 20 minutes. Many of the performers will be wearing red Dante hats with golden laurels, so don’t be afraid to stop by and listen."

Contact Caelin Miltko at cmoriari@nd.edu

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**By CAELIN MILTKO**  
Scene Writer

Certain literary pieces were intended to be heard, not read. For many, the works of William Shakespeare are nearly impossible to fully comprehend until brought to life on stage.

Similarly, the words of Dante’s “Divine Comedy” deepen in meaning when read aloud to an audience.

This is the idea behind the Italian Studies Department’s “Dante Now!” event happening this Friday all around campus. “Dante Now!” features Italian language students (and anyone else who wants to join) performing pieces of Dante’s “Divine Comedy” in Italian from 2:00-3:00 p.m.

“From a linguistics point of view, it helps students get used to talking in the formal, standard language that was based on Dante,” said Anne Leone, Italian Studies Research Assistant Professor and one of the organizers of the event. The students have a chance to practice their language skills while indulging in one of the most important aspects of Italian culture.

Dante is to the Italians in some ways what Shakespeare is to the British. Just as the British annually recreate the Shakespeare plays, there is a group in Florence, Italy, that publicly performs Dante every year. It was these Florentines who inspired the project here at Notre Dame.

“It has such a foundational place in Italian culture. Maybe it’s so much a part of their culture that they don’t think about it,” Leone said.

Performing the “Divine Comedy” builds a community within the Italian Studies department, as they are able to bring to life something so integral to the culture.

**What: “Dante Now!”**  
*Where: DPAC*  
*When: 10:30 p.m.*  
*How Much: $3*

"It has such a foundational place in Italian culture. Maybe it’s so much a part of their culture that they don’t think about it," Leone said.

"The performance event ends when all nine performance groups meet at the Grotto to say the Prayer to the Virgin from the end of Dante’s “Paradiso.” For Leone, Zhang and Coppa, this was the most memorable part of the event. “It was a powerful instance, for me, of what makes poetry, and Dante’s poem in particular, so special,” Coppa said of the final recitation. “Seeing how students alike not only relished in the beauty of the poetry, but in some cases prayed the poem, opened up new meaning for me personally.”

Bringing the performance to end in what is arguably one of the most important communal parts of Notre Dame’s campus reinforces the community aspect of the event.

According to Leone, performing the “Divine Comedy” as a group reflects the message of the story itself. The poem begins as Dante’s individual crisis, where another person saves him. The poem is his attempt to save the souls of other people.

Similarly, in the reading aloud of Dante, the story comes alive not only for the reader but the audience as well.

"It makes you want to read it," Zhang said.

The event closes with an illustrated lecture on Dante’s “Inferno” at the Snite Museum of Art given by two Notre Dame professors and one visiting professor, which helps the students and audience members visualize the scenes they’ve been hearing.

Dante Now! begins at 2:30 p.m. on various locations around campus. Each performance takes about seven minutes and the performers will move locations every 20 minutes. Many of the performers will be wearing red Dante hats with golden laurels, so don’t be afraid to stop by and listen.

Contact Caelin Miltko at cmoriari@nd.edu

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**What: “Space Jam”**  
*Where: DeBartolo 101*  
*When: 1 p.m.*  
*How Much: $3*

"It makes you want to read it," Zhang said.

The event closes with an illustrated lecture on Dante’s “Inferno” at the Snite Museum of Art given by two Notre Dame professors and one visiting professor, which helps the students and audience members visualize the scenes they’ve been hearing.

Dante Now! begins at 2:30 p.m. on various locations around campus. Each performance takes about seven minutes and the performers will move locations every 20 minutes. Many of the performers will be wearing red Dante hats with golden laurels, so don’t be afraid to stop by and listen.

Contact Caelin Miltko at cmoriari@nd.edu

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**What: Peter Bevacqua**  
*Where: DPAC*  
*When: 12:30 p.m.*  
*How Much: Free*

Peter Bevacqua, CEO of the Professional Golfers’ Association of America, will deliver his lecture, “From Hitchcock to Tiger Woods: A Notre Dame Journey to CEO of the PGA of America,” Friday in the Browning Cinema in the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center. Bevacqua graduated magna cum laude in English from Notre Dame in 1993.

"It is important precisely because of this massive gambling aside for a man from the NBA for a year because of his massive gambling aside for a moment and enjoy this classic piece of art."

**What: “Monster’s University”**  
*Where: DeBartolo 101*  
*When: 10:30 p.m.*  
*How Much: $3*

SUB’s movie of the week is “Monster’s University,” Pixar’s recent prequel to 2001’s “Monsters, Inc.” The story finds Mike and Sulley as they enter college and deal with challenges such as fraternities, classes and the human adult world.

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**THURSDAY**

**FRIDAY**

**SATURDAY**

**SUNDAY**

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**WHAT: PROJECT FUSION**  
*WHERE: DPAC*  
*WHEN: 7 PM.*  
*HOW MUCH: $10*

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**WHAT: PETER BEVACQUA**  
*WHERE: DPAC*  
*WHEN: 12:30 PM.*  
*HOW MUCH: FREE*

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**WHAT: “MONSTER’S UNIVERSITY”**  
*WHERE: DEBARTOLO 101*  
*WHEN: 10:30 PM.*  
*HOW MUCH: $3*
To many Yankees fans, a ninth-inning lead at home means a familiar routine. The opening strains of Michael Jackson’s “Thriller” — the same routine Vector Sanders blared out of the Yankee Stadium loudspeakers as closer Mariano Rivera coolly jogged from the bullpen to the pitching mound. When he reaches the mound, the results vary, but more often than not, the inning concludes with Rivera baffling hitters with his cut fastball and earning another save.

On Sunday afternoon, Yankees fans likely saw this routine for the last time, as Rivera pitched one-and-two-thirds innings in the Yankees’ 2-1 loss to San Francisco.

Rivera might get another chance, however, especially as the National League’s new Old-Timer’s Day game. With the Yankees five games out of the second wild-card spot with only five games left to play, it seems Rivera’s final game will be in the most unceremonious of places, Houston, where his team faces the lowly Astros this weekend.

And just like that, the career of one of the greatest pitchers and most respected people will come to a close.

I don’t intend to make this column a sappy tribute to Rivera, a player I’ve had the privilege to watch since I first started following the Yankees in the late 1980s. There has been so much fawning over No. 42 as part of his season-long retirement tour that even the most ardent Rivera supporter — and certainly Rivera himself — is embarrassed by all the attention.

But at the same time, if Rivera isn’t worthy of such a tribute, I’m not exactly sure what player is.

Simply put, Rivera has defined the roles and responsibilities of a position that is now one of the most important in baseball.

When Rivera pitched his first major league game in 1995, the term “closer” was not widely popular. The role was offered to some of the game’s more colorful relievers (other famous early closers like Goose Gossage and Rollie Fingers had been used in the role of short reliever). Fast forward to today — almost every team has a designated ninth-inning pitcher, and demand for such players is so high that most of them are making salaries equal to those of reliable starting pitchers.

Over the past 19 years, Rivera has been the primary figure in shaping these perceptions of closers, and he’s done it through consistent excellence.

Just take a look at his numbers. Rivera has 652 career saves, the most in MLB history (Trevor Hoffman is second with 601). He’s saved at least 25 games in 15 consecutive seasons and has recorded an ERA below 2.00 in 11 seasons.

Rivera seems to get even better in the postseason. He has a career postseason ERA of 0.70, the lowest among players who have pitched 20 or more innings in the playoffs. Sure, some of his most notable failures, such as surrendering the World Series-winning hit to Luis Gonzalez in 2001 and blowing two saves in the 2004 ALCS, have come in October, but those failures pale in success to the number of close wins he has secured for the Yankees.

Incredibly enough, Rivera has based much of his success on his signature cut fastball, or cutter. The pitch, which he discovered accidentally during a bullpen session in 1997, runs inside on left-handed hitters, causing enough broken bats that Louisville Slugger has bought the rights to his signature cut fastball.

Finally, Rivera’s off-the-field accomplishments are almost as numerous as the list of his career achievements. He’s donated millions of dollars to his native Panama through his charity, and he’s currently renovating a church in New Rochelle, N.Y.

Looking into the future, it wouldn’t be a surprise to see the Yankees, with their massive payroll, spring for a big-name closer to fill Rivera’s role.

But, regardless who the new closer is, the ninth inning at Yankee Stadium will never be quite the same.

Contact Brian Hartnett at bhartnett@nd.edu

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

Pirates fail to Cubs, blunting NL Central hopes

By SAMANTHA ZUBA

The Belles played their final match of the fall Friday and Saturday at the MIAA Flighted Tournament hosted by Hope College in Holland, Mich.

The tournament gives Saint Mary’s (1-0, 0-0 MIAA) the opportunity to scout conference opponents it will play against in the spring season, Belles coach Dale Campbell said.

“I think it will give all of the teams a chance to see where the other teams are,” Campbell said. “It’s not perfect, but you do get to see some of the new players.”

The Belles played Sept. 14 against non-conference opponent St. Francis and won 6-3 in their only other action this fall. The MIAA tournament is an even better opportunity for players to get court time, Campbell said.

“The tournament is excellent because each player is guaranteed two matches, so we can gain a lot of experience, especially for our new players,” Campbell said. “We get to have everyone play on our team, where in a team match, typically only three or four players get to play.”

Freshmen Hannah Nichols, Sam Settenblad and Kaiti Venters debuted for Saint Mary’s against St. Francis and will gain more experience at the MIAA tournament. Nichols earned her first collegiate victory at No. 2 singles.

Campbell said he expects every player, not just the freshmen, to take advantage of their playtime this weekend.

“My expectations are that they fight for every match and every point,” Campbell said. “This is an opportunity to get as much experience as possible, so we want to play our best. I hope we have a few doubles teams and a few singles players that advance far in the tournament as well.”

After the tournament, the Belles will work out individually towards the offseason, but the team will organize group service projects.

By SAMANTHA ZUBA

The Belles wrap up fall season at MIAA tournament

“We are continuing to practice one more week after this tournament, then the team primarily conditions on their own or with our strength and conditioning coaches,” Campbell said. “We also have individual meetings to discuss their games and what they need to work on in the off-season. We do have multiple service projects together and fundraisers, which give us an opportunity to be together.”

The MIAA tournament serves as a test to show players what they need to work on in the off-season before spring competition begins, Campbell said.

“Really it is a finale to the fall season, just to see where we are at this time,” Campbell said. “It will help to get the feel of playing the opponents that we will see in the spring, however.”

The Belles lead to Hope College to play in the MIAA Flighted Tournament on Friday and Saturday.

Contact Samantha Zuba at szuba@nd.edu

Ninth will never be the same

By Brian Hartnett

The Observer accepts classifieds every business day from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Notre Dame office, 1349 South Dining Hall. Deadline for next day classifieds is 8 p.m. Classifieds are free to post. The charge is $5 per character per day, including all spaces. The Observer reserves the right to edit all classifieds for content without issuing refunds.
SMC CROSS COUNTRY

SMC start conference slate

By KIT LOUGHRAN
Sports Writer

The Belles will head into their first conference meet of the season at the MIAA Jamboree hosted by Adrian College on Saturday. The Belles hosted the MIAA Jamboree last season and finished the race sixth out of nine competing teams.

Saint Mary's coach Jackie Bauters said despite the Belles' very competitive conference she has higher expectations for her team than last year.

“We are hoping to finish fourth out of nine teams, which would be an improvement from last year,” Bauters said. “It would also be great, as the other three teams are currently ranked in the top 10 in the region.”

The Belles enter the race after an 11th place finish at the Calvin Knight Invitational on Sept. 14. Belles senior Jessica Biek ran a five-kilometer personal record time of 20:47.3 at the Calvin Knight International to finish 164th overall. Bauters said she has goals for the Belles as a team overall.

“I would love to see our 3-5 as well as the 7-9 gap close up this week,” Bauters said. Bauters said she is confident in her team's racing ability and performance this weekend.

“I think the team is ready to have a good day,” Bauters said. The Belles hit the ground running at the MIAA Jamboree at Adrian College in Adrian, Mich. on Saturday.

Contact Kit Loughran at kloughr1@nd.edu

SMC VOLLEYBALL | MANCHESTER 3, SAINT MARY'S 1

Belles lose fourth straight

By MIKE GINOCCHIO
Sports Writer

Despite a strong start to the match and some stellar individual performances, the Belles were unable to capitalize before falling 3-1 (23-25, 25-20, 25-19, 25-20) to Manchester. The loss marks the Belles' fourth in a row.

Belles coach Toni Elyea, while pleased with the start to the match, noted the team's lack of consistency.

"Going into the second and third set I just thought that we lacked enthusiasm," Elyea said. "A lot of the passes were up tight on the net so we weren't able to run our middle. The service defense sort of shut down going into the second and third set.

After taking the first set 25-23, the Belles (5-9, 3-4 MIAA) continued to trade points with Manchester (4-10) in the second before surrendering a late seven-point run by the Spartans to drop the set 25-20.

In the third, the Spartans jumped to an early 1-1 lead, and when the Belles battled back, Manchester again capitalized with a late five-point run on their way to taking the set 25-19. In the fourth and decisive set, the Belles held a slim 7-6 lead before the Spartans went on a tear, scoring nine of the next 10 points. Manchester took the set 25-20, and subsequently the match.

Despite the disappointing finish, Elyea praised the standout performances of junior outside hitter Kati Schneider, sophomore outside hitter Katie Hecklinski, junior libero Meredith Mersits, and junior middle hitter Melanie Kuczek.

"We had some players doing some great things, like Kati Schneider finishing the night with 17 kills, or Katie Hecklinski with 16 kills," Elyea said. "On defense, Meredith had 27 digs. She came up with a lot of really great plays. The first set, Melanie did just a great job tonight, she finished the night with ten kills and three blocks. We weren't able to run her as efficiently in the middle as we should have.

Elsewhere for the Belles, freshman setter Clare McMillan finished with 38 assists.

Ultimately, Elyea knows that while great individual performances are always something to build on, the tipping point between winning tight games and losing tight games is the ability to play mistake-free.

"We need to be efficient at the net," Elyea said. "We can't go in and hit a .154 [attack percentage]. We have to put the ball away when there's an opportunity to do so.

The Belles resume play Oct. 1, when they travel to Adrian to take on the Bulldogs. The game is scheduled for 7 p.m.

Contact Mike Ginocchio at mginocchi@nd.edu

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Saturdays with the Saints

Today's Christian Martyrs: Learning from the Saint Egidio Icon of the New Martyrs

Daniel Philippon, Professor of Political Science and Peace Studies

September 28
10:30-11:30 am
Andrews Auditorium
Lower Level, Geddes Hall

Belles' Alumnae 5K on Sept. 7

The Belles enter the race after an 11th place finish at the Calvin Knight Invitational on Sept. 14. Belles senior Jessica Biek ran a five-kilometer personal record time of 20:47.3 at the Calvin Knight International to finish 164th overall. Bauters said she has goals for the Belles as a team overall.

“I would love to see our 3-5 as well as the 7-9 gap close up this week,” Bauters said. Bauters said she is confident in her team's racing ability and performance this weekend.

“I think the team is ready to have a good day,” Bauters said. The Belles hit the ground running at the MIAA Jamboree at Adrian College in Adrian, Mich. on Saturday.

Contact Kit Loughran at kloughr1@nd.edu

Fall 2013 - In this Year of Faith, Saturdays with the Saints features men and women who have borne witness to their faith with their lives, and in particular, martyrs of the 20th century.

Did you know that more Christians have martyred in the past century than in all previous centuries? Learn about their lives and how their sacrifices have impacted and continue to make an impact on the people of God they chose to serve.

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Smith

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 18

even though he's not playing," Smith said. Senior outside linebacker Prince Shembo, who starts on the opposite as the “Cat” linebacker, has also guided Smith through the first third of his freshman campaign. Shembo and Smith were roommates during the beginning of training camp at the Shiloh Park Retreat and Conference Center in Marion, Ind.

"(Shembo has helped me as) an on-the-field type of guy, helping me improve my game and be more physical," Smith said.

Smith admitted that, at 233 pounds and with just a few months in a collegiate strength and conditioning program under his belt, he needs to continue to get stronger. But the freshman said he doesn’t envision adding loads of weight during his career at Notre Dame.

At most, he thinks he’ll put on five pounds, while hopefully still adding strength and maintaining his speed. Smith, who also rushed for 1,205 yards and 18 touchdowns as a senior at Bishop Luers High School, possesses a rare blend of size and speed, making him a natural fit at the Dog linebacker spot.

"I think I definitely excel there," Smith said. "Obviously I have a long way before I reach my full potential, but really just being able to cover and attack the run is something that the dog position requires. And I think I’ve done fairly well."

Smith has racked up 11 tackles thus far but conceded he has made his share of blunders. Some of the most difficult aspects of the transition from Bishop Luers to Notre Dame, Smith said, have been the defensive hand signals and the speed of the game.

"Obviously there have been mistakes and everybody gets mad about those," he said. "But it’s all about the next play."

"I think there’s definitely room for improvement," Smith added. "I’m not satisfied at all."

Smith’s next chance to show improvement during a game is Saturday, when the Irish square off with Oklahoma at Notre Dame Stadium. Though the Sooners enter South Bend ranked 14th in the nation and despite the scheduled “green-out” of the stadium, Smith is no more excited about Saturday’s contest than any other game. His explanation is fleetingly revealing of his youth.

"Every game is going to be exciting for me," Smith said. "As a freshman, everything is new. It’s a new experience. I’ve never played in front of 80,000 and 115,000 people. It’s crazy. I’m looking forward to it."

Suddenl,y Smith pauses slightly and his focus shifts, revealing the maturity that, in part, allowed him to become the first freshman outside linebacker to start the season-opener since Kory Minor did so in 1995.

"Like I said, we’re taking it day by day," Smith said. "I’m looking forward to tomorrow, getting better at practice and really to just do my job every plan. And it will turn out good."

Contact Mike Monaco at jmmonaco@nd.edu

ND WOMEN’S TENNIS

Gleason refocuses for second year

By KATIE HEIT  Sports Writer

Though she comes from a long line of Irish graduates, sophomore Quinn Gleason has already made a name for herself at Notre Dame.

In her first season with the Irish, Gleason was named an all-Big East selection and chosen as the ND Monogram Club Most Valuable Player. With a singles winning percentage of .840 and a 25-8 singles record, Gleason made her mark during her first season.

Despite her excellent singles record, Gleason said she’s found a new love in doubles play since joining the Irish.

"Singles has always been my favorite," Gleason said. "But since starting college, I’ve learned to love doubles. I’ve definitely improved in my doubles play."

Currently, Gleason plays at No. 1 doubles with senior Britney Sanders. The pair has a 3-0 record this season and hope to continue the dominant streak.

"I love having a partner who wants to win just as bad as I do," Sanders said. "We’re both very intense on the court, which makes us a great team."

Gleason said she desires to win has greatly improved since arriving at Notre Dame.

"I’ve definitely become a better competitor," Gleason said. "I’m able to focus on every point and really have the will to win each point and never let up."

Sanders said Gleason shows with every practice how committed to the game she is.

"Quinn never gets enough of tennis," Sanders said. "Even when her body is hurting she always asks someone to practice more with her."

Gleason said she has gotten stronger since arriving at Notre Dame, which has helped her acclimate to the constant stream of matches during the spring season.

"There’s so much more match play," Gleason said. "You have to be able to play match after match continuously for weeks at a time."

Gleason said she is looking forward to seeing what her sophomore season can bring her, especially with the arrival of a new class of players.

"This year we have a ton of potential," Gleason said. "We have a lot of great, motivated freshmen, so i think they’re going to be great right off the bat."

As for her own play this season, Gleason said she plans on always finding new things to improve upon.

"I really want to keep improving my game and never get complacent," Gleason said. "There’s always things to improve."

Contact Katie Heit at kheit@nd.edu

Irish sophomore Quinn Gleason returns a shot during Notre Dame’s victory over Baylor on Feb. 23 at Eck Tennis Pavilion.
Belles prep for Kalamazoo

Observer Staff Report

After finishing in second place at the first MIAA Jamboree on Tuesday, Saint Mary’s heads back to the links Saturday for round two at Milham Park Golf Club in Kalamazoo, Mich.

Kalamazoo, led by sophomore Maria Oleski, who shot a 95 in the first competition, will host this round.

As with the other three jamborees this season, all nine conference teams will compete this weekend, giving the Belles a chance to see their competition before heading to the two-round MIAA End of Season Weekend Jamboree on Oct. 11 and 12.

The Saint Mary’s squad has not competed at Milham Park since 2011, when it took second place at that year’s fourth jamboree. Only senior Paige Pollak and junior Janice Heffernan have experience on the Milham course as Belles.

Olivet, which claimed last year’s MIAA title, led the field Tuesday with a team score of 329, 12 strokes better than Saint Mary’s 341. Calvin sat six strokes back in third place.

Olivet senior Theresa Damico earned medalist honors Tuesday with her first-place score of 78.

Pollak tied for second place individually with her round of 80, the best score of the five Saint Mary’s golfers who played. However, only the scores of the top-four golfers will count towards the overall team score in this series of jamborees.

Each round in the four, one-round jamborees and the two-round final jamboree will help determine the Belles’ overall finish in the conference through their cumulative six-round score.

The Belles will tee off for the second round of MIAA play Saturday at 1 p.m. at Milham Park Golf Club in Kalamazoo, Mich.

GRANT TOBIN | The Observer

Sophomore Sammie Averill tees off during the O’Brien National Invitational at Warren Golf Course on Sept. 15.
Walton

Continued from page 14

Mike Berticelli. Berticelli told Walton he wanted him to play three years of soccer but would allow him to participate in spring football his freshman and sophomore years.

But that plan never happened.

Walton led the Irish soccer team in scoring as a freshman in 1998 with 10 goals and seven assists in what he would eventually become his final year of organized soccer. He earned All-Big East second-team honors while starting 17 of 18 games. He walked onto the football team in the spring.

“I loved playing soccer. I didn’t love college soccer as much,” Walton said. “After the first year of spring football, I decided this is what I really wanted to pursue. Berticelli was okay with me doing that, gave me the ability to do that.”

Walton said college soccer did not have the same feeling as playing with his club team, which he had played with for years.

“Most of the guys I played with was for nine or 10 years so it was kind of like a family, very tight, very close and very competitive,” he said. “It was like brothers.”

Despite playing seemingly opposite sports, Walton said his soccer background helped him assimilate to football.

“Having played soccer, having seen a play develop before it’s developed is huge,” he said. “It was like a puzzle. You see one thing happen and then you say ‘Oh, this is what’s going to happen.’ It really helped me in that regard.”

On the soccer pitch, Walton was doing the scoring. But on the football field, he was doing the stopping.

As cornerback, Walton had the pressure of covering the offense’s best player — and he loved the pressure.

“I know a lot of people say that’s the toughest thing about playing but I love the challenge. I love the pressure. I love the competition,” he said. “Every play was a battle. That is one of my favorite things.”

In his four years of playing, Walton appeared in 43 games, totaling 151 tackles and 11 interceptions. Seven of his interceptions came in Notre Dame’s 10-3 season in 2002.

The Irish opened that season 8-0, but dropped three of their final five games, starting with a shocking 14-7 loss to Boston College.

“It was amazing up until the point when we lost to Boston College,” Walton said. “It was everything coming together. It was the defense, we were on the same page, we were flying to the football. It was a lot of fun. After having some tough years prior to that, that season was magical until that Boston College game.”

In some ways, the 2002 season was very similar to the 2012 one just a season ago. In both years, a quarterback made his home debut against Purdue, the game against Pittsburgh was a nail-biter, the Irish beat a national power to go 8-0 and Notre Dame finished the home schedule with a shutout.

Walton said there was one significant difference between the two squads.

“Obviously, they won more games than we did,” Walton said. “They got to the national championship, which was our goal. They left their goal unfilled by not winning but they had an amazing season.”

After his career at Notre Dame ended, the psychology, sociology and computer applications student turned towards the NFL. Walton was drafted in the fifth round by the St. Louis Rams despite being tabbed as a consensus All-American the prior season.

During preseason, however, Walton suffered a ruptured disc in his back. Some of the spinal fluid leaked into his left leg and he could not feel his left leg. He said he could not lift his foot or walk.

“They didn’t know if I was going to gain the sensation back in my nerves,” Walton said. “I still have nerve damage to this day. It’s something I never recovered from.

“It was the most unbearable pain I’ve ever had. I’ve had broken arms, separated shoulders. This was the worst pain I’ve ever been in in my life.”

Walton said he sometimes looks back on his career and wonders what could have been.

“I’m under the impression that everything in life happens for a reason and I ain’t worrying because of some of the things that have happened in my past,” he said. Walton, 33, lives in San Diego and will be getting married in five weeks. He still plays soccer with his childhood teammates.

Contact Matthew DeFranks at mddefrank@nd.edu

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Happy Birthday! Look for answers, ask questions and scout for opportunities. Embrace your emotions and share your thoughts. Focus on knowledge and incorporating positive changes that will help you thrive and bring you closer to lifelong goals. Let the past go and step into the future feeling confident that you are doing what’s best for you. Look for the numbers 3, 10, 19, 23, 34, 48, 45.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): An unlikely partnership will bring about changes to the way you live. A change will do you good and must be incorporated quickly before the window of opportunity closes. Think fast, take action quickly and don’t look back.

TWINs (April 20-May 21): Don’t race through everything or you will fall short and face criticism. A job you are considering will not be as exciting as it sounds. Find out exactly what’s being offered and get promises in writing. Don’t argue; be nice.

GEMINIS (May 21-June 20): You may have some good suggestions, but don’t cross the line or you will be blamed for meddling. Tables will turn quickly if your facts aren’t right. Instead, put more into your home and improving your standard of living.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Use your imagination and you will come up with interesting ways to socialize, make new acquaintances and find romantic settings that will enhance your life. A growing interest should not be ignored. Pursue what draws you with a passion.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Change your surroundings. Staying at home will result in conflict. Take time to think about a personal problem you face before you confront the situation. Time is on your side and will help alleviate making a wrong assumption.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Taking an emotional trip down memory lane will help you clear up pending issues that have been standing between you and a decision you need to make. Truth will be the deciding factor when it comes to personal relationships.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You may want to make some noteworthy alterations at home, but consider the cost involved. Construct innovative ways to get what you want for less. Your reputation will be impressive and result in raising your profile and your confidence.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): A proactive approach will get the job done no matter what it is you are trying to accomplish, but expect to experience some opposition and emotional mind games along the way. Simplify; make your voice heard and put your plans into motion.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Someone with a hidden agenda will charm you. Don’t count on anything or anyone. It’s important to take control of any situation you face that can influence your reputation or status. Change will not suit you – consistency and fair play will.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Put more into your surroundings. What you do to feel more at home or comfortable will lift your spirits and help you put a greater distance between you and someone who has limited you in the past.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Check over paperwork that can make a difference in the way you do business or make investments. Your health and financial well-being will bring about other opportunities to pursue something or someone that interests you.

Birthday Baby: You are dedicated, loyal and creative. You are intelligent and sophisticated.

Highly Punny! Christopher Brucker

Jumble! David Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

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

How the Math Teacher Expected Her Students to Respond

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above, across the Work Area.

Sudoku! The Mepham Group

Crossword! Will Shortz

Horoscope! Eugenia Last

Celebrities Born on This Day: Spencer Treat Clark, 26; Erin Chambers, 34; Nia Vardalos, 51.
FOOTBALL

Working like a ‘dog’

Smith thrives in freshman season, learns from injured Spond

By MIKE MONACO
Sports Editor

It’s easy to forget, sometimes, just how green Jaylon Smith is. But when the freshman outside linebacker walked into the Ispan Auditorium in the Guglielmino Athletic Complex on Wednesday evening to face the media for the first time at Notre Dame, there were a few quick reminders of his youth.

Smith, who was ranked by ESPN as the No. 7 overall recruit in the class of 2013, deliberated a few seconds about where to plop down, unsure of where he should go, before he found his seat in the front row. After all, he’s never done this before.

The first question to Smith asked for his prediction for a high school football game in Smith’s hometown of Fort Wayne, Ind.

Youthful reminders aside, Smith has found his place at Notre Dame, on and off the field.

The transition to college, and specifically to living with another randomly-assigned freshman, has been seamless. Smith reminded reporters he and his roommate are not ‘kids.’

“We’re young adults now,” Smith said. “It was very easy adjusting. Everyone’s friendly here. I love it.”

Through four games on the field, similarly, the 6-foot-3, 233-pounder has played older than the rookie he is. After senior linebacker Danny Spond retired from football due to hemiplegic migraines in fall training camp, Smith was slotted into the starting “Dog” linebacker position, joining a linebacking rotation that features almost exclusively upperclassmen.

“My first thoughts were just to pray for Danny and just hope that he’ll be safe getting back out there,” Smith said.

Spond has stayed with the football program, serving as a de facto assistant coach on the sideline.

“He’s been wonderful,” Smith said. “He’s mastered the position I’m playing and he has given me great advice and I really appreciate just him being around and every day just learning from him.”

seven years ago, while playing for Willingham’s predecessor Charlie Weis, Spond was slotted into the starting “Dog” position, joining a linebacking rotation that featured almost exclusively upperclassmen.

Waldrum said the timing of the home stand gives the Irish an advantage in their conference play with a victory Thursday against no. 6 Maryland.

The Irish (7-1, 3-0 ACC) will be hosting their second consecutive ACC opponent as part of a four-game home stretch to prepare them for. Yes, it’s easy to forget, sometimes, just how green Jaylon Smith is.

The Irish were getting off the bus in Colorado Springs, Colo., for a game against Air Force in 2002.

Cornerback Shane Walton, clad in a suit and tie, stepped done? I said, ‘Coach, we’re all here.’ He said, ‘You never know who’s looking.’”

Walton kicked his soccer habit

By MATTHEW DeFRANKS
Assistant Managing Editor

The Irish were getting off the bus in Colorado Springs, Colo., for a game against Air Force in 2002.

Cornerback Shane Walton, clad in a suit and tie, stepped down? I said, ‘Coach, we’re all here.’ He said, ‘You never know who’s looking.’ Walton said in a phone interview with The Observer. “That has always stuck with me in my mind and in my brain. … You never know if you have the ability to impact someone.”

Walton, who played for Willingham for one season, said Willingham was very different than his predecessor Bob Davie.

“I still remember a lot of the quirks [Willingham] said. I still hear him in my head when I’m getting ready to do things,” he said. “A lot of life lessons he taught me, I still carry with me.”

Walton, Notre Dame’s most recent All-American corner-back, is now finding a way to impact lives by coaching at his former high school in San Diego.

“I’ve learned a lot from coach Willingham and I’m always quoting him and I’m really not there just to coach football,” Walton said. “That’s secondary. I’m there to really teach kids life lessons and learn how to accept responsibility.”

The 2003 graduate is now coaching defensive backs at the Bishops School. Walton started as both a soccer and football player at the school in the mid-90s.

“If they make a mistake, it’s more about how they respond and how they react,” Walton said. “Willingham always quoting him and I’m really not there just to coach football.”

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